

# **WASHINGTON STATE BUILDING CODE**

**CHAPTER 51-50 WAC**

## **INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2015 Edition**

**Includes adoption of and amendments to  
the 2015 International Existing Building Code  
and  
ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009**



**Washington State Building Code Council  
Effective July 1, 2016**

Copies of the State Building Codes and complete copies of the 2015 International Building Code as published by the International Code Council may be obtained from:

Washington Association of Building Officials  
Post Office Box 7310  
Olympia, Washington 98507-7310  
(360) 628-8669      www.wabobookstore.org  
or toll free in Washington State at (888) 664-9515

The 2015 International Building Code,  
as published by the International Code Council,  
may be viewed at the following website:

<http://codes.iccsafe.org/app/book/toc/2015/I-Codes/2015%20IBC%20HTML/index.html>

First Edition Titled  
International Building Code  
Chapter 51-50 WAC  
based on  
WSR 16-03-069  
Effective July 1, 2016

# Preface

**Authority:** The International Building Code (Chapter 51-50 WAC) is adopted by the Washington State Building Code Council pursuant to Chapters 19.27 and 70.92 RCW. These codes were first adopted by reference by the Washington State Legislature in 1974. In 1985, the Legislature delegated the responsibility of adoption and amendment of these codes to the State Building Code Council.

**Code Precedence:** The State Building Code Act, Chapter 19.27 RCW, establishes the following order of precedence among the documents adopted as parts of the State Building Code:

- International Building Code, Standards and amendments -WAC 51-50;
- International Residential Code, Standards and amendments – WAC 51-51;
- International Mechanical Code, Standards and amendments - WAC 51-52;
- International Fire Code, Standards and amendments - WAC 51-54A;
- Uniform Plumbing Code, Standards and amendments - WAC 51-56

Where there is a conflict between codes, an earlier named code takes precedence over a later named code. In the case of conflict between the duct insulation requirements of the International Mechanical Code and the duct insulation requirements of the Energy Code, the Energy Code, or where applicable, a local jurisdiction's energy code, shall govern.

Where, in any specific case, different sections of this Code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern. Where there is conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable.

**Organization and Numbering:** These rules are written to allow compatible use with the International Building Code. All sections which are amended, deleted, or added are referenced.

**Enforcement:** The State Building Code Act requires that each local jurisdiction enforce the State Building Code within its jurisdiction. Any jurisdiction can contract with another jurisdiction or an inspection agency to provide the mandated enforcement activities.

## Amendments to the State Building Code:

The State Building Code Council has adopted review procedures and approval criteria for local amendments. These procedures and criteria are found in Chapter 51-04 WAC. The Council has exempted from its review any amendments to the administrative provisions of the various codes.

Forms for proposing statewide amendments to the State Building Code are available from the State Building Code Council staff.

- A. **Amendments of Statewide Application:** On a yearly basis the State Building Code Council will consider proposals to amend the State Building Code. Unless directed by the State Legislature, federal mandates or court order, the Council will not enter formal rulemaking until 2018 as part of its consideration of adoption of the 2018 series of codes.

Proposals to amend the State Building Code shall be made on forms provided by the Building Code Council.

Code Change Proposal Submittal Deadline: March 1st of each year.

- B. **Local Amendments:** Any jurisdiction may amend the State Building Code provided the amendments do not reduce the minimum performance standards of the codes. There are areas where local amendments are limited or prohibited:

**Prohibited Amendments:** Residential provisions of the State Energy Code (WAC 51-11R and WAC 51-11C), Ventilation provisions in Section 408 of the Mechanical Code (WAC 51-52) and Section M1507 of the IRC (WAC 51-51); any provision of the International Building Code or International Residential Code affecting accessibility; and standards specifically adopted in Chapters 19.27 and 19.27A RCW cannot be amended by any local jurisdiction.

**Residential Amendments:** Amendments by local jurisdictions which affect the construction of single family and multi-family residential buildings must be reviewed and approved by the State Building Code Council before such amendments can be enforced. The State Building Code Act provides the following definition:

“Multi-family residential building” means common wall residential buildings that consist of four or fewer units, that do not exceed two stories in height, that are less than 5,000 square feet in area, and that have a one-hour fire-resistive occupancy separation between units.

Application forms for Council review of local amendments are available from the State Building Code Council Staff.

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**Printing Format:** This version of the rules is published as a series of insert or replacement pages. Each page provides instructions for installing them in the model code book. Amendments to the model code which are new or revised from the previous edition of this code are indicated by a line in the margin next to the revised portions.

**Effective Date:** These rules were adopted by the State Building Code Council on November 13, 2015. The rules are effective throughout the state on July 1, 2016. (This version of the code is based on WAC 51-50 as published in WSR 16-03-069.

**Building Permit Fees:** The activities of the State Building Code Council are supported by permit fees collected by each city and county. Section 19.27.085 of the State Building Code Act requires that a fee of \$4.50 be imposed on each building permit issued by each city and county. In addition, a fee of \$2.00 per unit shall be imposed for each dwelling unit after the first unit, on each building containing more than one residential unit. For the purpose of this fee, WAC 51-05 defines building permits as any permit to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish any building or structure regulated by the Building Code. Exempt from the fee are plumbing, electrical, mechanical permits, permits issued to install a mobile/manufactured home, commercial coach or factory built structure, or permits issued pursuant to the International Fire Code.

Each city and county shall remit moneys collected to the state treasury quarterly. No remittance is required until a minimum of \$50.00 has accumulated.

These permit fees are the amounts current in January 2016. Such fees may be changed by the State Legislature.

**Opinions:** Only at the request of a local enforcement official, the State Building Code Council may issue interpretations/opinions of those provisions of the State Building Code created by the Council, or provisions of the model codes amended by the Council. Final interpretation authority for any specific permit resides with the local enforcement official.

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**CHAPTER 51-50 WAC  
STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT  
OF THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE**

**WAC 51-50-001 AUTHORITY**

These rules are adopted under the authority of Chapter 19.27 RCW.

**WAC 51-50-002 PURPOSE**

The purpose of these rules is to implement the provisions of Chapter 19.27 RCW, which provides that the State Building Code Council shall maintain the State Building Code in a status which is consistent with the purpose as set forth in RCW 19.27.020. In maintaining the codes the Council shall regularly review updated versions of the codes adopted under the act, and other pertinent information, and shall amend the codes as deemed appropriate by the Council.

**WAC 51-50-003 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE**

The 2015 edition of the International Building Code, including Appendix E, published by the International Code Council is hereby adopted by reference with the exceptions noted in this chapter of the Washington Administrative Code.

**WAC 51-50-005 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR BARRIER-FREE ACCESSIBILITY**

Chapter 11 and other International Building Code requirements for barrier-free access, including ICC A117.1-2009 and Appendix E, are adopted pursuant to Chapters 70.92 and 19.27 RCW.

Pursuant to RCW 19.27.040, Chapter 11 and requirements affecting barrier-free access shall not be amended by local governments.

**WAC 51-50-007 EXCEPTIONS**

The exceptions and amendments to the International Building Code contained in the provisions of Chapter 19.27 RCW shall apply in case of conflict with any of the provisions of these rules.

The provisions of this code do not apply to temporary growing structures used solely for the commercial production of horticultural plants including ornamental plants, flowers, vegetables, and fruits. "Temporary growing structure" means a structure that has the sides and roof covered with polyethylene, polyvinyl, or similar flexible synthetic material and is used to provide plants with either frost protection or increased heat retention. A temporary growing structure is not considered a building for purposes of this code.

The provisions of this code do not apply to the construction, alteration, or repair of temporary worker housing except as provided by rule adopted under chapter 70.114A RCW or chapter 37, Laws of 1998 (SB 6168). "Temporary worker housing" means a place, area, or piece of land where sleeping places or housing sites are provided by an employer for his or her employees or by another person, including a temporary worker housing operator, who is providing such accommodations for employees, for temporary, seasonal occupancy, and includes "labor camps" under RCW 70.54.110.

Codes referenced which are not adopted through RCW 19.27.031 or RCW 19.27A shall not apply unless specifically adopted by the authority having jurisdiction. The 2015 International Existing Buildings Code is included in the adoption of this code in Section 101.4.7 and amended in WAC 51-50-480000.

**WAC 51-50-008 IMPLEMENTATION**

The International Building Code adopted under Chapter 51-50 WAC shall become effective in all counties and cities of this state on July 1, 2016.

**WAC 51-50-009 RECYCLABLE MATERIALS, COMPOST, AND SOLID WASTE STORAGE**

For the purposes of this section, the following definition shall apply:

**COMPOST** means biodegradable solid wastes that are separated for composting such as food waste, food soiled paper and yard waste.

**RECYCLED MATERIALS** means those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse, such as papers, metals and glass.

All local jurisdictions shall require that space be provided for the storage of recycled materials, compost, and solid waste for all new buildings

**Exceptions:** Group R-3 and Group U occupancies.

The storage area shall be designed to meet the needs of the occupancy, efficiency of pickup, and shall be available to occupants and haulers.

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**108.1 General.** The building official is authorized to issue a permit for temporary structures and temporary uses. Such permits shall be limited as to time of service, but shall not be permitted for more than 180 days. The building official is authorized to grant extensions for demonstrated cause.

**Exception:** The building official may authorize unheated tents and yurts under 500 square feet accommodating an R-1 occupancy for recreational use as a temporary structure and allow them to be used indefinitely.

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**ADULT FAMILY HOME.** A dwelling, licensed by Washington state, in which a person or persons provide personal care, special care, room and board to more than one but not more than six adults who are not related by blood or marriage to the person or persons providing the services.

(Insert Facing Page 11)

**ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY.** A home or other institution, licensed by the state of Washington, providing housing, basic services and assuming general responsibility for the safety and well-being of residents under chapters 18.20 RCW and 388-78A WAC. These facilities may provide care to residents with symptoms consistent with dementia requiring additional security measures.

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**BOTTLE FILLING STATION.** A plumbing fixture connected to the potable water distribution system and sanitary drainage system that is designed and intended for filling personal use drinking water bottles or containers not less than 10 inches (254mm) in height. Such fixtures can be separate from or integral to a drinking fountain and can incorporate a water filter and a cooling system for chilling the drinking water.

**(Insert Facing Page 13)**



**CHILD CARE.** The care of children during any period of a 24-hour day.

**CHILD CARE, FAMILY HOME.** A child care facility, licensed by Washington state, located in the dwelling of the person or persons under whose direct care and supervision the child is placed, for the care of twelve or fewer children, including children who reside at the home.

**(Insert Facing Page 14)**

**CLIMATE ZONE.** A geographical region that has been assigned climatic criteria as specified in the Washington State Energy Code.

**CLUSTER.** Clusters are multiple *portable school classrooms* separated by less than the requirements of the building code for separate buildings.

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**B L A N K**

**EFFICIENCY DWELLING UNIT.** A dwelling containing only one habitable room.

**(Insert Facing Page 19)**

**HOSPICE CARE CENTER.** A building or portion thereof used on a 24-hour basis for the provision of hospice services to terminally ill inpatients.

**(Insert Facing Page 26)**

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**NIGHTCLUB.** An A-2 occupancy use under the 2006 International Building Code in which the aggregate area of concentrated use of unfixed chairs and standing space that is specifically designated and primarily used for dancing or viewing performers exceeds three hundred fifty square feet, excluding adjacent lobby areas. “Nightclub” does not include theaters with fixed seating, banquet halls, or lodge halls.

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**PORTABLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM.** A prefabricated structure consisting of one or more rooms with direct exterior egress from the classroom(s). The structure is transportable in one or more sections and is designed to be used as an educational space with or without a permanent foundation. The structure shall be capable of being demounted and relocated to other locations as needs arise.

**(Insert Facing Page 31)**

**SMALL BUSINESS.** Any business entity (including a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership or other legal entity) which is owned and operated independently from all other businesses, which has the purpose of making a profit, and which has fifty or fewer employees.

**(Insert Facing Page 34)**

**STAGED EVACUATION.** A method of emergency response, that engages building components and trained staff to provide occupant safety during an emergency. Emergency response involves moving or holding certain occupants at temporary locations for a brief period of time before evacuating the building. This response is used by ambulatory surgery facilities and assisted living facilities to protect the health and safety of fragile occupants and residents.

**305.2.4 Family home child care.** Family home child care licensed by Washington state for the care of twelve or fewer children shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the *International Residential Code*.

**306.2 Moderate-hazard factory industrial, Group F-1.** (see next page)

**(Insert Facing Page 42)**

**306.2 Moderate-hazard factory industrial, Group F-1.** Factory industrial uses that are not classified as factory industrial F-2 low hazard shall be classified as F-1 moderate hazard and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Aircraft (manufacturing, not to include repair)
- Appliances
- Athletic equipment
- Automobiles and other motor vehicles
- Bakeries
- Beverages: Over 16 percent alcohol content
- Bicycles
- Boats
- Brooms or brushes
- Business machines
- Cameras and photo equipment
- Canvas or similar fabric
- Carpets and rugs (includes cleaning)
- Clothing
- Construction and agricultural machinery
- Disinfectants
- Dry cleaning and dyeing
- Electric generation plants
- Electronics
- Engines (including rebuilding)
- Food processing establishments and commercial kitchens not associated with restaurants, cafeterias and similar dining facilities more than 2,500 square feet (232m<sup>2</sup>) in area
- Furniture
- Hemp products
- Jute products
- Laundries
- Leather products
- Machinery
- Marijuana processing
- Metals
- Millwork (sash and door)
- Motion pictures and television filming (without spectators)
- Musical instruments
- Optical goods
- Paper mills or products
- Photographic film
- Plastic products
- Printing or publishing
- Recreational vehicles
- Refuse incineration
- Shoes
- Soaps and detergents
- Textiles
- Tobacco
- Trailers
- Upholstering
- Wood; distillation
- Woodworking (cabinet)

**(Insert Facing Page 43)**

**308.3.3 Licensed care facilities.** Assisted living facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 388-78A WAC and residential treatment facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 246-337 WAC shall be classified as Group I-1, Condition 2.

