QUESTION: What constitutes a separate facility for each sex where plumbing fixtures are required?

RESPONSE: The Oregon Structural Special Code (OSSC) Section 2902.2 states that where plumbing fixtures are required, separate facilities shall be provided for each sex. However, “separate facilities” are not defined by the OSSC. The Bureau of Development Services (BDS) has determined that facilities meeting the following requirements may be considered separate facilities for the purposes of this code section. See Figure 1.

A. Full Height Walls and Doors. Each water closet must be enclosed by a 6'-8" minimum door that fills the door frame, and floor to ceiling partitions or walls;

B. Overlapping Jambs. Each water closet must have a doorjamb that overlaps the door in the closed position;

C. Occupied Indicators. Each water closet must have locking hardware that functions with an indicator showing whether it is occupied or vacant;

D. Ventilation. Each water closet must have separate ventilation;

E. Lavatories. The lavatory(s) may be located within the water closet or outside of the water closets in a cluster setting; and

F. Other Requirements. All other code requirements, including but not limited to, minimum number of fixtures required, accessibility, family or assisted-use facilities, and signage must be met.
Facilities where the aggregate of water closets and lavatories are located in separate rooms for each sex may also be considered separate facilities for the purpose of this code section. See Figure 2.

Other alternatives may be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis through the BDS administrative appeals process.