



BOD 97-01: Separate Electrical Services

Oregon Electrical Specialty Code: Article 230, Oregon Structural Specialty Code: Chapter 7

QUESTION: The Oregon Electrical Specialty Code does not allow more than one electrical service in a single building. The Oregon Structural Specialty Code allows a single building to be treated as separate buildings when they are separated from each other by a Fire Wall. Are there approved alternative methods to separate a building for the purpose of allowing separate electrical services in the same building?

RESPONSE: Yes. Where a Fire Wall is required to separate a building for the purposes of allowing the installation of more than one electrical service, the wall may be constructed to the lesser standards of a two-hour-rated Fire Barrier as described in the Structural Specialty Code, except that the wall must extend continuously and vertically from the foundation or on-grade slab, up to the roof sheathing. In a fire situation, a Fire Barrier will provide a sufficient separation to allow for the disconnection of the electrical service to adjacent areas when deemed necessary by the Fire Bureau.

While these separations may be constructed to the standards of a Fire Barrier; a Fire Wall is also an acceptable method.

Effective Date	Significant Changes	Primary
1996	Updates October 1997, March 1, 1999, and March 30, 2023.	
July 24, 2024	Revised from Code Guide NEC/230/#1 & IBC/7/#4 to building official determination format.	