STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 15-10

CODE: 2012 IFC: WAC 51-54A-3800 (emergency rule)

SECTION: Chapter 38: Marijuana processing and extraction facilities.

QUESTION: Is carbon dioxide considered a solvent for the purposes of marijuana extraction processing?

ANSWER: Yes. Carbon dioxide is a solvent as it conforms to the definition of solvent. In general if a product is used to ‘reduce’ or pull out product from another product, it complies with the definition of a solvent. CO\textsubscript{2} is a solvent, when used in a liquid form as a solvent, for example in supercritical drying. Water is also a solvent but is not regulated as the process is not hazardous. CO\textsubscript{2} is hazardous based on the pressures used in the extraction (5,000 PSI).

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Spokane Fire Department/Fire Protection Engineer