



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:** R406, Table R406.2, Energy Credits
- QUESTIONS:**
1. I have received a set of plans that has options 5b and 5c selected for credit. Since there are footnotes in the options of 1 and 3 not to double dip, it was assumed by the designer that the 5 category was fair game.
This situation has presented us with three questions:
 - A. Can Table R406.2 Energy Credit Options 5b, 5c and/or 5d be used as a method for receiving credits to show compliance (for one water heater)?
 - B. Can Table R406.2 Energy Credit Options 5b, 5c and/or 5d be used as a method of receiving credits to show compliance (for two or more water heaters)?
 - C. Expounding on the second question, let's say more than one water heater is used on a SFR. Does only the least energy efficient unit get the credit for all of the water heaters?
 2. Multi-family residential buildings three stories and less can be designed and constructed under the residential energy code requirements. Section R406.1, Scope, limits the scope of Table R406.2 to one and two family dwellings and townhouses but Section R406.2 includes requirements for all dwelling units in residential buildings. Do R-2 buildings designed in accordance with the residential provisions of the WSEC need to comply with Table R406.2?
- ANSWERS:**
- 1A.** Since Option 5d is for a drain water heat recovery system, it may be used in conjunction with any type of water heater and still receive the credit, similar to the low flow devices in Option 5a. However, the intent is that only one of the options of 5b or 5c may be used, based on the type of water heater installed. One piece of equipment = one credit option.
- 1B.** See Answer #1 for discussion of Option 5d. As currently written, the code would not prohibit the use of using two types of water heaters to receive credits for both Option 5b and 5c.
- 1C.** See answer to 1B.
- 2. Yes.** The description of the changes to Section R406 in the filing of the 2015 WSEC make it clear that the intent was to require all residential dwelling units designed in accordance with the WSEC-R to comply with Section R406:
"Additional Energy Efficiency Requirements (Proposed State Amendment). Section R406 was expanded to include all low-rise residential dwelling and sleeping units, not just IRC buildings." However, the changes to the scoping section from the original proposal, as modified by the TAG, were unintentionally omitted from the final version of the code.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Kirkland/City of Olympia