



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Department of General Administration

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION No. 11-07

CODE: 2009 WSEC

SECTION: Tables 13-1/13-2; 1009

QUESTION: Tables 13-1 and 13-2 provide insulation requirements for above grade mass walls. Chapter 2 provides a definition for mass walls as “a wall with a heat capacity exceeding 7 BTU/ft²-°F or 5 BTU/ft²-°F provided that the wall has material unit weight not greater than 120 lb/ft³”. Section 1009.1 provides that default mass values contained in Tables 10-9 and 10-10 are “...assumed to be in direct contact with the conditioned space.” Concrete separated from the heated volume by other material are to adjust the mass value by the listed formula in Section 1009.1. Do mass walls that have material(s) separating the mass from the heated volume have to use the formula in Section 1009.1 to determine if they qualify as a mass wall as defined in Chapter 2?

ANSWER: **No. The calculation in Section 1009.1 is intended to adjust heat capacity for insulated concrete walls for the purpose of whole building systems analysis. To identify mass walls for compliance with Tables 13-1 and 13-2, use the values in Table 10-9 Heat Capacity.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Shoreline