



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Department of General Administration

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 11-11

CODE: 2009 WSEC

SECTION: Chapter 12, Energy Metering

QUESTION: The current Washington State Electrical Code, WAC 296-46B-230-001(2) states that any structure that has spaces separated by a fire wall of a 2-hour rating or greater may be used to separate that structure into separate buildings. This allows the structure to be served by more than one electrical service as provided in the National Electrical Code.

1. If a single structure has multiple occupancies or spaces that are separated by a fire wall with a minimum rating of 2-hours, and none of the individual occupancies has electrical service requirements that exceed 500 kVa, but together these occupancies exceed the 500 kVa threshold, is it required to supply a whole building totalizing meter, even though the code recognizes this construction as multiple buildings on one property and under one roof?

2. If the answer to the above is “yes”, and the building complies with the National Electrical Code allowing two to six service disconnects to the individual occupancies, along with up to six individual meters, is it required that an additional totalizing meter be installed for the whole building?

ANSWER: **1. No. If the structure is separated by a fire wall complying with IBC Section 706, it is considered a separate building and would also be considered a separate building under the Energy Code. If the fire wall did not meet the requirements of IBC Section 706, the building would need to be considered as a whole.**

2. See (1) above. See also Interpretations No. 11-10 and 11-12.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Kirkland