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