



Task Force on Resilient Efficient Building

After Meeting Follow Up

81st Legislative Assembly

2021-2022 Interim

The following questions were asked after the meeting on April 5, 2022:

- “BCD clearly has a well-considered and thorough review and change adoption process. How long does that process generally take from introducing a specific code change to adopting the change as the first stage (months/years), and then training/implementing it as a start to seeing impacts of that change – the second stage (months/years)?”
- A precursor question: “How long does it generally take to develop a specific code change *before* the change process begins?”

Below is Alana Cox’s, DCBS response:

Attached is the tentative code timeline the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board approved for the adoption of the 2023 Residential Code. From kick off to adoption is generally a 12-18 month process, with this particular code adoption on the longer side because of the work needed to achieve a zero energy ready home. The open solicitation period for code change proposals in Oregon is 45 days, and how long it takes proponents to develop their proposed changes will vary widely based on how significant or complex a proposal it is. Some are simple proposals to fix things that are misaligned. Others are proposals for entirely new approaches to an issue. Our [code proposal form](#) shows what code proponents are considering when they submit a code proposal.

When we know that a significant change is coming, like the zero energy ready home standard, staff at BCD work well in advance to develop what we think the path forward might look like. That work again varies, and also includes tracking the changes occurring at the national model code level and engaging with stakeholders, but it takes many months in anticipation of kicking off code change.

We generally try to deliver code change training in anticipation of the code change and during the transition period, though it can vary based on the availability of the printed code books and other factors. Industry delivers their training at that time, and then continually throughout the code cycle as issues emerge that require additional training. We also have tools to address those items that may come up after the initial adoption of the code, like technical bulletins, clarifications, code interpretations, and statewide alternate methods.

I’ll also note that I am speaking broadly, and there is some variation between the codes. For example, as you are probably aware, there is no phase in period for the electrical or plumbing



codes, and they have specific continuing education requirements set by their boards.

Below is Scott Linfesty comments:

During the phase-in period the applicant or designer may pick to design the project to the outgoing 2021 ORSC or the new 2023 ORSC. If they choose the 2021 ORSC they must apply for the residential building permits during the phase-in period. After the phase-in period ending on December 31st all new residential buildings must be designed to meet the 2023 ORSC. All residential building applied for or permitted under previous versions of the code are not required to meet the code changes in the 2023 ORSC. A building department can't issue a permit designed to the 2021 ORSC on December 1st and then required the plans be revised on January 1st to meet the new 2023 ORSC code requirements.

2023 Oregon Residential Specialty Code adoption

Proposed timeline

Code development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 1 – June 17, 2022 	<p>Committee member solicitation</p> <p>The division will post a notice on the division website requesting interested parties to apply to participate as a member of the code review committee.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1 – Aug. 19, 2022 	<p>Public code amendment proposal period</p> <p>The division will also post a notice explaining how to submit a public code amendment proposal. The notice(s) will also be sent out through email to all those who have signed up for email updates on the division website.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 13, 2022 	<p>Residential and Manufactured Structures Board meeting</p> <p>The Residential and Manufactured Structures Board will select and approve the committee members.</p>
Code review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September – October 2022 	<p>Code review committee</p> <p>There are usually 4-5 code review committee meetings for the ORSC.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2023 	<p>Residential and Manufactured Structures Board meeting</p> <p>The Residential and Manufactured Structures Board meeting will review the code review committee’s recommendations and approve a final recommendation to the division for adoption.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2023 	<p>Construction Industry Energy Board meeting</p> <p>The Construction Industry Energy Board will review the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board recommendations for the energy provisions.</p>
Rulemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April - July 2023 	<p>Public rulemaking hearing</p> <p>The division will hold a public meeting where interested parties can provide testimony about the proposed code provisions.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 1, 2023 	<p>Anticipated effective date</p> <p>The division will work towards having a codebook available before the effective date of the code.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 31, 2023 	<p>Anticipated end of phase-in period</p> <p>The Oregon Residential Specialty Code is usually given a three-month phase-in period where use of the 2021 ORSC or the 2023 ORSC will be permitted.</p>