



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION 17-17

CODE: 2015 International Building Code

SECTION: **510.2 Horizontal building separation allowance**

IBC 504.4.1 Stair pressurization increase

Under the 2012 IBC, as amended by the State of Washington, licensed care facilities were classified as Group R-2 occupancies. There was a change in the 2015 IBC classifying licensed care facilities as Group I-1 Condition 2 occupancies. As a result of this change in classification several amendments to the IBC were adopted by the state: 510.2(6) was amended to allow licensed care facilities to use the values for the maximum height in feet for Group R-2 occupancies.

510.2 Horizontal building separation allowance. A building shall be considered as separate and distinct buildings for the purpose of determining area limitations, continuity of fire walls, limitation of number of stories and type of construction where all of the following conditions are met:

6. The maximum building height in feet (mm) shall not exceed the limits set forth in Section 504.3 for the building having the smaller allowable height as measured from the grade plane. Group I-1, Condition 2 licensed care facilities shall be permitted to use the values for maximum height in feet for Group R-2 occupancies.

QUESTION 1: Since the Group I-1, Condition 2 occupancies may utilize the provisions of 510.2(6) to determine maximum height in feet, is it the intent that there is also an increase in the maximum number of stories allowed?

ANSWER: **Yes, the intent of the state amendment is to treat Group I-1 Condition 2 licensed care facilities as Group R-2 for the purpose of allowable height and number of stories.**

QUESTION 2: If the intent is to allow an increase in the number of stories for a Group I-1 Condition 2 licensed facility, does the increase in the maximum stories allowed for Group R-2 occupancies per Section 504.4.1 stair pressurization increase, also apply to Group I-1 Condition 2 occupancies?

ANSWER: **Yes, see answer 1.**

SUPERSEDES: **None**

REQUESTED BY: City of Bellevue