



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 14-20

CODE: 2012 International Fire Code

SECTION: Section 605.11.3

605.11.3 Access and pathways. Roof access, pathways, and spacing requirements shall be provided in accordance with Sections 605.11.3.1 through 605.11.3.3.3.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Residential structures shall be designed so that each photovoltaic array is no greater than 150 feet (45,720 mm) by 150 feet (45,720 mm) in either axis.
2. Panels/modules shall be located up to the roof ridge where an alternative ventilation method approved by the fire code official has determined vertical ventilation techniques will not be employed.

QUESTION 1: Clarify the intent of State amended IFC Section 605.11.3, exceptions 1 & 2. Exception 1 reads like a requirement; exception 2 requires that panels/modules be located up to the ridge, rather than “may” be located up to the ridge.

ANSWER 1: Exception 1 limits the maximum area of PV arrays on R occupancies to 150 ft. X 150 ft. in either axis. Exception 1 is intended to allow the installation of panels/modules up to the roof ridge; the intent is not to require that the panels be installed up to the ridge.

QUESTION 2: Clarify whether sections 605.11.3.2.1 and 605.11.3.2.2 were amended or deleted by the SBCC.

ANSWER 2: These code sub-sections were neither amended nor deleted by action of the SBCC; they remain as published in the 2012 IFC. See WSR 13-24-076 as filed with the Office of the Code Reviser on December 2, 2013.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUEST BY: Fire Marshal, City of Bellevue