



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION 17-10

- CODE:** 2015 International Building Code
- SECTION:** **504 Building Height and Number of Stories**
- QUESTION 1:** IBC Table 504.3 and WA State amendment IBC Section 504.4.1 allow five stories of wood framed construction when the stair shafts are pressurized and the building is equipped throughout with a NFPA 13 sprinkler system. The occupancies allowed in five story wood are limited to residential uses.
- Would it be permissible for the first floor of a five story wood framed building to be group B or group M occupancies?
- ANSWER:** **Yes. The state amendment to section 504.4.1 allows an additional story under the specified conditions, where the building contains Group R-1 or R-2 occupancies. The amendment could apply to a mixed use building with an A, B, or M occupancy classification.**
- QUESTION 2:** Can the story increase allowed by IBC Section 504.4.1 also be applied to a Type IV construction building?
- ANSWER:** **No, the story increase applies only to Type VA construction.**
- SECTION:** **602.1/CONSTRUCTION CLASSIFICATION, General.**
602.4/ CONSTRUCTION CLASSIFICATION, Type IV.
- QUESTION 3:** Would Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) classify as Type IV construction?
- ANSWER:** **Yes, cross-laminated timber (CLT) is permitted within the exterior walls of Type IV buildings where protected as specified in 602.4.2.**
- SUPERSEDES:** None
- REQUESTED BY:** City of Bellingham