**308.3.5 Adult family homes.** Adult family homes licensed by Washington state shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the *International Residential Code*.

**308.4 Institutional Group I-2.** Institutional Group I-2 occupancy shall include buildings and structures used for *medical care* on a 24-hour basis for more than five persons who are *incapable of self-preservation*. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

*Foster care facilities*

*Detoxification facilities*

*Hospice care centers*

*Hospitals*

*Nursing homes*

*Psychiatric hospitals*

**308.2 Definitions.** The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

**24-HOUR CARE**

**CUSTODIAL CARE**

**DETOXIFICATION FACILITIES**

**FOSTER CARE FACILITIES**

**HOSPICE CARE CENTER**

**HOSPITALS AND PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS**

**INCAPABLE OF SELF-PRESERVATION**

**MEDICAL CARE**

**NURSING HOMES**

(Insert Facing Page 48)

**308.6.5 Family home child care.** Family home child care licensed by Washington state for the care of twelve or fewer children shall be classified as Group R-3 or shall comply with the *International Residential Code*.

**310.2 Definitions.** The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

ADULT FAMILY HOME  
BOARDING HOUSE  
CHILD CARE  
CHILD CARE, FAMILY HOME  
CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES  
DORMITORY  
GROUP HOME  
GUEST ROOM  
LODGING HOUSE  
PERSONAL CARE SERVICE  
TRANSIENT

(Insert Facing Page 49)



**310.5.3 Adult family homes, family home child care.** Adult family homes and family home child care facilities that are within a single-family home are permitted to comply with the *International Residential Code*.

**310.5.4 Foster family care homes.** Foster family care homes licensed by Washington state are permitted to comply with the *International Residential Code*, as an accessory use to a dwelling, for six or fewer children including those of the resident family.

**310.6 Residential Group R-4.** R-4 classification is not adopted. Any reference in this code to R-4 does not apply.

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**312.1 General.** Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy shall be constructed, equipped and maintained to conform to the requirements of this code commensurate with the fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy. Group U shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Agricultural buildings
- Aircraft hangers, accessory to a one- or two-family residence (see Section 412.5)
- Barns
- Carports
- Fences more than 6 feet (1829 mm) in height
- Grain silos, accessory to a residential occupancy
- Greenhouses and other structures used for cultivation, protection or maintenance of plants
- Livestock shelters
- Private garages
- Retaining walls
- Sheds
- Stables
- Tanks
- Towers

**403.5.4 Smokeproof exit enclosures.** Every required *interior exit stairway* serving floors more than 75 feet (22,860 mm) above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access shall be a *smokeproof enclosure* in accordance with Sections 909.20 and 1023.11.

**Exception:** Unless required by other sections of this code, portions of such stairways which extend to serve floors below the level of exit discharge need not comply with Sections 909.20 and 1023.11 provided the portion of the stairway below is separated from the level of exit discharge with a 1 hour fire barrier.

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**412.8.3 Means of egress.** The *means of egress* from *heliports* and *helistops* shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 10. Landing areas located on buildings or structures shall have two or more means of egress. For landing areas less than 60 feet in length or less than 2,000 square feet in area, the second *means of egress* is permitted to be a fire escape, *alternating tread device* or ladder leading to the floor below. On Group I-2 roofs with helistops or helipads, rooftop structures enclosing exit stair enclosures or elevator shafts shall be enclosed with fire barriers and opening protectives that match the rating of their respective shaft enclosures below.

**B L A N K**

**420.7 Adult family homes.** This section shall apply to all newly constructed adult family homes and all existing single-family homes being converted to adult family homes. This section shall not apply to those adult family homes licensed by the state of Washington department of social and health services prior to July 1, 2001.

**420.7.1 Reserved.**

**420.7.2 Sleeping room classification.** Each sleeping room in an adult family home shall be classified as one of the following:

1. Type S - Where the means of egress contains stairs, elevators or platform lifts.
2. Type NS1 - Where one means of egress is at grade level or a ramp constructed in accordance with Section 420.7.8 is provided.
3. Type NS2 - Where two means of egress are at grade level or ramps constructed in accordance with Section 420.7.8 are provided.

**420.7.3 Types of locking devices and door activation.** All bedrooms and bathroom doors shall be openable from the outside when locked.

Every closet door shall be readily openable from the inside.

Operable parts of door handles, pulls, latches, locks and other devices installed in adult family homes shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.

Pocket doors shall have graspable hardware available when in the closed or open position.

The force required to activate operable parts shall be 5.0 pounds (22.2 N) maximum. Required exit door(s) shall have no additional locking devices. Required exit door hardware shall unlock inside and outside mechanisms when exiting the building allowing reentry into the adult family home without the use of a key, tool or special knowledge.

**420.7.4 Smoke and carbon monoxide alarm requirements.** Alarms shall be installed in such a manner so that the detection device warning is audible from all areas of the dwelling upon activation of a single alarm.

**420.7.5 Escape windows and doors.** Every sleeping room shall be provided with emergency escape and rescue windows as required by Section 1030. No alternatives to the sill height such as steps, raised platforms or other devices placed by the openings will be approved as meeting this requirement.

**420.7.6 Reserved.**

**420.7.7 Grab bar general requirements.** Where facilities are designated for use by adult family home clients, grab bars for water closets, bathtubs and shower stalls shall be installed according to ICC A117.1.

**420.7.8 Shower stalls.** Where provided to meet the requirements for bathing facilities, the minimum size of shower stalls for an adult family home shall be 30 inches deep by 48 inches long.

**420.8 Licensed care cooking facilities.** In Group I-1, Condition 2 assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 388-78A WAC and residential treatment facilities licensed under chapter 246-337 WAC, rooms or spaces that contain a cooking facility with domestic cooking appliances shall be permitted to be open to the corridor where all of the following criteria are met:

1. The number of care recipients housed in the smoke compartment is not greater than 30.
2. The number of care recipients served by the cooking facility is not greater than 30.
3. Only one cooking facility area is permitted in a smoke compartment.
4. The types of domestic cooking appliances permitted are limited to ovens, cooktops, ranges, warmers and microwaves.
5. The corridor is a clearly identified space delineated by construction or floor pattern, material or color.
6. The space containing the domestic cooking facility shall be arranged so as not to obstruct access to the required exit.
7. A domestic cooking hood installed and constructed in accordance with Section 505 of the *International Mechanical Code* is provided over the cooktop or range.
8. The domestic cooking hood provided over the cooktop or range shall be equipped with an automatic fire-extinguishing system of a type recognized for protection of domestic cooking equipment. Preengineered automatic extinguishing systems shall be tested in accordance with UL 300A and *listed* and *labeled* for the intended application. The system shall be installed in accordance with this code, its listing and the manufacturer's instructions.
9. A manual actuation device for the hood suppression system shall be installed in accordance with Sections 904.12.1 and 904.12.2.
10. An interlock device shall be provided such that upon activation of the hood suppression system, the power or fuel supply to the cooktop or range will be turned off.
11. A shut-off for the fuel and electrical power supply to the cooking equipment shall be provided in a location that is accessible only to staff.
12. A timer shall be provided that automatically deactivates the cooking appliances within a period of not more than 120 minutes.
13. A portable fire extinguisher shall be installed in accordance with Section 906 of the *International Fire Code*.

**422.3.1 Means of egress.** Where ambulatory care facilities require smoke compartmentation in accordance with Section 422.3, the fire safety evacuation plans provided in accordance with Section 1001.4 shall identify the building components necessary to support a *staged evacuation* emergency response in accordance with Sections 403 and 404 of the *International Fire Code*.



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**SECTION 427  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**427.1 Scope.** The provisions of this section shall apply to the construction of new buildings serving Group B, Group R-1 hotel and motel only, and Group R-2 occupancies.

**427.2 Required electric vehicle charging infrastructure.**

Where parking is provided, five percent of parking spaces shall be provided with electric vehicle charging infrastructure in compliance with Sections 427.3, 427.4 and 427.5. When the calculation of percent served results in a fractional parking space, the applicant shall round up to the next whole number.

**Exception:** Group R and Group B occupancies served by less than 20 on-site parking.

**427.3 Electrical room(s).** Electrical room(s) serving parking areas shall be designed to accommodate the electrical equipment and distribution required to serve a minimum of 20 percent of the total parking spaces with 208/240 V 40-amp electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

**427.4 Electric vehicle charging infrastructure.** Electric vehicle charging infrastructure shall be installed meeting one of the following requirements:

1. A minimum number of 208/240 V 40-amp, electric vehicle charging stations required to serve the parking spaces specified in section 427.2. The electric vehicle charging stations shall be located to serve spaces designated for parking and charging electric vehicles, or
2. Additional service capacity, space for future meters, panel capacity or space for additional panels, and raceways for future installation of electric vehicle charging stations. The service capacity and raceway size shall be designed to accommodate the future installation of the number of 208/240 V 40-amp, electric vehicle charging stations specified in section 427.2. The raceway shall terminate at spaces designated for parking and charging electric vehicles in the future.

Where designated electric vehicle charging locations serve exterior on-grade parking spaces that are located more than 4 feet from a building, raceways shall be extended below grade to a pull box in the vicinity of the designated future electric vehicle charging locations or stub above grade in the vicinity of the designated future electric vehicle charging locations, protected from vehicles by a curb or other device.

**Exception:** In lieu of surface-mounted raceway between the electrical panel and the designated electric vehicle charging locations, it is permitted to provide permanent markings indicating the pathway for future raceway, and one-inch diameter capped sleeves through each wall and floor assembly that are penetrated along that route. This pathway and the locations of capped sleeves shall also be indicated on the electrical plans. Raceway shall be installed for any portion of the pathway located below slabs, below grade, or within floor, wall or roof assemblies.

**427.5 Electric vehicle charging infrastructure for accessible parking spaces.** When electric vehicle charging infrastructure is required, one accessible parking space shall be served by electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The electric vehicle charging infrastructure may also serve adjacent parking spaces not designated as accessible parking

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**503.1 General.** Unless otherwise specifically modified in Chapter 4 and this chapter, *building height*, number of stories and *building area* shall not exceed the limits specified in Sections 504 and 506 based on the type of construction as determined by Section 602 and the occupancies as determined by Section 302 except as modified hereafter. *Building height*, number of stories and *building area* provisions shall be applied independently.

For the purposes of determining area limitations, height limitations and type of construction, each portion of a building separated by one or more fire walls complying with Section 706 shall be considered to be a separate building.

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**504.4.1 Stair enclosure pressurization increase.** For Group R-1 and R-2 occupancies in buildings of Type VA construction equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the maximum number of stories permitted in Section 504.2 may be increased by one provided the interior exit stairways and ramps are pressurized in accordance with Section 909. Legally required standby power shall be provided for buildings constructed in compliance with this section and be connected to stairway shaft pressurization equipment, elevators and lifts used for accessible means of egress, hoistway pressurization equipment (if provided) and other life safety equipment as determined by the authority having jurisdiction. For the purposes of this section, legally required standby power shall comply with 2014 NEC Section 701.12, options (A), (B), (C), (D), (F), or (G) or subsequent revised section number(s).

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**505.2.1 Area limitation.** The aggregate area of a *mezzanine* or *mezzanines* within a room shall be not greater than one-third of the floor area of that room or space in which they are located. The enclosed portion of a room shall not be included in a determination of the floor area of the room in which the *mezzanine* is located. In determining the allowable *mezzanine* area, the area of the *mezzanine* shall not be included in the floor area of the room.

→ **Exceptions:**

1. The aggregate area of *mezzanines* in buildings and structures of Type I or II construction for special industrial occupancies in accordance with Section 503.1.1 shall be not greater than two-thirds of the floor area of the room.

2. The aggregate area of *mezzanines* in buildings and structures of Type I or II construction shall be not greater than one-half of the floor area of the room in buildings and structures equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler* system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and an *approved emergency voice/alarm communication system* in accordance with Section 907.5.2.2.

**505.2.1.1 Aggregate area of mezzanines and equipment platforms.** Where a room contains both a *mezzanine* and an *equipment platform*, the aggregate area of the two raised floor levels shall be not greater than two-thirds of the floor area of the room or space in which they are located. The area of the mezzanine shall not exceed the area determined according to Section 505.2.1.

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**505.3.1 Area limitation.** The aggregate area of all *equipment platforms* within a room shall be not greater than two-thirds of the area of the room in which they are located. Where an *equipment platform* is located in the same room as a *mezzanine*, the area of the *mezzanine* shall be determined by Section 505.2.1 and the combined aggregate area of the *equipment platforms* and *mezzanines* shall be not greater than two-thirds of the room in which they are located. The area of the *mezzanine* shall not exceed the area determined according to Section 505.2.1.



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**TABLE 509  
INCIDENTAL USES**

**Add the following to Table 509:**

<b>ROOM OR AREA</b>	<b>SEPARATION AND/OR PROTECTION</b>
Dry type transformers over 112.5 kVA and required to be in a fire resistant room per NEC (NFPA 70) Section 450.21 (B) <sup>a</sup>	1 hour or provide automatic sprinkler system

<sup>a</sup> Dry type transformers rated over 35,000 volts and oil-insulated transformers shall be installed in a transformer vault complying with NFPA 70.

**(Remainder of table unchanged)**

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.

