



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 17-15

CODE: 2015 International Residential Code

SECTION: M1507, Ventilation Openings

QUESTION: In IRC buildings and Group R IBC buildings, the code requires that outdoor air openings provided as part of a whole-house ventilation system using exhaust fans be "controllable" and "securable/secure", and that they "shall be designed to not compromise the thermal properties of the building envelope."

Can operable windows, which lock in the fully closed position only, be considered the required outdoor air openings for a whole-house ventilation systems using exhaust fans?

ANSWER: **Yes. Operable windows have always been allowable in Group R IBC buildings, and a code change approved for the 2015 edition of the IRC allowed the same for IRC building.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Bellingham