STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 07- 05

CODE: 2006 International Building Code

SECTION: 902
903.2.2 Exception 1

QUESTIONS: 1. Does “requires a chassis” mean that the chassis is a part of the building structure?
2. Can an existing 4970 square foot portable classroom building (made of 5 modular sections) have a 3712 square foot addition (made of 4 modular sections) with a 2-hour fire-resistance-rated fire wall between the existing and the addition be approved without the requirement for an automatic fire sprinkler system?

ANSWERS: 1. No. Section 902 defines a portable classroom as a structure designed to use a chassis for transport. The structure can be hoisted onto a flatbed trailer for relocation and still meet the definition of portable.
2. No. Washington State Amendment 903.2.2 requires an automatic sprinkler system in all Group E occupancies except for portable classrooms or clusters of less than 5000 square feet and Group E occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or less.

A two hour fire-resistance-rated fire wall would not meet Section 705.4 of the IBC for separations.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Vancouver