

IM-95-12

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & BUSINESS SERVICES
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 1, 1995
To: All OR-OSHA field staff
From: Marilyn Schuster
Subject: Floor load calculations

The State Building Codes Division reports that they are receiving calls from employers requesting that building codes conduct floor load calculations so the employer can post the floor load for the employers storage area. Building codes is not authorized to do this.

To figure out the floor load the employer should call the local building inspector in the city or county area where the building is located and see if the building official has a building plan on file for the employer's building. If the local building department has plans, the employer should see if-the floor loads are listed.

If the local building department does not have a plan with the floor loads listed then the owner needs to seek the assistance of a qualified person such as an engineer to decide the building's floor load for the storage area.

OR-OSHA code requirement for floor loading requires the posting of the floor load **approved by the building official**. Where the building was built before 1973 there may have been no building official in the city or county and no floor loads ever established. In these cases the employer should use table 23A of the Uniform Building Code and the assistance of a professional to establish a safe uniform floor load, however it would not technically need to be posted.