**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:

1. The buildings are separated with a *horizontal assembly* having a *fire-resistance rating* of not less than 3 hours.
2. The building below the *horizontal assembly* is of Type IA construction.
3. *Shaft, stairway, ramp* and escalator enclosures through the *horizontal assembly* shall have not less than a 2-hour *fire-resistance rating* with opening protective in accordance with Section 716.5.

**Exception:** Where the enclosure walls below the *horizontal assembly* have not less than a 3-hour *fire-resistance rating* with opening protective in accordance with Section 716.5, the enclosure walls extending above the *horizontal assembly* shall be permitted to have a 1-hour *fire-resistance rating*, provided:

1. The building above the *horizontal assembly* is not required to be Type I construction.
  2. The enclosure connects fewer than four *stories*; and
  3. The enclosure opening protective above the *horizontal assembly* have a *fire protection rating* of not less than 1 hour.
4. The building or buildings above the *horizontal assembly* shall be permitted to have multiple Group A occupancy uses, each with an *occupant load* of less 300, or Group B, Group I-1, Condition 2 licensed care facilities, M, R, or S occupancies.
  5. The building below the *horizontal assembly* shall be protected throughout by an *approved automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, and shall be permitted to be any occupancy allowed by this code except Group H.

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**706.1 General.** *Fire walls* shall be constructed in accordance with Sections 706.2 through 706.11. The extent and location of such *fire walls* shall provide a complete separation. Where a *fire wall* also separates occupancies that are required to be separated by a *fire barrier wall*, the most restrictive requirements of each separation shall apply.

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**716.5.9 Door closing.** *Fire doors* shall be latching and self- or automatic-closing in accordance with this section.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Fire doors* located in common walls separating *sleeping units* in Group R-1 shall be permitted without automatic- or *self-closing* devices.
2. The elevator car doors and associated hoistway enclosure doors at the floor level designated for recall in accordance with Section 3003.2 shall be permitted to remain open during Phase I emergency recall operation.
3. In Group I-1, Condition 2 Assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 388-78A and residential treatment facilities licensed under chapter 246-337 WAC, fire doors in dwelling and sleeping units opening to the corridor shall be permitted without automatic or self-closing devices when all of the following conditions exist:
  - 3.1. Each floor is constantly attended by staff on a 24-hour basis and stationed on that floor;
  - 3.2. The facility is provided with an NFPA 13 sprinkler system throughout;
  - 3.3. Doors shall be equipped with positive latching;
  - 3.4. Dwelling and sleeping units are not equipped with cooking appliances;
  - 3.5. Dwelling and sleeping units shall be equipped with a smoke detection system interconnected with the smoke detection system required by Section 907.2.6.1.

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**903.2.1.6 Assembly occupancies on roofs.** Where an occupied roof has an assembly occupancy with an occupant load exceeding 100 for Group A-2, and 300 for other Group A occupancies, the building shall be equipped with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.

**Exception:** Open parking garages of Type I Type II construction.

**903.2.1.8 Nightclub.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout Group A-2 nightclubs as defined in this code.

**903.2.3 Group E.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided for fire areas containing Group E occupancies where the fire area has an occupant load of 51 or more, calculated in accordance with Table 1004.1.2.

**Exceptions:**

1. Portable school classrooms with an occupant load of 50 or less calculated in accordance with Table 1004.1.2, provided aggregate area of any cluster or portion of a cluster of portable school classrooms does not exceed 6,000 square feet (557 m<sup>2</sup>); and clusters of portable school classrooms shall be separated as required by the building code; or
2. Portable school classrooms with an occupant load from 51 through 98, calculated in accordance with Table 1004.1.2, and provided with two means of direct independent exterior egress from each classroom in accordance with Chapter 10, and one exit from each classroom shall be accessible, provided that the aggregate area of any cluster of portable school classrooms does not exceed 6,000 square feet (557 m<sup>2</sup>); and clusters of portable school classrooms shall be separated as required by the building code; or
3. Fire areas containing day care and preschool facilities with a total occupant load of 100 or less located at the level of exit discharge where every room in which care is provided has not fewer than one exit discharge door.

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**903.2.6.1 Group I-4.** An automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in fire areas containing Group I-4 occupancies where the fire area has an occupant load of 51 or more, calculated in accordance with Table 1004.1.2.

**Exceptions:**

1. An automatic sprinkler system is not required for Group I-4 day care facilities with a total occupant load of 100 or less, and located at the level of exit discharge and where every room where care is provided has not fewer than one exterior exit door.
2. In buildings where Group I-4 day care is provided on levels other than the *level of exit discharge*, an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 shall be installed on the entire floor where care is provided, all floors between the level of care and the level of *exit discharge* and all floors below the level of *exit discharge* other than areas classified as an open parking garage.

**903.2.7 Group M.** An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout buildings containing a Group M occupancy, where one of the following conditions exists:

1. A Group M *fire area* exceeds 12,000 square feet (1115m<sup>2</sup>).
2. A Group M *fire area* is located more than three stories above *grade plane*.
3. The combined area of all Group M *fire areas* on all floors, including any mezzanines, exceeds 24,000 square feet (2230 m<sup>2</sup>).
4. Where a Group M occupancy that is used for the display and sale of upholstered furniture or mattresses exceeds 5000 square feet (464 m<sup>2</sup>).

**903.2.8 Group R.** An *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3 shall be provided throughout all buildings with a Group R *fire area*.

**Exception:** Group R-1 if all the following conditions apply:

1. The Group R *fire area* is no more than 500 square feet and is used for recreational use only.
2. The Group R *fire area* is only one story.
3. The Group R *fire area* does not include a basement.
4. The Group R *fire area* is no closer than 30 feet from another structure.
5. Cooking is not allowed within the Group R *fire area*.
6. The Group R *fire area* has an occupant load of no more than 8.
7. A hand held (portable) fire extinguisher is in every Group R *fire area*.

**903.2.6 Group I.** An *automatic sprinkler system* shall be provided throughout buildings with a Group I *fire area*

**Exceptions:**

1. An *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group I-1 Condition 1 facilities.
2. Where new construction or additions house less than sixteen persons receiving care, an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.2.8.3 shall be permitted for Group I-1, Condition 2, assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 388-78A WAC and residential treatment facilities licensed under chapter 246-337 WAC.

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**903.2.11.1.3 Basements.** Where any portion of a basement is located more than 75 feet (22,860 mm) from openings required by Section 903.2.11.1, or where new walls, partitions or other similar obstructions are installed that increase the exit access travel distance to more than 75 feet, the basement shall be equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

**903.2.11.7 Relocatable buildings within buildings.**

Relocatable buildings or structures located within a building with an approved fire sprinkler system shall be provided with fire sprinkler protection within the occupiable space of the building and the space underneath the relocatable building

**Exceptions:**

1. Sprinkler protection is not required underneath the building when the space is separated from the adjacent space by construction resisting the passage of smoke and heat and combustible storage will not be located there.
2. If the building or structure does not have a roof or ceiling obstructing the overhead sprinklers.
3. Construction trailers and temporary offices used during new building construction prior to occupancy.
4. Movable shopping mall kiosks with a roof or canopy dimension of less than 4 feet on the smallest side.

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**903.3.5.3 Underground portions of fire protection system water supply piping.** The installation or modification of an underground water main, public or private, supplying a water-based fire protection system shall be in accordance with NFPA 24 and chapter 18.160 RCW. Piping and appurtenances downstream of the first control valve on the lateral or service line from the distribution main to one-foot above finished floor shall be approved by the fire *code official*. Such underground piping shall be installed by a fire sprinkler system contractor licensed in accordance with chapter 18.160 RCW and holding either a Level U or a Level 3 license. For underground piping supplying systems installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2, a Level 2, 3, or U licensed contractor is acceptable.

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3. Manual fire alarm boxes are not required in Group E occupancies where all of the following apply:
  - 3.1. Interior *corridors* are protected by smoke detectors.
  - 3.2. Auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums and similar areas are protected by *heat detectors* or other *approved* detection devices.
  - 3.3. Shops and laboratories involving dusts or vapors are protected by *heat detectors* or other *approved* detection devices.
4. Manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required in Group E occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an approved *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the emergency voice/alarm communication system will activate on sprinkler water flow and manual activation.

**907.2.3 Group E.** A manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group E occupancies. When *automatic sprinkler systems* or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

**Exceptions:**

1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in Group E occupancies with an *occupant load* of 50 or less.
2. Emergency voice/alarm communication systems meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall not be required in Group E occupancies with occupant loads of 100 or less, provided that activation of the manual fire alarm system initiates an *approved* occupant notification signal in accordance with Section 907.5.

**907.2.6 Group I.** A manual fire alarm system that activates the occupant notification system shall be installed in Group I occupancies. An automatic smoke detection system that

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notifies the occupant notification system shall be provided in accordance with Sections 907.2.6.1, 907.2.6.2, 907.2.6.3.3 and 907.2.6.4.

**Exceptions:**

1. Manual fire alarm boxes in resident or patient sleeping areas of Group I-1 and I-2 occupancies shall not be required at exits if located at nurses' control stations or other constantly attended staff locations, provided such stations are visible and continually accessible and that travel distances required in Section 907.4.2 are not exceeded.
2. Occupant notification systems are not required to be activated where private mode signaling installed in accordance with NFPA 72 is approved by the fire code official.

**907.2.6.1 Group I-1.** An automatic smoke detection system shall be installed in *corridors*, waiting areas open to *corridors* and *habitable spaces* other than *sleeping units* and kitchens. The system shall be activated in accordance with Section 907.4.

**Exceptions:**

1. For Group I-1 Condition 1 occupancies, smoke detection in *habitable spaces* is not required where the facility is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.
2. Smoke detection is not required for exterior balconies.

**907.2.6.4 Group I-4 occupancies.** A manual fire alarm system that initiates the occupant notification signal utilizing an emergency voice/alarm communication system meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall be installed in Group I-4 occupancies. When automatic sprinkler systems or smoke detectors are installed, such systems or detectors shall be connected to the building fire alarm system.

**Exceptions:**

1. A manual fire alarm system is not required in Group I-4 occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or less.
2. Emergency voice alarm communication systems meeting the requirements of Section 907.5.2.2 and installed in accordance with Section 907.6 shall not be required in Group I-4 occupancies with occupant loads of 100 or less, provided that activation of the manual fire alarm system initiates an approved occupant notification signal in accordance with Section 907.5.



**907.5.2.1.2 Maximum sound pressure.** The maximum sound pressure level for audible alarm notification appliances shall be 110 dBA at the minimum hearing distance from the audible appliance. For systems operating in public mode, the maximum sound pressure level shall not exceed 30 dBA over the average ambient sound level. Where the average ambient noise is greater than 95 dBA, visible alarm notification appliances shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 72 and audible alarm notification appliances shall not be required.

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**907.10 NICET: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies.**

**907.10.1 Scope.** This section shall apply to new and existing fire alarm systems.

**907.10.2 Design review.** All construction documents shall be reviewed by a NICET III in fire alarms or a licensed professional engineer (PE) in Washington prior to being submitted for permitting. The reviewing professional shall submit a stamped, signed, and dated letter; or a verification method approved by the local authority having jurisdiction indicating the system has been reviewed and meets or exceeds the design requirements of the state of Washington and the local jurisdiction. *(Effective July 1, 2017)*

**907.10.3 Testing/maintenance.** All inspection, testing, maintenance and programming not defined as "electrical construction trade" by chapter 19.28 RCW shall be completed by a NICET II in fire alarms. *(Effective July 1, 2017)*

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**909.21.12 Hoistway venting.** Hoistway venting need not be provided for pressurized elevator shafts.

**909.21.13 Machine rooms.** Elevator machine rooms shall be pressurized in accordance with this section unless separated from the hoistway shaft by construction in accordance with Section 707.

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**915.1.1 Where required.** Carbon monoxide detection shall be provided in Group I and R occupancies and in classrooms in Group E occupancies in the locations specified in Section 915.2 where any of the conditions in Sections 915.1.2 through 915.1.6 exist.

**Exceptions:**

1. R-2 occupancies, with the exception of R-2 college dormitories, are required to install carbon monoxide detectors without exception.
2. Sleeping units or dwelling units in I and R-1 occupancies and R-2 college dormitories, hotel, DOC prisons and work releases and DSHS licensed boarding home and residential treatment facility occupancies which do not themselves contain a fuel-burning appliance, a fuel-burning fireplace, or have an attached garage, need not be provided with carbon monoxide alarms provided that they comply with the exceptions of 915.1.4.

**915.2.1 Dwelling units.** Carbon monoxide detection shall be installed in dwelling units outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling. Where a fuel-burning appliance or fuel-burning fireplace is located within a bedroom or its attached bathroom, carbon monoxide detection shall be installed within the bedroom.

**915.2.3 Group E occupancies.** When required by Section 915.1 in new buildings, or by Chapter 11 of the *International Fire Code*, carbon monoxide detection shall be installed in classrooms in Group E occupancies. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel.

**Exceptions:**

1. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall not be required to be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel in Group E occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or less.
2. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall not be required to be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel in Group E occupancies where an exception contained in Section 915.1 applies, or in Group E occupancies where signals are transmitted to an off-site service monitored by a third party, such as a service that monitors fire protection systems in the building.



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**1004.2 Increased occupant load.** The *occupant load* permitted in any building, or portion thereof, is permitted to be increased from that number established for the occupancies in Table 1004.1.2, provided that all other requirements of the code are also met based on such modified number and the *occupant load* does not exceed one occupant per 7 square feet (0.65 m<sup>2</sup>) of occupiable floor space. Where required by the *building official*, an *approved aisle*, seating or fixed equipment diagram substantiating any increase in *occupant load* shall be submitted. Where required by the *building official*, such diagram shall be posted. See WAC 170-295-0080 (1)(b) for day care licensed by the state of Washington.

