



# Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

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## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 13-12

**CODE:** 2012 International Building Code

**SECTION:** 1204.1, Exception 1

**QUESTION:** Section 1204.1 requires that interior spaces intended for human occupancy be provided with the means to heat the space to at least 68 degrees. Exception 1 states the space heating is not necessary “where the primary purpose of the space is not associated with human comfort.” Exactly what is the definition of this exception? If heat is required for all spaces other than temperature dependent spaces (this can be demonstrated), then all other spaces need to be fully conditioned which could include a warehouse, auto repair garage, etc. This throws a wrench in the semi-conditioned space section also in the energy code provisions. The language seems to conflict with the energy code requirements for semi-heated spaces. The term “not associated with human comfort” should be spelled out as its intent.

**ANSWER:** **The exception recognizes that not all interior spaces are associated with human comfort by the nature of their uses, such as a storage facility or commercial freezer. These and similar spaces would not require heating systems. The exception applies to those facilities that, for purposes of the activities or commodities in them, must be kept at a lower temperature; or buildings not intended for human occupancy, where people do not routinely work. The exception would also apply to certain buildings where it is understood they are not intended to be heated; where a portion of the building is open to the elements or it is otherwise infeasible to provide comfort heating.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** City of Woodinville