

Department of Insurance and Finance

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Attn: Gil Olson

In response to your inquiry regarding demolition of buildings and the requirements for materials chutes, I provide the following:

As we discussed, Division 03, of OAR 437, rules 1926.252 and 1926.852 both contain requirements for chutes. The Division 03 Oregon rules are identical to federal OSHA rules on the same subject.

Federal OSHA technical staff were contacted by this writer to determine the origin and proper interpretation of these two chute requirements. Rule 1926.252 applies to construction projects in general and requires that waste materials generated during the construction, renovation, or remodeling process not be thrown to the outside of a building when over 20 feet high unless a chute is used.

In demolition operations in which the building is being wrecked, Rule 1926.852 applies. The primary requirement of 1926.852 is to provide effective protection around the exterior of the structure being demolished to positively prevent material dropped to the exterior from any height from striking a worker.

In summary, for demolition, if material is to be dropped to the exterior of a building from any height, the area must be effectively protected to prevent any worker access. This may be alternatively accomplished through the use of a chute properly protected at the loading and discharge ends.

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