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**1006.2.2.6 Electrical equipment rooms.** Rooms containing electrical equipment shall be provided with a second exit or exit access doorways as required by NFPA 70 Article 110 where all of the following apply:

1. The electrical equipment is rated at 1,200 amperes or more.
2. The electrical equipment is over 6 feet (1829 mm) wide.
3. The electrical equipment contains overcurrent devices, switching devices or control devices.

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**1009.1 Accessible means of egress required.** Accessible *means of egress* shall comply with this section. Accessible spaces shall be provided with not less than one accessible *means of egress*. Where more than one *means of egress* is required by Section 1006.2 or 1006.3 from any *accessible* space, each *accessible* portion of the space shall be served by not less than two accessible *means of egress*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Accessible *means of egress* are not required to be provided in existing buildings.
2. One accessible *means of egress* is required from an *accessible mezzanine* level in accordance with Section 1009.3, 1009.4 or 1009.5.
3. In assembly areas with ramped *aisles* or stepped *aisles*, one accessible *means of egress* is permitted where the *common path of egress travel* is *accessible* and meets the requirements in Section 1029.8.
4. In parking garages, accessible means of egress are not required to serve parking areas that do not contain accessible parking spaces.

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**1009.8 Two-way communication.** A two-way communication system complying with Sections 1009.8.1 and 1009.8.2 shall be provided at the landing serving each elevator or bank of elevators on each accessible floor that is one or more stories above or below the *level of exit discharge*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landing serving each elevator or bank of elevators where the two-way communication system is provided within *areas of refuge* in accordance with Section 1009.6.5.
2. Two-way communication systems are not required on floors provided with *ramps* that provide a direct path of egress travel to grade or the level of exit discharge conforming to the provisions of Section 1012.
3. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landings serving only service elevators that are not designated as part of the accessible *means of egress* or serve as part of the required *accessible route* into a facility.
4. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landings serving only freight elevators.
5. Two-way communication systems are not required at the landing serving a private residence elevator.

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**1009.8.1 System requirements.** Two-way communication systems shall provide communication between each required location and the *fire command center* or a central control point location *approved* by the fire department. Where the central control point is not a *constantly attended location*, a two-way communication system shall have a timed automatic telephone dial-out capability to a monitoring location. The two-way communication system shall include both audible and visible signals. The two-way communication system shall have a battery backup or an approved alternate source of power that is capable of 90 minutes use upon failure of the normal power source.

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- 2.1. The locking device is readily distinguishable as locked;
- 2.2. A readily visible and durable sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door stating: **THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED.** The sign shall be in letters 1 inch (25 mm) high on a contrasting background; and
- 2.3. The use of the key-operated locking device is revocable by the building official for due cause.
3. Where egress doors are used in pairs, approved automatic flush bolts shall be permitted to be used, provided that the door leaf having the automatic flush bolts has no doorknob or surface mounted hardware.
4. Doors from individual dwelling or sleeping units of Group R occupancies having an occupant load of 10 or less are permitted to be equipped with a night latch, dead bolt, or security chain, provided such devices are openable from the inside without the use of a key or a tool.
5. Fire doors after the minimum elevated temperature has disabled the unlatching mechanism in accordance with listed fire door test procedures.
6. Approved, listed locks without delayed egress shall be permitted in Group I-1 Condition 2 assisted living facilities licensed by Washington state, provided that:
  - 6.1. The clinical needs of one or more patients require specialized security measures for their safety.
  - 6.2. The doors unlock upon actuation of the automatic sprinkler system or automatic fire detection system.
  - 6.3. The doors unlock upon loss of electrical power controlling the lock or lock mechanism.
  - 6.4. The lock shall be capable of being deactivated by a signal from a switch located in an approved location.
  - 6.5. There is a system, such as a keypad and code, in place that allows visitors, staff persons and appropriate residents to exit. Instructions for exiting shall be posted within six feet of the door.

**1010.1.9.3 Locks and latches.** Locks and latches shall be permitted to prevent operation of doors where any of the following exists:

1. Places of detention or restraint.
2. In buildings in occupancy Group A having an occupant load of 300 or less, Groups B, F, M and S, and in places of religious worship, the main door or doors are permitted to be equipped with key-operated locking devices from the egress side provided:

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of the door. All clinical staff shall have the keys, codes or other means necessary to operate the locking systems.

7. Emergency lighting shall be provided at the door.
8. The door locking system units shall be listed in accordance with UL 294.

**Exceptions:**

1. Items 1 through 4, and 6 shall not apply to doors to areas where persons, which because of clinical needs, require restraint or containment as part of the function of a psychiatric treatment area provided that all clinical staff shall have the keys, codes or other means necessary to operate the locking devices.
2. Items 1 through 4 and 6 shall not apply to doors to areas where a *listed* egress control system is utilized to reduce the risk of child abduction from nursery and obstetric areas of a Group I-2 hospital.

**1010.1.9.6 Controlled egress doors in Groups I-1 and I-2.**

Electric locking systems, including electromechanical locking systems and electromagnetic locking systems, shall be permitted to be locked in the means of egress in Group I-1 or I-2 occupancies where the clinical needs of persons receiving care require their containment. Controlled egress doors shall be permitted in such occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or an *approved automatic smoke or heat detection system* installed in accordance with Section 907, provided that the doors are installed and operate in accordance with all of the following:

1. The doors unlock upon actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* or *automatic fire detection system*.
2. The doors unlock upon loss of power controlling the lock or lock mechanism.
3. The door locking system shall be installed to have the capability of being unlocked by a switch located at the *fire command center*, a nursing station or other approved location. The switch shall directly break power to the lock.
4. A building occupant shall not be required to pass through more than one door equipped with a controlled egress locking system before entering an exit.
5. The procedures for unlocking the doors shall be described and approved as part of the emergency planning and preparedness required by Chapter 4 of the International Fire Code.
6. There is a system, such as a keypad and code, in place that allows visitors, staff persons and appropriate residents to exit. Instructions for exiting shall be posted within six feet

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**1010.1.10.3 Electrical rooms and working clearances.**

Exit and exit access doors serving electrical rooms and working spaces shall swing in the direction of egress travel and shall be equipped with panic hardware or fire exit hardware where such rooms or working spaces contain one or more of the following:

1. Equipment operating at more than 600 volts, nominal.
2. Equipment operating at 600 volts or less, nominal and rated at 800 amperes or more, and where the equipment contains overcurrent devices, switching devices or control devices.

**Exception:** Panic and fire exit hardware is not required on exit and exit access doors serving electrical equipment rooms and working spaces where such doors are not less than twenty-five feet (7.6 m) from the nearest edge of the electrical equipment.

**1010.1.10 Panic and fire exit hardware.** Doors serving a Group H occupancy and doors serving rooms or spaces with an *occupant load* of 50 or more in a Group A or E occupancy shall not be provided with a latch or lock other than *panic hardware* or *fire exit hardware*.

**Exceptions:**

1. A main *exit* of a Group A occupancy shall be permitted to be locking in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.3, Item 2.
2. Doors serving a Group A or E occupancy shall be permitted to be electromagnetically locked in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.9.



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**1011.17 Stairways in individual dwelling units.** Stairs or ladders within an individual dwelling unit used for access to areas of 200 square feet (18.6 m<sup>2</sup>) or less, and not containing the primary bathroom or kitchen, are exempt from the requirements of Section 1011.

**1012.1 Scope.** The provisions of this section shall apply to ramps used as a component of a *means of egress*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Ramped *aisles* within assembly rooms or spaces shall conform with the provisions in Section 1029.
2. Curb ramps shall comply with ICC A117.1
3. Vehicle ramps in parking garages for pedestrian *exit access* shall not be required to comply with Section 1012.3 through 1012.10 where they are not an *accessible route* serving *accessible* parking spaces, other required *accessible* elements or part of an accessible *means of egress*.
4. In a parking garage where one accessible means of egress serving accessible parking spaces or other accessible elements is provided, a second accessible means of egress serving that area may include a vehicle ramp that does not comply with Sections 1012.5, 1012.6 and 1012.9. A landing complying with Sections 1012.6.1 and 1012.6.4 shall be provided at any change of direction in the accessible *means of egress*.

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**1020.5 Air movement in corridors.** *Corridors* shall not serve as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air ducts.

**Exceptions:**

1. Use of a *corridor* as a source of makeup air for exhaust systems in rooms that open directly onto such *corridors*, including toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, smoking lounges and janitor closets, shall be permitted provided that each such *corridor* is directly supplied with outdoor air at a rate greater than the rate of makeup air taken from the *corridor*.
2. Where located within a *dwelling unit*, the use of *corridors* for conveying return air shall not be prohibited.
3. Where located within tenant spaces of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area, utilization of *corridors* for conveying return air is permitted.
4. Incidental air movement from pressurized rooms within health care facilities, provided that a *corridor* is not the primary source of supply or return to the room.
5. Where such air is part of an engineered smoke control system.
6. Air supplied to *corridors* serving residential occupancies shall not be considered as providing ventilation air to the *dwelling units* and *sleeping units* subject to the following:
  - 6.1 The air supplied to the *corridor* is one hundred percent outside air; and
  - 6.2 The units served by the *corridor* have conforming ventilation independent of the air supplied to the *corridor*; and
  - 6.3 For other than high-rise buildings, the supply fan will automatically shut off upon activation of corridor smoke detectors which shall be spaced at no more than thirty feet (9,144 mm) on center along the *corridor*; or
  - 6.4 For high-rise buildings, *corridor* smoke detector activation will close required smoke/fire dampers at the supply inlet to the corridor at the floor receiving the alarm.

**1028.4.1 Width or capacity.** The required capacity of *egress courts* shall be determined as specified in Section 1005.1, but the minimum width shall be not less than 44 inches (1,118 mm), except as specified herein. *Egress courts* serving Group R-3 and U occupancies shall be not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in width. The required capacity and width of egress courts shall be unobstructed to a height of 7 feet (2,134 mm).

**Exception:** Encroachments complying with Section 1005.7. ←

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**1101.2.6 (ICC A117.1 Section 703.6.3.1) International symbol of accessibility.** Where the International Symbol of Accessibility is required, it shall be proportioned complying with ICC A117.1 Figure 703.6.3.1. All interior and exterior signs depicting the International Symbol of Accessibility shall be white on a blue background.

**1101.2 Design.** Buildings and facilities shall be designed and constructed to be accessible in accordance with this code and ICC A117.1, except those portions of ICC A117.1 amended by this section.

**1101.2.1 (ICC A117.1 Section 403.5) Clear width of accessible route.** Clear width of an accessible route shall comply with ICC A117.1 Section 403.5. For exterior routes of travel, the minimum clear width shall be 44 inches (1118 mm).

**1101.2.2 (ICC A117.1 Section 404.2.8) Door-Opening Force.** Fire doors shall have the minimum opening force allowable by the appropriate administrative authority. The force for pushing or pulling open doors other than fire doors shall be as follows:

1. Interior hinged door: 5.0 pounds (22.2 N) maximum
2. Interior sliding or folding doors: 5.0 pounds (22.2 N) maximum
3. Exterior hinged, sliding or folding door: 10 pounds (44.4 N) maximum

**Exception:** Interior or exterior automatic doors complying with Section 404.3 of ICC A117.1.

These forces do not apply to the force required to retract latch bolts or disengage other devices that hold the door in a closed position.

**1101.2.3 (ICC A117.1 Section 407.4.6.2.2) Arrangement of elevator car buttons.** Buttons shall be arranged with numbers in ascending order. When two or more columns of buttons are provided they shall read from left to right

**1101.2.4 (ICC A117.1 Section 606.7) Operable parts.** Operable parts on drying equipment, towel or cleansing product dispensers, and disposal fixtures shall comply with Table 603.6.

**1101.2.5 (ICC A117.1 Section 604.6) Flush controls.** Flush controls shall be hand operated or automatic. Hand operated flush controls shall comply with Section 309, except the maximum height above the floor shall be 44 inches (1118 mm). Flush controls shall be located on the open side of the water closet.

**Exception:** In ambulatory accessible compartments complying with Section 604.10, flush controls shall be permitted to be located on either side of the water closet.

**1106.6 Location.** Accessible parking spaces shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking to an accessible building entrance. In parking facilities that do not serve a particular building, accessible parking spaces shall be located on the shortest route to an accessible pedestrian entrance to the parking facility. Where buildings have multiple accessible entrances with adjacent parking, accessible parking spaces shall be dispersed and located near the accessible entrances. Wherever practical, the accessible route shall not cross lanes of vehicular traffic. Where crossing traffic lanes is necessary, the route shall be designated and marked as a crosswalk.

**Exceptions:**

1. In multilevel parking structures, van accessible parking spaces are permitted on one level.
2. Accessible parking spaces shall be permitted to be located in different parking facilities if substantially equivalent or greater accessibility is provided in terms of distance from an accessible entrance or entrances, parking fee and user convenience.

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**1107.6 Group R.** Accessible units, Type A units and Type B units shall be provided in Group R occupancies in accordance with Sections 1107.6.1 through 1107.6.4. Accessible and Type A units shall be apportioned among efficiency dwelling units, single bedroom units and multiple bedroom units, in proportion to the numbers of such units in the building.

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**1107.6.2.2.1 Type A units.** In Group R-2 occupancies containing more than 10 *dwelling units* or *sleeping units*, at least 5 percent, but not less than one, of the units shall be a *Type A unit*. All units on a *site* shall be considered to determine the total number of units and the required number of *Type A units*. *Type A units* shall be dispersed among the various classes of units, as described in Section 1107.6. Bedrooms in monasteries and convents shall be counted as *sleeping units* for the purpose of determining the number of units. Where the *sleeping units* are grouped into suites, only one *sleeping unit* in each suite shall count towards the number of required *Type A units*.

