



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 16-08

CODE: 2015 Washington State Energy Code - Residential

SECTION: R402.2.7, Floors

QUESTION: Is floor/ceiling insulation meeting the minimum required R-values allowed to be installed to the non-conditioned side (e.g. bottom of joists in garage with living space above), as long as a sheathing type (e.g. gypsum wall board, plywood, or other approved cover) is installed? Therefore allowing for a warm airspace between the required insulation and the floor sheathing above at the conditioned side?

ANSWER: **Yes. The intent of this model code change was to allow an option to have an airspace between the floor sheathing and the top of the cavity insulation where this cavity insulation is in direct contact with the topside of sheathing or continuous insulation installed on the underside of the floor framing and is combined with perimeter insulation that meets or exceeds the R-value requirements for walls. This option leads to fewer cold spots with no change to the heat loss as long as the cavity insulation is in direct contact with the sheathing below it or continuous insulation below it. It also facilitates services to be enclosed within the thermal envelope, although it is not required that they be enclosed. Examples of these configurations are illustrated below.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of North Bend

