



# Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

1500 Jefferson Street SE • P.O. Box 41449 • Olympia, Washington 98504  
(360) 407-9280 • fax (360) 586-5366 • e-mail sbcc@ga.wa.gov • www.ga.wa.gov/sbcc

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 14-14

**CODE:** 2012 Washington State Energy Code, Commercial

**SECTION:** Chapter 2 [CE] Refrigerated Spaces

**QUESTION:** Is there a dividing temperature line between a refrigerated warehouse cooler and a conditioned space in the 2012 state energy code?

**ANSWER:** **No. A refrigerated warehouse cooler is “capable of being refrigerated” by definition, therefore must be equipped with a mechanical system intended to provide refrigeration.**

There is no specific temperature dividing line between a conditioned space and a refrigerated warehouse cooler defined in the 2012 WSEC. There are several resources available to help classify the space. Per 2012 IMC a refrigerated room or space is defined as follows:

**REFRIGERATED ROOM OR SPACE.** A room or space in which an evaporator or brine coil is located for the purpose of reducing or controlling the temperature within the room or space to below 68°F (20°C).

**REFRIGERATING SYSTEM.** A combination of interconnected refrigerant-containing parts constituting one closed refrigerant circuit in which a refrigerant is circulated for the purpose of extracting heat.

**REFRIGERATION SYSTEM, MECHANICAL.** A combination of interconnected refrigeration-containing parts constituting one closed refrigerant circuit in which a refrigerant is circulated for the purpose of extracting heat and in which a compressor is used for compressing the refrigerant vapor.

Per the 2009 WSEC:

**COLD STORAGE SPACE:** Spaces that are mechanically cooled and designed to be maintained at a temperature below 45°F (7°C) and at or above 28°F (-2.2°C).

**The following criteria can be used to evaluate whether space is a refrigerated warehouse cooler:**

1. The room will be maintained at a temperature under 45 degrees;
2. The usage of the room is for storage or food processing; and
3. The type of mechanical system being provided for the space conditioning system. For example, if a packaged unitary air conditioner is utilized to cool the space, it would typically be classified as a conditioned space. If a split system refrigeration cooling system with outdoor condensing unit and indoor evaporative unit coolers is utilized it would typically be classified as a refrigerated warehouse.

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Pierce County