**Exceptions:**

1. The number of *Type A units* is permitted to be reduced in accordance with Section 1107.7.
2. *Existing structures* on a *site* shall not contribute to the total number of units on a *site*.

**1107.6.2.3 Group R-2 other than live/work units, apartment houses, monasteries and convents.** In Group R-2 occupancies, other than *live/work units*, apartment houses, monasteries and convents falling within the scope of Sections 1107.6.2.1 and 1107.6.2.2, *accessible units* and *Type B units* shall be provided in accordance with Sections 1107.6.2.2.1 and 1107.6.2.2.2. Bedrooms within congregate living facilities shall be counted as *sleeping units* for the purpose of determining the number of units. Where the *sleeping units* are grouped into suites, only one *sleeping unit* in each suite shall be permitted to count towards the number of required *accessible units*. *Accessible units* shall be dispersed among the various classes of units, as described in Section 1107.6.

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**1203.1 General.** Buildings shall be provided with natural ventilation in accordance with Section 1203.5, or mechanical ventilation in accordance with the *International Mechanical Code. Ambulatory care facilities* and Group I-2 occupancies shall be ventilated by mechanical means in accordance with Section 407 of the *International Mechanical Code*.

**1203.2 Attic spaces.** Enclosed *attics* and enclosed rafter spaces formed where ceilings are applied directly to the underside of roof framing members shall have cross ventilation for each separate space by ventilation openings protected against the entrance of rain and snow. Blocking and bridging shall be arranged so as not to interfere with the movement of air. An airspace of not less than 1 inch (25 mm) shall be provided between the insulation and the roof sheathing. The net free ventilating area shall not be less than 1/150th of the area of the space ventilated. Ventilators shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**Exceptions:**

The net free cross-ventilation area shall be permitted to be reduced to 1/300 provided both of the following conditions are met:

1. A Class I or II vapor retarder is installed on the warm-in-winter side of the ceiling.
2. At least 40 percent and not more than 50 percent of the required venting area is provided by ventilators located in the upper portion of the attic or rafter space. Upper ventilators shall be located not more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space, measured vertically, with the balance of the ventilation provided by eave or cornice vents. Where the location of wall or roof framing members conflicts with the installation of upper ventilators, installation more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space shall be permitted.

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**1203.3 Unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies.** Unvented *attics* and unvented enclosed roof framing assemblies created by ceilings applied directly to the underside of the roof framing members/rafters and the structural roof sheathing at the top of the roof framing members shall be permitted where all the following conditions are met:

1. The unvented *attic* space is completely within the *building thermal envelope*.
2. No interior vapor retarders are installed on the ceiling side (*attic* floor) of the unvented *attic* assembly or on the ceiling side of the unvented enclosed roof framing assembly.
3. Where wood shingles or shakes are used, a minimum 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) vented air space separates the shingles or shakes and the roofing underlayment above the structural sheathing.
4. In Climate Zone 5B, any air-impermeable insulation shall be a Class II vapor retarder, or shall have a Class II vapor retarder coating or covering in direct contact with the underside of the insulation.
5. Insulation shall be located in accordance with the following:
  - 5.1. Item 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3 or 5.1.4 shall be met, depending on the air permeability of the insulation directly under the roof sheathing.
    - 5.1.1. Where only air-impermeable insulation is provided, it shall be applied in direct contact with the underside of the structural roof sheathing.

5.1.2. Where air-permeable insulation is provided inside the building thermal envelope, it shall be installed in accordance with Item 5.1. In addition to the air-permeable insulation installed directly below the structural sheathing, rigid board or sheet insulation shall be installed directly above the structural roof sheathing in accordance with these R-values for condensation control:

- i. Climate Zone #4C - R-10 minimum rigid board or air-impermeable insulation R-value.
- ii. Climate Zone #5B - R-20 minimum rigid board or air-impermeable insulation R-value.

5.1.3. Where both air-impermeable and air-permeable insulation are provided, the air-impermeable insulation shall be applied in direct contact with the underside of the structural roof sheathing in accordance with Item 5.1.1 and shall be in accordance with these R-values for condensation control. The air-permeable insulation shall be installed directly under the air-impermeable insulation.

- i. Climate Zone #4C- R-10 minimum rigid board or air-impermeable insulation R-value.
- ii. Climate Zone #5B- R-20 minimum rigid board or air-impermeable insulation R-value.

5.1.4 Alternatively, sufficient rigid board or sheet insulation shall be installed directly above the structural roof sheathing to maintain the monthly average temperature of the underside of the structural roof sheathing above 45 degrees F. For calculation purposes, an interior air temperature of 68 degrees F is assumed and the exterior air temperature is assumed to be the monthly average outside air temperature of the three coldest months

5.2. Where preformed insulation board is used as the *air-permeable insulation* layer, it shall be sealed at the perimeter of each individual sheet interior surface to form a continuous layer.

**Exceptions:**

1. Section 1203.3 does not apply to special use structures or enclosures such as swimming pool enclosures, data processing centers, hospitals or art galleries.
2. Section 1203.3 does not apply to enclosures in Climate Zone-5B that are humidified beyond 35 percent during the three coldest months.

**1203.4 Under-floor ventilation.** The space between the bottom of the floor joists and the earth under any building except spaces occupied by basements or cellars shall be provided with ventilation openings through foundation walls or *exterior walls*. Such openings shall be placed so as to provide cross ventilation of the under-floor space. A ground cover of six mil (0.006 inch thick) black polyethylene or approved equal shall be laid over the ground within crawl spaces. The ground cover shall be overlapped six inches minimum at the joints and shall extend to the foundation wall.

**Exception:** The ground cover may be omitted in crawl spaces if the crawl space has a concrete slab floor with a minimum thickness of two inches.

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**(NOTE: See pages 313a and 313b for Sections 1203.6 through 1203.6.3.2.9 – Radon resistive construction stds)**

**1203.7 Other ventilation and exhaust systems.** Ventilation and exhaust systems for occupancies and operations involving flammable or combustible hazards or other contaminant sources as covered in the *International Mechanical Code* or the *International Fire Code* shall be provided as required by both codes.

**1204.1 Equipment and systems.** Interior spaces intended for human occupancy shall be provided with active or passive space-heating systems capable of maintaining a minimum indoor temperature of not less than 68°F (20°C) at a point 3 feet (914 mm) above the floor on the design heating day.

**Exceptions:**

1. Interior spaces where the primary purpose is not associated with human comfort.
2. Group F, H, S, or U occupancies.
3. Group R-1 occupancies not more than 500 square feet.

**1204.2 Heating.**

**1204.2.1 Definitions.** For the purposes of this section only, the following definitions apply.

**DESIGNATED AREAS** are those areas designated by a county to be an urban growth area in Chapter 36.70A RCW and those areas designated by the US Environmental Protection Agency as being in nonattainment for particulate matter.

**SUBSTANTIALLY REMODELED** means any alteration or restoration of a building exceeding 60 percent of the appraised value of such building within a 12 month period. For the purpose of this section, the appraised value is the estimated cost to replace the building and structure in kind, based on current replacement costs.

**1204.2.2 Primary Heating Source.** Primary heating sources in all new and substantially remodeled buildings in designated areas shall not be dependent upon wood stoves.

**1204.2.3 Solid Fuel Burning Devices.** No new or used solid fuel burning device shall be installed in new or existing buildings unless such device is United States Environmental Protection Agency certified or exempt from certification by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and conforms with RCW 70.94.011, 70.94.450, 70.94.453 and 70.94.457.

**Exceptions:**

1. Wood cook stoves.
2. Antique wood heaters manufactured prior to 1940.

**1203.5 Natural ventilation.** For other than Group R occupancies, natural ventilation of an occupied space shall be through windows, doors, louvers or other openings to the outdoors. The operating mechanism for such openings shall be provided with ready access so that the openings are readily controllable by the building occupants. Group R occupancies shall comply with the *International Mechanical Code*.

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**1203.6 Radon resistive construction standards.** The criteria of this section establishes minimum radon resistive construction requirements for Group R Occupancies.

**1203.6.1 Application.** The requirements of Section 1203.6 shall be adopted and enforced by all jurisdictions of the state according to the following subsections.

**1203.6.1.1** All jurisdictions of the state shall comply with Section 1203.6.2.

**1203.6.1.2** Clark, Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Spokane, and Stevens counties shall also comply with Section 1203.6.3.

**1203.6.2 State wide radon requirements.**

**1203.6.2.1 Crawlspace.** All crawlspaces shall comply with the requirements of this section.

**1203.6.2.2 Ventilation.** All crawlspaces shall be ventilated as specified in Section 1203.3.

If the installed ventilation in a crawlspace is less than one square foot for each 300 square feet of crawlspace area, or if the crawlspace vents are equipped with operable louvers, a radon vent shall be installed to originate from a point between the ground cover and soil. The radon vent shall be installed in accordance with Sections 1203.6.3.2.6 and 1203.6.3.2.7.

**1203.6.2.3 Crawlspace plenum systems.** In crawlspace plenum systems used for providing supply air for an HVAC system, aggregate, a permanently sealed soil gas retarder membrane and a radon vent pipe shall be installed in accordance with Section 1203.6.3.2. Crawlspace shall not be used for return air plenums.

In addition, an operable radon vent fan shall be installed and activated. The fan shall be located as specified in Section 1203.6.3.2.7. The fan shall be capable of providing at least 100 cfm at 1-inch water column static pressure. The fan shall be controlled by a readily accessible manual switch. The switch shall be labeled "RADON VENT FAN."

**1203.6.3 Radon prescriptive requirements.**

**1203.6.3.1 Scope.** This section applies to those counties specified in Section 1203.6.1.2. This section establishes prescriptive construction requirements for reducing the potential for radon entry into all Group R Occupancies, and for preparing the building for future mitigation if desired.

In all crawlspaces, except crawlspace plenums used for providing supply air for an HVAC system, a continuous air barrier shall be installed between the crawlspace area and the occupied area to limit air transport between the areas. If a wood sheet subfloor or other material is utilized as an air barrier, in addition to the requirements of Section 502.1.6.2 of the Washington State Energy Code, all joints between sheets shall be sealed.

**1203.6.3.2 Floors in contact with the earth.**

**1203.6.3.2.1 General.** Concrete slabs that are in direct contact with the building envelope shall comply with the requirements of this section.

**Exception:** Concrete slabs located under garages or other than Group R Occupancies need not comply with this chapter.

**1203.6.3.2.2 Aggregate.** A layer of aggregate of 4-inch minimum thickness shall be placed beneath concrete slabs. The aggregate shall be continuous to the extent practical.

**1203.6.3.2.3 Gradation.** Aggregate shall:

1. Comply with ASTM Standard C-33 Standard Specification for Concrete Aggregate and shall be size No. 8 or larger size aggregate as listed in Table 2, Grading Requirements for Course Aggregate; or
2. Meet the 1988 Washington State Department of Transportation Specification 9-03.1 (3) "Coarse Aggregate for Portland Cement Concrete," or any equivalent successor standards. Aggregate size shall be of Grade 8 or larger as listed in Section 9-03.1 (3) C, "Grading"; or
3. Be screened, washed pea gravel free of deleterious substances in a manner consistent with ASTM Standard C-33 with 100 percent passing a 1/2-inch sieve and less than 5 percent passing a No. 16 sieve. Sieve characteristics shall conform to those acceptable under ASTM Standard C-33.

**Exception:** Aggregate shall not be required if a substitute material or system, with sufficient load bearing characteristics, and having approved capability to provide equal or superior air flow, is installed.

**1203.6.3.2.4 Soil-gas retarder membrane.** A soil-gas retarder membrane, consisting of at least one layer of virgin polyethylene with a thickness of at least 6 mil, or equivalent flexible sheet material, shall be either placed directly under all concrete slabs so that the slab is in direct contact with the membrane, or on top of the aggregate with 2 inches minimum of fine sand or pea gravel installed between the concrete slab and membrane. The flexible sheet shall extend to the foundation wall or to the outside edge of the monolithic slab. Seams shall overlap at least 12 inches. The membrane shall also be fitted tightly to all pipes, wires, and other penetrations of the membrane and sealed with an approved sealant or tape. All punctures or tears shall be repaired with the same or approved material and similarly lapped and sealed.

**1203.6.3.2.5 Sealing of penetrations and joints.** All penetrations and joints in concrete slabs or other floor systems and walls below grade shall be sealed

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by an approved sealant to create an air barrier to limit the movement of soil-gas into the indoor air. Sealants shall be approved by the manufacturer for the intended purpose. Sealant joints shall conform to manufacturer's specifications. The sealant shall be placed and tooled in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. There shall be no gaps or voids after the sealant has cured.

**1203.6.3.2.6 Radon vent.** One continuous sealed pipe shall run from a point within the aggregate under each concrete slab to a point outside the building. Joints and connections shall be permanently gas tight. The continuous sealed pipe shall interface with the aggregate in the following manner, or by other approved equal method. The pipe shall be permanently connected to a "T" within the aggregate area so that the two end openings of the "T" lie within the aggregate area. A minimum of 5 feet of perforated drain pipe of 3 inches minimum diameter shall join to and extend from the "T." The perforated pipe shall remain in the aggregate area and shall not be capped at the ends. The "T" and its perforated pipe extensions shall be located at least 5 feet horizontally from the exterior perimeter of the aggregate area.

The continuous sealed pipe shall terminate no less than 12 inches above the eave, and more than 10 horizontal feet from a woodstove or fireplace chimney, or operable window. The continuous sealed pipe shall be labeled "radon vent." The label shall be placed so as to remain visible to an occupant.

