

2023 Oregon State 4-hour Rule and Law Course (RLC)

Project Summary:

For Certus, I wrote The Oregon State Rule and Law 4-Hour Course that must be completed to receive a journeyman plumber license. The course combines 2021 Uniform Plumbing Code and Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code. The course also included questions to answer at the end of each section. The next few pages are from the project and serve as an example of my work.

SECTION: INTRODUCTION

Basics License Review

We will start by reviewing some basics regarding plumber licensing.

1. In the state of Oregon, to provide service as a plumber you must have a current plumber or plumbing contractor license.
2. The agency that issues a plumber's license depends on type.
 - Non-contractor plumbing licenses are issued by The Oregon Building Code Division, also called BCD.
 - Contractor plumbing licenses are issued by The Oregon Construction Contractors Board.
3. To become plumbing license eligible, you must complete 24 hours of continuing education during each three-year license cycle, according to The Oregon Rule and Law also called the ORL. ORL 918-030-0120 reads as follows.

"During each three-year license cycle, license holders are required to complete 24 hours of approved continuing education."

The courses you take for licensing must be in the following areas and for time specified.

- The 4 Hour Oregon Rule of Law Course
- 4 Hours of training on code changes
- 16 Hours of training on code related topics

Content for the 4 Hour Oregon Rule of Law Course is outlined by The Oregon Plumbing Board also referred to as the OPB. Today's course covers all designated areas and fulfills the requirement. You will still need to complete the other 20 hours of courses to acquire or renew a plumbing license for the state of Oregon.

Plumbing Areas Covered

The course is broken into sections and will cover the following:

- The Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC)
- Statewide Code Interpretations
- Appeals Process
- Location of Plumbing Requirements

We will spend the largest amount of time on amendments to the 2021 Uniform Plumbing Code, which is the latest version, and was released in April of 2021.

SECTION: Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code Basics

Before I start talking about specific code changes, we need to review some basics like where the code comes, where to find it, and how to read them.

Where does Oregon plumbing codes come from?

The state of Oregon bases its plumbing standards on the International Code Council's (ICC), International Building Code's (IBC), Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and Oregon's Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC).

Who makes Oregon plumbing code amendments or changes?

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) committees update the UPC in a collaborative process every three years. The state of Oregon uses its own collaborative process before adopting UPC amendments and changing the OPSC.

Where do I find the OPSC?

The OPSC is published by the state of Oregon's Building Code Division (BCD) and is made available in a read-only version online at www.epubs.iapmo.org/2021/OPC/

The version can be read on any computer or portable device. The website does not have an option to print it because copying or printing the document is illegal since the BCD has copyright ownership.

You can buy the 2021 OPSC from the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) as an eBook at <https://www.iapmo.org/publications/read-uniform-codes-online> On the same webpage, the IAPMO also offers for sale the 2021 Uniformed Plumbing Code (UPC).

Where do I find changes to the OPSC?

The state of Oregon's BCD posts adopted code changes on the Code Adoption and Committees webpage at <http://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Pages/adopted-codes.aspx>.

A summary of all the changes to Oregon's 2021 OPSC is at <https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/codes-stand/Documents/21opsc-change-summary.pdf>

What Are Marginal Markings in the Code book?

The OPSC 2021 edition includes notations in the margins to signify specific changes made to the text of the code. There are four types of notations that call attention to technical changes, amendments, or deletions to the UPC by the State of Oregon and IAPMO. They are made during the UPC revisions for the writing of the code.

Status/type of Code Change Symbols Key

|| This symbol indicates a technical change or an amendment by the state of Oregon from the requirements of the 2015 UPC.

- > An angle bracket in the margin indicates where an entire section, paragraph, exception, or table has been deleted, or an item in a list of items or in a table has been deleted by the state of Oregon.
- | This symbol indicates an amendment by IAPMO to the UPC and can indicate either new or revised text. A very small bar may mean merely that the text was moved from another location, or a few words were changed or added. A larger bar shows a larger revision.
- A bar that encompasses the full text indicates either a wholly rewritten or brand-new code.
- ➔ This symbol indicates a deletion by IAPMO from the Uniform Plumbing Code.
- [] A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another document. This reprinted material is not the complete and official position of the source document on the reference subject that is represented by the standard in its entirety.

Keep these marks in mind when reviewing the codes of the 2021 OPSC.

For this class, changes made to the 2021 UPC will be underlined and highlighted or struck through.

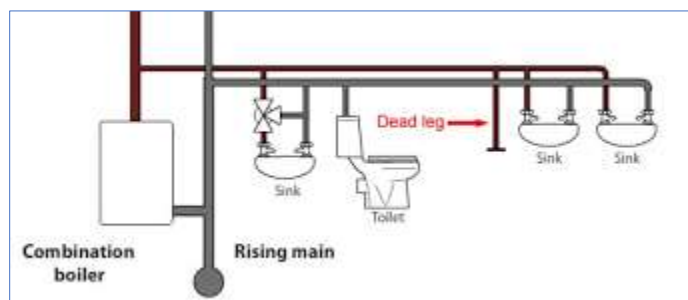
Note: There are some chapters that had no significant changes and so we won't be covering them in this class.

SECTION: General Regulations

309.6 Dead Legs

Section 309.6 is an entirely new code that establishes a provision for dead legs. This code change is one of a series of changes to the 2021 UPC and OPSC that are meant to address the increased awareness of Legionnaires' disease caused by legionellosis associated with building water systems.

Legionella bacteria is more likely to grow in stagnant water such as within a dead leg. There's no way to prohibit dead legs, so the response was to add a requirement that dead legs have a means for flushing the water that stagnates in them. This process does require supervision of the flushing to be sure that the water flushed from the system is safely disposed of into the sanitary drainage system.



New Code:

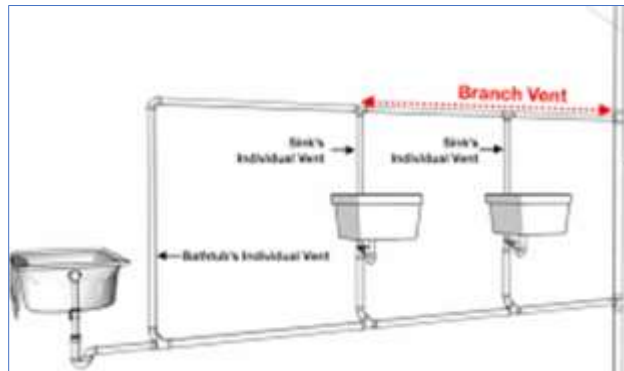
309.6 Dead Legs. Dead legs shall have a method of flushing

401.3 Branch Vents

The standards have changed for branch vents that exceed 40 feet.

New Code:

401.3 Branch Vents. Where branch vents exceed 40 feet (12 192 mm) in developed length, such vent shall be increased by one pipe size for the entire developed length of the vent pipe.



Questions:

What is the maximum flow rate for showerheads?

- (A) 2.5 gpm @ 80 psi
- (B) 2.5 gpm @ 60 psi
- (C) 2.0 gpm @ 80 psi
- (D) 2.5 gpm @ 50 psi

How many inches of clear space is required between the front of a water closet, lavatory, or bidet and any wall or object?

- (A) 18 inches
- (B) 16 inches
- (C) 24 inches
- (D) 36 inches