BOD 16-01: Simplex Pumps

Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code 710

QUESTION: Can a single pump system (simplex pump) be used in the sewage ejector system in a commercial building when plumbing fixtures cannot be drained by gravity?

RESPONSE: The City of Portland has determined that when plumbing fixtures cannot be drained by gravity in commercial buildings, the use of simplex pumps will be allowed subject to the following:

1. Each simplex pump may be used to serve **one** the following options:
   A. A maximum three bathroom plumbing fixtures (water closet, lavatory, urinal or shower/tub)
   B. A maximum of one laundry tub, two floor drains, two trench drains, and two floor sinks
   C. One clothes washer
   D. A maximum of two sinks in a commercial kitchen.

2. Simplex pumps are allowed under all of the following conditions:
   A. More than one simplex pump is allowed in a building.
   B. Each simplex pump must have an individual sub-drain with a sewage ejector pump to a gravity drain. Per BES regulations, the pressure line must transition to a gravity line before entering the public right-of-way.
   C. The sizing of the simplex pump and sewage ejector required is per OPSC 710.3.

Other alternatives may be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis through the administrative appeals process.

Effective Date	Significant Changes	Employee Name
5/16/2016	Implementation	T. Whitehill
5/20/2024	Revised from Code Guide OPSC/7/#6 to building official determination format	