The minimum pipe diameter shall be 3 inches unless otherwise approved. Acceptable sealed plastic pipe shall be smooth walled, and may include either PVC schedule 40 or ABS schedule of equivalent wall thickness.

The entire sealed pipe system shall be sloped to drain to the subslab aggregate.

The sealed pipe system may pass through an unconditioned attic before exiting the building; but to the extent practicable, the sealed pipe shall be located inside the thermal envelope of the building in order to enhance passive stack venting.

**Exception:** A fan for subslab depressurization system includes the following:

1. Soil-gas retarder membrane as specified in Section 1203.6.3.2.4;
2. Sealing of penetrations and joints as specified in Section 1203.6.3.2.5;
3. A 3-inch continuous sealed radon pipe shall run from a point within the aggregate under each concrete slab to a point outside the building;
4. Joints and connections shall be gas tight, and may be of either PVC schedule 40 or ABS schedule of equivalent in wall thickness;

5. A label of "radon vent" shall be placed on the pipe so as to remain visible to an occupant;
6. Fan circuit and wiring as specified in Section 1203.6.3.2.7 and a fan.

If the subslab depressurization system is exhausted through the concrete foundation wall or rim joist, the exhaust terminus shall be a minimum of 6 feet from operable windows or outdoor air intake vents and shall be directed away from operable windows and outdoor air intake vents to prevent radon reentrainment.

**1203.6.3.2.7 Fan circuit and wiring and location.** An area for location of an in-line fan shall be provided. The location shall be as close as practicable to the radon vent pipe's point of exit from the building, or shall be outside the building shell; and shall be located so that the fan and all downstream piping is isolated from the indoor air. Provisions shall be made to allow future activation of an inline fan on the radon vent pipe without the need to place new wiring. A 110 volt power supply shall be provided at a junction box near the fan location.

**1203.6.3.2.8 Separate aggregate areas.** If the 4-inch aggregate area underneath the concrete slab is not continuous, but is separated into distinct isolated aggregate areas by a footing or other barrier, a minimum of one radon vent pipe shall be installed into each separate aggregate area.

**Exception:** Separate aggregate areas may be considered a single area if a minimum 3-inch diameter connection joining the separate areas is provided for every 30 feet of barrier separating those areas.

**1203.6.3.2.9 Concrete block walls.** Concrete block walls connected to below grade areas shall be considered unsealed surfaces. All openings in concrete block walls that will not remain accessible upon completion of the building shall be sealed at both vertical and horizontal surfaces, in order to create a continuous air barrier to limit the transport of soil-gas into the indoor air.



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**1208.3 Room area.** Every dwelling unit shall have at least one room that shall have not less than 120 square feet (13.9 m<sup>2</sup>) of net floor area. Other habitable rooms shall have a net floor area of not less than 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>).

**Exception:** Kitchens in one- and two-family dwellings.

Portions of a room with a sloped ceiling measuring less than 5 feet (1524 mm) or a flat ceiling measuring less than 7 feet (2134 mm) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum habitable area for that room.

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**1403.2 Weather protection.** Exterior walls shall provide the building with a weather-resistant exterior wall envelope. The exterior wall envelope shall include flashing as described in Section 1405.4. The exterior wall envelope shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to prevent the accumulation of water within the wall assembly by providing a water-resistant barrier behind the exterior veneer, as described in Section 1404.2, and a means for draining water that enters the assembly to the exterior. An air space cavity is not required under the exterior cladding for an exterior wall clad with lapped or panel siding made of plywood, engineered wood, hardboard, or fiber cement. Protection against condensation in the exterior wall assembly shall be provided in accordance with Section 1405.3

**Exceptions:**

*(Exceptions are unchanged and remain  
as printed in the 2015 IBC)*

**Table 1607.1**  
**Minimum Uniformly Distributed Live Loads,  $L_0$ , And**  
**Minimum Concentrated Live Loads<sup>g</sup>**

<b>OCCUPANCY OR USE</b>	<b>UNIFORM (psf)</b>	<b>CONCENTRATED (pounds)</b>
5. Balconies and decks <sup>h</sup>	1.5 times the live load for the area served. Not required to exceed 100 psf.	—

(All other items in table and footnotes to remain unchanged)

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**1702.1 Definitions.** The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

APPROVED AGENCY

APPROVED FABRICATOR

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

DESIGNATED SEISMIC SYSTEM

FABRICATED ITEM

INTUMESCENT FIRE-RESISTANT COATINGS

MAIN WIND-FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM

MASTIC FIRE-RESISTANT COATINGS

SMALL BUSINESS

SPECIAL INSPECTION

**Continuous special inspection**

**Periodic special inspection**

SPECIAL INSPECTOR

SPRAYED FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS

STRUCTURAL OBSERVATION

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**1709.5 Exterior window and door assemblies.** The design pressure rating of exterior windows and doors in buildings shall be determined in accordance with Section 1709.5.1 or 1709.5.2. For the purposes of this section, the required design pressure shall be determined using the allowable stress design load combinations of Section 1605.3.

**Exceptions:**

1. Structural wind load design pressures for window units smaller than the size tested in accordance with Section 1709.5.1 or 1709.5.2 shall be permitted to be higher than the design value of the tested unit provided such higher pressures are determined by accepted engineering analysis. All components of the small unit shall be the same as the tested unit. Where such calculated design pressures are used, they shall be validated by an additional test of the window unit having the highest allowable design pressure.
2. Custom exterior windows and doors manufactured by a small business shall be exempt from all testing requirements in Section 1709 of the International Building Code provided they meet the applicable provisions of Chapter 24 of the International Building Code.

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**2107.2.1 Lap splices.** The minimum length of lap splices for reinforcing bars in tension or compression,  $l_d$ , shall be

$$l_d = 0.002d_b f_s \quad \text{(Equation 21-1)}$$

For SI:  $l_d = 0.29d_b f_s$

but not less than 12 inches (305 mm). In no case shall the length of the lapped splice be less than 40 bar diameters.

where:

$d_b$  = Diameter of reinforcement, inches (mm).

$f_s$  = Computed stress in reinforcement due to design loads, psi (MPa).

In regions of moment where the design tensile stresses in the reinforcement are greater than 80 percent of the allowable steel tension stress,  $F_s$ , the lap length of splices shall be increased not less than 50 percent of the minimum required length, but need not be greater than  $72d_b$ . Other equivalent means of stress transfer to accomplish the same 50 percent increase shall be permitted. Where epoxy coated bars are used, lap length shall be increased by 50 percent.

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**2111.8 Fireplaces.** Fireplaces shall be provided with each of the following:

1. Tightly fitting flue dampers, operated by a readily accessible manual or approved automatic control.  
**Exception:** Fireplaces with gas logs shall be installed in accordance with the International Mechanical Code Section 901, except that the standards for liquefied petroleum gas installations shall be NFPA 58 (Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code) and NFPA 54 (National Fuel Gas Code).
2. An outside source for combustion air ducted into the firebox. The duct shall be at least 6 square inches, and shall be provided with an operable outside air duct damper.  
**Exception:** Washington certified fireplaces shall be installed with the combustion air systems necessary for their safe and efficient combustion and specified by the manufacturer in accordance with the Washington State Building Standard 31-2 (WAC 51-50-31200) and IBC Section 2114 (WAC 51-50-2114).
3. Site built fireplaces shall have tight fitting glass or metal doors, or a flue draft induction fan or as approved for minimizing back-drafting. Factory built fireplaces shall use doors listed for the installed appliance.

**2111.8.1 Lintel and throat.** Masonry over a fireplace opening shall be supported by a lintel of noncombustible material. The minimum required bearing length on each end of the fireplace opening shall be 4 inches (102 mm). The fireplace throat or damper shall be located a minimum of 8 inches (203 mm) above the top of the fireplace opening.

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**SECTION 2114  
EMISSION STANDARDS**

**2114.1 Emission Standards for Factory-built Fireplaces.** No new or used factory-built fireplace shall be installed in Washington State unless it is certified and labeled in accordance with procedures and criteria specified in ASTM E2558 for determining particulate matter emission from fires in low mass wood burning fireplaces.

To certify an entire fireplace model line, the internal assembly shall be tested to determine its particulate matter emission performance. Retesting and recertifying is required if the design and construction specifications of the fireplace model line internal assembly change. Testing for certification shall be performed by a Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) approved and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accredited laboratory.

**2114.2 Emission Standards for Certified Masonry and Concrete Fireplaces.** Masonry and concrete fireplace model lines certified to Washington State Building Code Standard 31-2 prior to July 1, 2013, may retain certification provided the design and construction specifications of the fireplace model line internal assembly do not change.



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2. Screens are not required below any glazing material, including annealed glass, where the walking surface below the glazing material is permanently protected from the risk of falling glass or the area below the glazing material is not a walking surface.
3. Any glazing material, including annealed glass, is permitted to be installed without screens in the sloped glazing systems of commercial or detached noncombustible greenhouses used exclusively for growing plants and not open to the public, provided that the height of the greenhouse at the ridge does not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) above grade.
4. Screens shall not be required within individual dwelling units in Groups R-2, R-3 and R-4 where fully tempered glass is used as single glazing or as both panes in an insulating glass unit, and the following conditions are met:
  - 4.1. Each pane of the glass is 16 square feet (1.5 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area.
  - 4.2. The highest point of the glass is 12 feet (3658 mm) or less above any walking surface or other accessible area.
  - 4.3. The glass thickness is 3/16 inch (4.8 mm) or less.
5. Screens shall not be required for laminated glass with a 15 mil (0.38 mm) polyvinyl butyral (or equivalent) interlayer within the following limits:
  - 5.1. Each pane of glass is 16 square feet (1.5 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area.
  - 5.2. The highest point of the glass is 12 feet (3658 mm) or less above a walking surface or other accessible area.

**2405.3 Screening.** Where used in monolithic glazing systems, heat strengthened glass and fully tempered glass shall have screens installed below the glazing material. The screens and their fastenings shall: (1) be capable of supporting twice the weight of the glazing; (2) be firmly and substantially fastened to the framing members; and (3) be installed within 4 inches (102 mm) of the glass. The screens shall be constructed of a noncombustible material not thinner than No. 12 B&S gage (0.0808 inch) with mesh not larger than 1 inch by 1 inch (25 mm by 25 mm). In a corrosive atmosphere, structurally equivalent noncorrosive screen materials shall be used. Heat-strengthened glass, fully tempered glass and wired glass, when used in multiple-layer glazing systems as the bottom glass layer over the walking surface, shall be equipped with screening that conforms to the requirements for monolithic glazing systems.

**Exception:** In monolithic and multiple-layer sloped glazing systems, the following applies:

1. Fully tempered glass installed without protective screens where glazed between intervening floors at a slope of 30 degrees (0.52 rad) or less from the vertical plane shall have the highest point of the glass 10 feet (3048 mm) or less above the walking surface.

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**2407.1.1 Loads.** The panels and their support system shall be designed to withstand the loads specified in Section 1607.8, using a factor of safety of four.

**2407.1.2 Structural glass baluster panels.** Guards with structural glass baluster panels shall be installed with an attached top rail or handrail. The top rail or handrail shall be supported by a minimum of three glass baluster panels, or shall be otherwise supported to remain in place should one glass baluster panel fail.

**Exception:** An attached top rail or handrail is not required where the glass baluster panels are laminated glass with two or more glass plies of equal thickness and of the same glass type.

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**2603.10 Wind resistance.** Foam plastic insulation complying with ASTM C 578 or ASTM C 1289 and used as exterior wall sheathing on framed wall assemblies shall comply with ANSI/FS 100 for wind pressure resistance

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**2901.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter and the state plumbing code shall govern the erection, installation, alteration, repairs, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of plumbing equipment and systems. Toilet and bathing rooms shall be constructed in accordance with Section 1210. Plumbing systems and equipment shall be constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with the state plumbing code.

**2901.2 Health codes.** In food preparation, serving and related storage areas, additional fixture requirements may be dictated by health codes.

**2902.1.1.1 Private offices.** Fixtures only accessible to private offices shall not be counted to determine compliance with this section.

**2902.1.1.2 Urinals.** Where urinals are provided, one water closet less than the number specified may be provided for each urinal installed, except the number of water closets in such cases shall not be reduced to less than one quarter (25%) of the minimum specified. For men's facilities serving 26 or more persons, not less than one urinal shall be provided.

**2902.1 Minimum number of fixtures.** Plumbing fixtures shall be provided for the type of occupancy and in the minimum number shown in Table 2902.1. Uses not shown in Table 2902.1 shall be determined individually by the building official based on the occupancy which most nearly resembles the proposed occupancy. The number of occupants shall be determined by this code. Plumbing fixtures need not be provided for unoccupied buildings or facilities.

