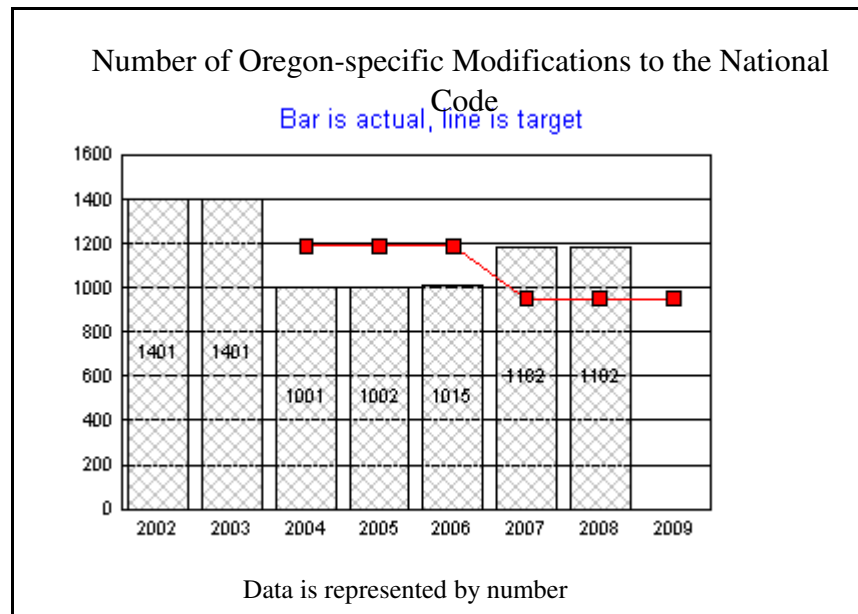


KPM #12	STREAMLINED BUILDING CODES – Number of Oregon-specific building codes modifications made to the national model codes.	2002
Goal	DCBS Goal #2: Regulate in a manner that supports a positive business climate.	
Oregon Context	Oregon Benchmark #9: Oregon’s national rank in the cost of doing business.	
Data Source	Manual counts based on review of building code revisions.	
Owner	Andrea Simmons, Manager, Policy and Technical Services, Building Codes Division, (503) 373-7235	



1. OUR STRATEGY

Make Oregon’s building codes as consistent as possible with national model codes by limiting code revisions, so that contractors and inspectors will need less training and code enforcement will be more uniform, predictable, and consistent.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Historically, we determined our targets by selecting the commercial structures code that contained many Oregon amendments and identifying Oregon-specific amendments that were in statute (e.g. accessibility, energy, etc.) and should not be changed. Our initial targets were based on the number of amendments that remained. Our goal was to then reduce amendments to the national code by 5 percent during the next cycle of code changes; we cannot eliminate all Oregon-specific amendments because they are intended to protect the public or accomplish other policy objectives.

Recent policy changes, such as Oregon's progressive efforts to promote green building, energy efficiency, and sustainability, require additional modifications because Oregon's policies are stricter than those adopted by the national code. The Building Codes Division must balance its efforts toward continued regulatory streamlining and elimination of unnecessary modifications with its need to further modify the national code to support Oregon's aggressive policies on green building, energy efficiency, and sustainability. Raising the targets could create incentives to make unnecessary modifications, placing additional burden on contractors and inspectors to comply with added modifications. Lowering the targets, however, will not reflect the need to make necessary changes to promote sustainability. Therefore we believe this measure no longer produces meaningful results and we recommend it be removed from the agency's key performance measures.

3. HOW WE ARE DOING

The codes are adopted once every three years with occasional mid-term updates. The last major code change occurred in 2007 and the number of code differences increased by more than 16 percent at that time. However, many of these code modifications were due to newly adopted policies in Oregon related to energy efficiency and sustainability. There were no mid-term code changes in 2008, though changes are expected in upcoming years to ensure that Oregon's code reflects new policies on sustainability.

4. HOW WE COMPARE

We know of no other comparable standards. Many states do not have statewide codes and Oregon's code reflects standards and policies enacted to serve and protect Oregonians.

5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

We are experiencing an increase in Oregon code changes because of several policy changes related to energy efficiency, sustainability, and green building. We make Oregon-specific changes when it is necessary to change national codes that are inconsistent with Oregon's policies.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

We need to continue to make modifications to ensure that Oregon's code complies with Oregon policies and standards, such as those relating to sustainability and energy efficiency. At the same time, we must eliminate unnecessary modifications to continue to promote regulatory streamlining and consistency.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

This measure includes modifications to the commercial structures code. The code is adopted every three years, with occasional minor modifications in off years. The count reported each year reflects the number of modifications in effect during that Oregon fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). For example, the last major code update occurred in 2007, when 1,182 modifications were made to the national code. In 2008, there were 0 additional modifications. The 2008 value of 1,182 modifications reflects the modifications still in effect from the major code revision in 2007. Please contact DCBS or visit http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/bcd/programs/codes_in_oregon.html for additional information on Oregon specific building codes.