



# Washington State Building Code Council

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

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## 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<sub>2</sub> 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<sub>2</sub> is hazardous based on the pressures used in the extraction (5,000 PSI).

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Spokane Fire Department/Fire Protection Engineer