**TABLE 2902.1**  
**MINIMUM NUMBER OF REQUIRED PLUMBING FIXTURES<sup>a</sup>**  
**(See Sections 2902.1.1 and 2902.2)**



No.	CLASSIFICATION	OCCUPANCY	DESCRIPTION	WATERCLOSETS		LAVATORIES		BATHTUBS/ SHOWERS
				MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
1	Assembly (continued)	A-1 <sup>d</sup>	Theaters and other buildings for the performing arts and motion pictures	1 per 125	1 per 65	1 per 200		---
		A-2 <sup>d</sup>	Nightclubs, bars, taverns, dance halls and buildings for similar purposes	1 per 40	1 per 40	1 per 75		---
			Restaurants, banquet halls and food courts	1 per 75	1 per 75	1 per 200		---
		A-3 <sup>d</sup>	Auditoriums without permanent seating, art galleries, exhibition halls, museums, lecture halls, libraries, arcades and gymnasiums	1 per 125	1 per 65	1 per 200		---
			Passenger terminals and transportation facilities	1 per 500	1 per 500	1 per 750		---
			Places of worship and other religious services	1 per 150	1 per 75	1 per 200		---

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**TABLE 2902.1—continued**  
**MINIMUM NUMBER OF REQUIRED PLUMBING FIXTURES<sup>a</sup>**  
 (See Sections 2902.1.1 and 2902.2)



No.	CLASSIFICATION	OCCUPANCY	DESCRIPTION	WATERCLOSETS		LAVATORIES		BATHTUBS/ SHOWERS
				MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
1	Assembly	A-4	Coliseums, arenas, skating rinks, pools, and tennis courts for indoor sporting events and activities	1 per 75 for first 1,500 and 1 per 120 for remainder exceeding 1,500	1 per 40 for first 1,520 and 1 per 60 for remainder exceeding 1,520	1 per 200	1 per 150	---
		A-5	Stadiums, amusement parks, bleachers and grandstands for outdoor sporting events and activities	1 per 75 for first 1,500 and 1 per 120 for remainder exceeding 1,500	1 per 40 for first 1,520 and 1 per 60 for remainder exceeding 1,520	1 per 200	1 per 150	---
2	Business	B	Buildings for the transaction of business, professional services, other services involving merchandise, office buildings, banks, light industrial and similar uses	1 per 25 for first 50 and 1 per 50 for the remainder exceeding 50		1 per 40 for first 80 and 1 per 80 for remainder exceeding 80		---
3	Educational	E	Educational facilities	1 per 35	1 per 25	1 per 85	1 per 50	---
4	Factory and industrial	F-1 and F-2	Structures in which occupants are engaged in work fabricating, assembly or processing of products or materials	1 per 100		1 per 100		Check State (UPC)
5	Institutional	I-1	Residential care	1 per 10		1 per 10		1 per 8
		I-2	Hospitals, ambulatory nursing home care recipient <sup>b</sup>	1 per room <sup>c</sup>		1 per room <sup>c</sup>		1 per 15
			Employees, other than residential care <sup>b</sup>	1 per 25		1 per 35		---
			Visitors other than residential care	1 per 75		1 per 100		---
		I-3	Prisons <sup>b</sup>	1 per cell		1 per cell		1 per 15
			Reformatories, detention centers and correctional centers <sup>b</sup>	1 per 15		1 per 15		1 per 15
			Employees <sup>b</sup>	1 per 25		1 per 35		---
I-4	Adult day care and child day care	1 per 15		1 per 15		1		

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**TABLE 2902.1—continued**  
**MINIMUM NUMBER OF REQUIRED PLUMBING FIXTURES<sup>a</sup>**  
 (See Sections 2902.1.1 and 2902.2)



No.	CLASSIFICATION	OCCUPANCY	DESCRIPTION	WATERCLOSETS		LAVATORIES		BATHTUBS/ SHOWERS
				MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
6	Mercantile	M	Retail stores, service stations, shops, salesrooms, markets and shopping centers	1 per 500		1 per 750		---
7	Residential	R-1	Hotels, motels, boarding houses (transient)	1 per sleeping unit		1 per sleeping unit		1 per sleeping unit
		R-2	Dormitories, fraternities, sororities and boarding houses (not transient)	1 per 10		1 per 10		1 per 8
			Apartment house	1 per dwelling unit		1 per dwelling unit		1 per dwelling unit
		R-3	One- and two-family dwellings	1 per dwelling unit		1 per 10		1 per dwelling unit
			Congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer persons	1 per 10		1 per 10		1 per 8
R-4	Congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer persons	1 per 10		1 per 10		1 per 8		
8	Storage	S-1 S-2	Structures for the storage of goods, warehouses, storehouses and freight depots, low and moderate hazard	1 per 100		1 per 100		Check State (UPC)

- a. The fixtures shown are based on one fixture being the minimum required for the number of persons indicated or any fraction of the number of persons indicated. The number of occupants shall be determined by this code, except with respect to Group E occupancies the provisions of note “e” shall apply.
- b. Toilet facilities for employees shall be separate from facilities for inmates or care recipients.
- c. A single-occupant toilet room with one water closet and one lavatory serving not more than two adjacent patient sleeping units shall be permitted where such room is provided with direct access from each patient sleeping unit and with provisions for privacy.
- d. The occupant load for seasonal outdoor seating and entertainment areas shall be included when determining the minimum number of facilities required.
- e. For Group E occupancies: The number of occupants shall be determined by using a calculation of 100 square feet gross building area per student for the minimum number of plumbing fixtures.

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**2902.2 Separate facilities.** Where plumbing fixtures are required, separate facilities shall be provided for each sex.

**Exceptions:**

1. Separate facilities shall not be required for dwelling units and sleeping units.
2. Separate facilities shall not be required in structures or tenant spaces with a total occupant load, including both employees and customers, of 15 or less.
3. Separate facilities shall not be required in mercantile occupancies in which the maximum occupant load is 100 or less.
4. Separate facilities shall not be required in spaces primarily used for drinking or dining with a total occupant load, including both employees and customers, of 30 or fewer.

**2902.3.1 Access.** The route to the public toilet facilities required by Section 2902.3 shall not pass through kitchens, food preparation areas, unpackaged food storage areas, storage rooms or closets. Access to the required facilities shall be from within the building or from the exterior of the building. Access to toilets serving multiple tenants shall be through a common use area and not through an area controlled by a tenant. All routes shall comply with the accessibility requirements of this code. The public shall have access to the required toilet facilities at all times that the building is occupied. For other requirements for plumbing facilities, see Chapter 11.

**2902.3.2 Location of toilet facilities in occupancies other than malls.** In occupancies other than covered and open mall buildings, the required *public* and employee toilet facilities shall be located in each building not more than one story above or below the space required to be provided with toilet facilities, or conveniently in a building adjacent thereto on the same property, and the path of travel to such facilities shall not exceed a distance of 500 feet (152 m).

**Exception:** The location and maximum distances of travel to required employee facilities in factory and industrial occupancies are permitted to exceed that required by this section, provided that the location and maximum travel distance are *approved*.

**2902.5 Drinking fountain location.** Drinking fountains shall not be required to be located in individual tenant spaces provided that public drinking fountains are located within a travel distance of 500 feet of the most remote location in the tenant space and not more than one story above or below the tenant space. Where the tenant space is in a covered or open mall, such distance shall not exceed 300 feet. Drinking fountains shall be located on an accessible route. Drinking fountains shall not be located in toilet rooms.

**2902.5.1 Drinking fountain number.** Occupant loads over 30 shall have one drinking fountain for the first 150 occupants, then one per each additional 500 occupants.

**Exceptions:**

1. Sporting facilities with concessions serving drinks shall have one drinking fountain for each 1000 occupants.
2. A drinking fountain need not be provided in a drinking or dining establishment.

**2902.5.2 Multistory buildings.** Drinking fountains shall be provided on each floor having more than 30 occupants in schools, dormitories, auditoriums, theaters, offices and public buildings.

**2902.5.3 Penal institutions.** Penal institutions shall have one drinking fountain on each cell block floor and one on each exercise floor.

**2902.5.4 Bottle filling stations.** Bottle filling stations shall be provided in accordance with Sections 2902.5.4.1 through 2902.5.4.3.

**2902.5.4.1 Group E occupancies.** In Group E occupancies with an occupant load over 30, a minimum of one bottle filling station shall be provided on each floor. This bottle filling station may be integral to a drinking fountain.

**2902.5.4.2 Substitution.** In all occupancies that require more than two drinking fountains per floor or secured area, *bottle filling stations* shall be permitted to be substituted for up to 50 percent of the required number of drinking fountains.

**2902.5.4.3 Accessibility.** At least one of the required bottle filling stations shall be located in accordance with Section 309 ICC A117.1.

**2902.6 Dwelling units.** Dwelling units shall be provided with a kitchen sink.

**2902.7 Water closet space requirements.** The water closet stool in all occupancies shall be located in a clear space not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in width, with a clear space in front of the stool of not less than 24 inches (610 mm).

**2902.8 Water.** Each required sink, lavatory, bathtub and shower stall shall be equipped with hot and cold running water necessary for its normal operation.

**2902.9 Small occupancies.** Drinking fountains shall not be required for an occupant load of 15 or fewer.

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**3002.4 Elevator car to accommodate ambulance**

**stretcher.** Where elevators are provided in buildings four or more stories above, or four or more stories below, grade plane, or in any Group R-1, R-2 or I occupancy building provided with an elevator regardless of the number of stories, not fewer than one elevator shall be provided for fire department emergency access to all floors. The elevator car shall be of such a size and arrangement to accommodate an ambulance stretcher 24-inches by 84-inches (610 mm by 2134 mm) with not less than 5-inch (127 mm) radius corners, in the horizontal, open position and shall be identified by the international symbol for emergency medical services (star of life). The symbol shall not be less than 3 inches (76 mm) in height and shall be placed inside on both sides of the hoistway door frame.

**3005.2 Venting.** Elevator machine rooms, machinery spaces that contain the driving machine, and control rooms or spaces that contain the operation or motion controller for elevator operation, shall be provided with an independent ventilation or air-conditioning system to protect against the overheating of the electrical equipment. Ventilation systems shall use outdoor makeup air. The system shall service the equipment space only, and shall be capable of maintaining the temperature and humidity within the range established by the manufacturer's specifications. Where no manufacturer specifications are available, the equipment space temperature shall be maintained at no less than 55°F and no more than 90°F.

The cooling load for the equipment shall include the BTU output of the elevator operation equipment as specified by the manufacturer based on one hour of continuous operation. The outdoor design temperature for ventilation shall be from the 0.5% column for summer from the Puget Sound Chapter of ASHRAE publication "*Recommended Outdoor Design Temperatures, Washington State.*" The following formula shall be used to calculate flow rate for ventilation:

$$\text{CFM} = \text{BTU output of elevator machine room equipment} / [1.08 \times (\text{acceptable machine room temp} - \text{makeup air temp})]$$

**Exception:** For buildings four stories or less, natural or mechanical means may be used in lieu of an independent ventilation or air-conditioning system to keep the equipment space ambient air temperature and humidity in the range specified by the elevator equipment manufacturer.

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**3009.3.1 Reduced vent area.** Where mechanical ventilation conforming to the *International Mechanical Code* is provided, a reduction in the required vent area is allowed provided that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The occupancy is not in Group R-1, R-2, I-1 or I-2 or of a similar occupancy with overnight sleeping units.
2. The vents required by Section 3009.2 do not have outside exposure.
3. The hoistway does not extend to the top of the building.
4. The hoistway and machine room exhaust fan is automatically reactivated by thermostatic means.
5. Equivalent venting of the hoistway is accomplished.

## SECTION 3009 HOISTWAY VENTING

**3009.1 Vents required.** Where required by the authority having jurisdiction over the conveyance, hoistways of elevators and dumbwaiters penetrating four or more stories shall be provided with a means for venting smoke and hot gases to the outer air in case of fire.

**Exception:** Venting is not required for the following elevators and hoistways:

1. In occupancies other than Groups R-1, R-2, I-1, I-2 and similar occupancies with overnight sleeping units, where the building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2.
2. Sidewalk elevator hoistways.
3. Elevators contained within and serving open parking garages only.
4. Elevators within individual residential dwelling units.

**3009.2 Location of vents.** Vents shall be located at the top of the hoistway and shall open either directly to the outer air or through noncombustible ducts to the outer air. Noncombustible ducts shall be permitted to pass through the elevator machine room, provided that portions of the ducts located outside the hoistway or machine room are enclosed by construction having not less than the fire-resistance rating required for the hoistway. Holes in the machine room floors for the passage of ropes, cables or other moving elevator equipment shall be limited as not to provide greater than 2 inches of clearance on all sides.

**3009.3 Area of vents.** Except as provided for in Section 3009.3.1, the area of the vents shall not be less than 3 1/2 percent of the area of the hoistway nor less than 3 square feet (0.28 m<sup>2</sup>) for each elevator car, and not less than 3 1/2 percent nor less than 0.5 square feet (0.047 m<sup>3</sup>) for each dumbwaiter car in the hoistway, whichever is greater. The total required vent area shall be equipped with dampers that remain powered closed until activated open by the fire alarm system panel. The dampers shall open upon loss of power.

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**3103.1 General.** The provisions of this section shall apply to structures erected for a period of less than 180 days. Tents and other membrane structures erected for a period of less than 180 days shall comply with the International Fire Code. Those erected for a longer period of time shall comply with the applicable sections of this code.

**Exception:** The building official may authorize unheated tents and yurts under 500 square feet accommodating an R-1 occupancy for recreational use as a temporary structure and allow them to be used indefinitely.

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**SECTION 3109  
SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND OTHER WATER  
RECREATION DEVICES**

**3109.1 General.** The design and construction of swimming pools, spas and other aquatic recreation facilities shall comply with the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*, where the facility is one of the following:

1. For the sole use of residents and invited guests at a single-family dwelling;
2. For the sole use of residents and invited guests of a duplex owned by the residents; or
3. Operated exclusively for physical therapy or rehabilitation and under the supervision of a licensed medical practitioner.

All other "water recreation facilities" as defined in RCW 70.90.110 are regulated under chapters 246-260 and 246-262 WAC.

The remainder of Section 3109 is not adopted (and is removed via an ICC errata).

## APPENDIX N

# SOLAR READINESS

*The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the local adopting ordinance.*

**N101.1 General.** A *solar zone* shall be provided on nonresidential buildings of any size that are 5 stories or less in height above grade plane, and shall be located on the roof of the building or on another structure elsewhere on the site. The *solar zone* shall be in accordance with Sections 490101.3 through 490101.9 and the *International Fire Code*.

**Exception:** A *solar zone* is not required where the solar exposure of the building's roof area is less than 75 percent of that of an unshaded area, as measured by one of the following:

1. Incident solar radiation expressed in kWh/ft<sup>2</sup> per year using typical meteorological year (TMY) data;
2. Annual sunlight exposure expressed in cumulative hours per year using TMY data;
3. Shadow studies indicating that the roof area is more than 25 percent in shadow, on September 21 at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. solar time.

**N101.2 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein. Refer to Chapter 2 of the *International Building Code* for general definitions.

**SOLAR ZONE.** A clear area or areas reserved solely for current and future installation of photovoltaic or solarwater heating systems.

**N101.3 Minimum area.** The minimum area of the *solar zone* shall be determined by one of the following methods, whichever results in the smaller area:

1. 40 percent of roof area. The roof area shall be calculated as the horizontally-projected gross roof area, less the area covered by skylights, occupied roof decks and planted areas.
2. 20 percent of electrical service size. The electrical service size shall be the rated capacity of the total of all electrical services to the building. The required *solar zone* size shall be based upon 10 peak watts of PV per square foot.

**Exception:** Subject to the approval of the *building official*, buildings with extensive rooftop equipment that would make full compliance with this section impractical shall be permitted to reduce the size of the *solar zone* required by Section N101.3 to the maximum practicable area.

**N101.4 Contiguous area.** The *solar zone* is permitted to be comprised of smaller separated subzones. Each subzone shall be at least 5 feet wide in the narrowest dimension.

**N101.5 Obstructions.** The *solar zone* shall be free of pipes, vents, ducts, HVAC equipment, skylights and other obstructions, except those serving photovoltaics or solar water heating systems within the *solar zone*. Photovoltaics or solar water heating systems are permitted to be installed within the *solar zone*. The *solar zone* is permitted to be located above any such obstructions, provided that the racking for support of the future system is installed at the time of construction, the elevated *solar zone* does not shade other portions of the *solar zone*, and its height is permitted by the *International Building Code* and other applicable codes.

**N101.6 Shading.** The *solar zone* shall be set back from any existing or new object on the building or site that is located south, east, or west of the *solar zone* a distance at least two times the object's height above the nearest point on the roof surface. Such objects include, but are not limited to, taller portions of the building itself, parapets, chimneys, antennas, signage, rooftop equipment, trees and roof plantings. No portion of the *solar zone* shall be located on a roof slope greater than 2:12 that faces within 45 degrees of true north.

**N101.7 Access.** Areas contiguous to the *solar zone* shall provide access pathways and provisions for emergency smoke ventilation as required by the *International Fire Code*.

**N101.8 Structural integrity.** The as-designed dead load and live load for the *solar zone* shall be clearly marked on the record drawings, and shall accommodate future photovoltaic or solar water heating arrays at an assumed dead load of 4 pounds per square foot in addition to other required live and dead loads. For photovoltaic systems, a location for future inverters shall be designated either within or adjacent to the *solar zone*, with a minimum area of 2 square feet for each 1,000 square feet of *solar zone* area, and shall accommodate an assumed dead load of 175 pounds per square foot. Where photovoltaic or solar water heating systems are installed in the *solar zone*, structural analysis shall be based upon calculated loads, not upon these assumed loads.

**N101.9 Photovoltaic or solar water heating interconnection provisions.** Buildings shall provide for the future interconnection of either a photovoltaic system in accordance with Section 490101.9.1 or a solar water heating system in accordance with Section 490101.9.2.

**N101.9.1 Photovoltaic interconnection.** A capped roof penetration sleeve shall be provided in the vicinity of the future inverter, sized to accommodate the future photovoltaic system conduit. Interconnection of the future photovoltaic system shall

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be provided for at the main service panel, either ahead of the service disconnecting means or at the end of the bus opposite the service disconnecting means, in one of the following forms:

1. A space for the mounting of a future overcurrent device, sized to accommodate the largest standard rated overcurrent device that is less than 20 percent of the bus rating;
2. Lugs sized to accommodate conductors with an ampacity of at least 20 percent of the bus rating, to enable the mounting of an external overcurrent device for interconnection.

The electrical construction documents shall indicate the following:

1. *Solar zone* boundaries and access pathways;
2. Location for future inverters and metering equipment; and
3. Route for future wiring between the photovoltaic panels and the inverter, and between the inverter and the main service panel.

**N101.9.2 Solar water heating interconnection.** Two capped pipe tees shall be provided upstream of the domestic water heating equipment to provide plumbing interconnections between a future solar water heating system and the domestic water heating system. Two roof penetration sleeves shall be provided in the vicinity of the *solar zone*, capable of accommodating supply and return piping for a future solar water heating system. The plumbing construction documents shall indicate the following:

1. *Solar zone* boundaries and access pathways;
2. Location for future hot water storage tanks; and
3. Route for future piping between the *solar zone* and the plumbing interconnection point, following the shortest feasible pathway.

**WASHINGTON STATE AMENDMENTS  
TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE  
2015 Edition**

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**101.4.2 Buildings previously occupied.** The legal occupancy of any building existing on the date of adoption of this code shall be permitted to continue without change, except as is specifically covered in this code, the International Fire Code, or as deemed necessary by the code official to mitigate an unsafe building. For the purpose of this section, "unsafe building" is not to be construed as mere lack of compliance with the current code.

**101.6 Appendices.** The code official is authorized to require rehabilitation and retrofit of buildings, structures, or individual structural members in accordance with the appendices of this code if such appendices have been individually adopted.

Appendix A, Guidelines for the Seismic Retrofit of Existing Buildings, is hereby adopted as part of this code without any specific adoption by the local jurisdiction.

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**403.1 General.** Except as provided by Section 401.2 or this section, alterations to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code* for new construction. Alterations shall be such that the existing building or structure is no less conforming with the provisions of this code than the existing building or structure was prior to the alteration.

**Exceptions:**

1. An existing stairway shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1011 of the *International Building Code* where the existing space and construction does not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.
2. Handrails otherwise required to comply with Section 1011.11 of the *International Building Code* shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1014.6 regarding full extension of the handrails where such extensions would be hazardous due to plan configuration.
3. In buildings considered existing structures on July 1, 2010, dwelling units shall be permitted to have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet (2134 mm).

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**407.1 Conformance.** No change shall be made in the use or occupancy of any building unless such building is made to comply with the requirements of the International Building Code for the use or occupancy. Changes in use or occupancy in a building or portion thereof shall be such that the existing building is no less complying with the provisions of this code than the existing building or structure was prior to the change. Subject to the approval of the building official, the use or occupancy of existing buildings shall be permitted to be changed and the building is allowed to be occupied for purposes in other groups without conforming to all the requirements of the International Building Code for those groups, provided the new or proposed use is less hazardous, based on life and fire risk, than the existing use. The hazard tables of Chapter 10 may be used to demonstrate the relative fire and life risk of the existing and the new proposed uses.

**409.1 Conformance.** Buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code, the *International Residential Code* (chapter 51-51 WAC), the *International Mechanical Code* (chapter 51-52 WAC), the *International Fire Code* (chapter 51-54A WAC), the *Uniform Plumbing Code and Standards* (chapters 51-56 and 51-57 WAC), the Washington State Energy Code (chapter 51-11 WAC) and the Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code (chapter 51-13 WAC) for new buildings or structures.

**Exceptions:** Group R-3 buildings or structures are not required to comply if:

1. The original occupancy classification is not changed; and
2. The original building is not substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

For the purposes of this section, a building shall be considered to be substantially remodeled when the costs of remodeling exceed 60 percent of the value of the building exclusive of the costs relating to preparation, construction, demolition or renovation of foundations.

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alteration shall provide access to the maximum extent technically feasible.

**Exceptions:**

1. The altered element or space is not required to be on an accessible route, unless required by Section 410.7.
2. Accessible means of egress required by Chapter 10 of the *International Building Code* are not required to be provided in existing facilities.
3. The alteration to Type A individually owned dwelling units within a Group R-2 occupancy shall be permitted to meet the provision for a Type B dwelling unit.
4. Type B dwelling or sleeping units required by Section 1107 of the *International Building Code* are not required to be provided in existing buildings and facilities undergoing alterations where the work area is 50 percent or less of the aggregate area of the building.

**410.6 Alterations.** A facility that is altered shall comply with the applicable provisions in Chapter 11 of the *International Building Code*, unless technically infeasible. Where compliance with this section is technically infeasible, the

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**410.8.10 Toilet rooms.** Where it is technically infeasible to alter existing toilet and bathing rooms to be accessible, an accessible family or assisted-use toilet or bathing room constructed in accordance with Section 1109.2.1 of the *International Building Code* is permitted. The family or assisted-use toilet or bathing room shall be located on the same floor and in the same area as the existing toilet or bathing rooms. At the inaccessible toilet and bathing rooms, directional signs indicating the location of the nearest family or assisted-use toilet or bathing room shall be provided. These directional signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility and sign characters shall meet the visual character requirements in accordance with ICC A117.1. The number of toilet or bathing rooms and water closets required by the Washington State Building Code is permitted to be reduced by one, in order to provide accessible features.

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**705.1.5 Dining areas.** This section is not adopted

**705.1.9 Toilet rooms.** Where it is technically infeasible to alter existing toilet and bathing rooms to be accessible, an accessible family or assisted use toilet or bathing room constructed in accordance with Section 1109.2.1 of the *International Building Code* is permitted. The family or assisted-use toilet or bathing room shall be located on the same floor and in the same area as the existing toilet or bathing rooms. At the inaccessible toilet and bathing rooms, directional signs indicating the location of the nearest family or assisted-use toilet room or bathing room shall be provided. These directional signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility and sign characters shall meet the visual character requirements in accordance with ICC A117.1. The number of toilet or bathing rooms and water closets required by the Washington State Building Code is permitted to be reduced by one, in order to provide accessible features.

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**B L A N K**

**708.1 Minimum requirements.** Level 1 alterations to existing buildings or structures shall comply with the Washington State Energy Code (chapter 51-11 WAC).

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**B L A N K**

**811.1 Minimum requirements.** Level 2 alterations to existing buildings or structures shall comply with the Washington State Energy Code (chapter 51-11C WAC).

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**906.2 Type B dwelling or sleeping units.** Where four or more Group I-1, I-2, R-1, R-2 or R-3 dwelling or sleeping units are being altered, the requirements of Section 1107 of the *International Building Code* for Type B units and Chapter 9 of the *International Building Code* for visible alarms apply only to the quantity of the spaces being altered. ←

**907.4.1 Evaluation and analysis.** An engineering evaluation and analysis that establishes the structural adequacy of the altered structure shall be prepared by a registered design professional and submitted to the code official. For structures assigned to Seismic Design Category D, the registered design professional shall submit to the code official a seismic evaluation report of the existing building based on one of the procedures specified in Section 301.4.2. This seismic evaluation report shall not be required for buildings in compliance with the benchmark building provisions of ASCE/SEI. |

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**908.1 Minimum requirements.** Level 3 alterations to existing buildings or structures shall comply with the Washington State Energy Code (chapter 51-11C WAC).

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**B L A N K**

**1201.1 Scope.** It is the intent of this chapter to provide means for the preservation of historic buildings. It is the purpose of this chapter to encourage cost-effective preservation of original or restored architectural elements and features and to provide a historic building that will result in a reasonable degree of safety, based on accepted life and fire safety practices, compared to the existing building. Historical buildings shall comply with the provisions of this chapter relating to their repair, alteration, relocation and change of occupancy.

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**1204.1 Accessibility requirements.** The provisions of Sections 705, 806, and 906, as applicable, shall apply to facilities designated as historic structures that undergo alterations, unless technically infeasible. Where compliance with the requirements for accessible routes, entrances, or toilet rooms would threaten or destroy the historic significance of the building or facility, as determined by the professional responsible for the historical documentation of the project, the alternative requirements of Sections 1204.1.1 through 1204.1.4 for that element shall be permitted.

**Exception:** Type B dwelling or sleeping units required by Section 1107 of the International Building Code are not required to be provided in historical buildings.

**1203.9 Stairway railings.** Historically significant stairways shall be accepted without complying with the handrail and guard requirements. Existing handrails and guards at all stairs shall be permitted to remain, provided they are not structurally *dangerous*.

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**1205.14 Natural light.** When it is determined by the professional responsible for the historical documentation of the project that compliance with the natural light requirements of Section 1011.1 will lead to loss of historic character or historic materials in the building, the existing level of natural lighting shall be considered acceptable.

**1205.10 One-hour fire-resistant assemblies.** Where one-hour fire-resistance-rated construction is required by these provisions, it need not be provided, regardless of construction or occupancy, where the existing wall and ceiling finish is wood lath or metal lath and plaster.

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**B L A N K**

**1301.1 Scope.** This chapter provides requirements for relocated or moved structures, including relocatable buildings as defined in Chapter 2.

**1301.2 Conformance.** Buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code, the International Residential Code (chapter 51-51 WAC), the International Mechanical Code (chapter 51-52 WAC), the International Fire Code (chapter 51-54A WAC), the Uniform Plumbing Code and Standards (chapters 51-56 and 51-57 WAC), and the Washington State Energy Code (chapter 51-11 WAC) for new buildings or structures.

**Exception:** Group R-3 buildings or structures are not required to comply if:

1. The original occupancy classification is not changed; and
2. The original building is not substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

For the purposes of this section, a building shall be considered to be substantially remodeled when the costs of remodeling exceed 60 percent of the value of the building exclusive of the costs relating to preparation, construction, demolition or renovation of foundations.

#### **SECTION 1302 REQUIREMENTS**

This section is not adopted.