



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

**1. State Building Code to be Amended:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Building Code          | <input type="checkbox"/> State Energy Code                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code   | <input type="checkbox"/> International Mechanical Code        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Existing Building Code | <input type="checkbox"/> International Fuel Gas Code          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Residential Code       | <input type="checkbox"/> NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Fire Code              | <input type="checkbox"/> NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Plumbing Code                | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildland Urban Interface Code        |

**Section(s):**

504.4.1

**Title:**

Stair-enclosure pressurization increase

**2. Proponent Name (Specific local government, organization or individual):**

**Proponent:** David F. Kokot, P.E., Individual

**Title:**

**Date:** 2/20/2018

**3. Designated Contact Person:**

**Name:** David F. Kokot, P.E.

**Title:**

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**4. Proposed Code Amendment.** Reproduce the section to be amended by underlining all added language, striking through all deleted language. Insert new sections in the appropriate place in the code in order to continue the established numbering system of the code. If more than one section is proposed for amendment or more than one page is needed for reproducing the affected section of the code additional pages may be attached. (Examples on the SBCC [website](#))

Code(s) 2015 IBC \_\_\_\_\_ Section(s) 504.4.1 (State Amendment) \_\_\_\_\_

Enforceable code language must be used; see an example [by clicking here](#).  
Amend section to read as follows:

**504.4.1 Stair enclosure pressurization increase.** For Group R1 and R2 occupancies in buildings of Type VA construction equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the maximum number of stories permitted in Section 504.2 may be increased by one provided the interior exit stairways and ramps are pressurized in accordance with Section 909.11 and 909.20. Legally required standby power shall be provided for buildings constructed in compliance with this section and be connected to stairway shaft pressurization equipment, elevators and lifts used for accessible means of egress, hoistway pressurization equipment (if provided) and other life safety equipment as determined by the authority having jurisdiction. For the purposes of this section, legally required standby power shall comply with 2014 NEC Section 701.12, options (A), (B), (C), (D), (F), or (G) or subsequent revised section number(s).

**5. Briefly explain your proposed amendment, including the purpose, benefits and problems addressed.** Specifically note any impacts or benefits to business, and specify construction types, industries and services that would be affected. Finally, please note any potential impact on enforcement such as special reporting requirements or additional inspections required.

The 2015 IBC TAG made a recommendation to change the language from referring to Section 909.11 and 909.20 to just referring to Section 909. This results in additional expense and effort to perform a design analysis for a stairwell pressurization system. Section 909 requires evaluation of a design fire, there is no occupant load in the stair to calculate egress time, no fuel load is present, and there is no defined path of smoke transfer. Each of those items would need to be addressed in a report. As this system only needs to provided a pressure differential to prevent smoke from entering the stairway, these additional requirements are not necessary or applicable. This proposal will return the design requirements of a stairwell pressurization system to what is appropriate and reasonable.

**6. Specify what criteria this proposal meets.** You may select more than one.

- The amendment is needed to address a critical life/safety need.
- The amendment is needed to address a specific state policy or statute.
- The amendment is needed for consistency with state or federal regulations.
- The amendment is needed to address a unique character of the state.
- The amendment corrects errors and omissions.

**7. Is there an economic impact:**  Yes  No

Explain:

There will be a minimal cost savings to the owners of buildings with the reduction of the number of requirements that are specified to accomplish the design. It will not result in any change to the construction, enforcement, or maintenance of the system. The table does not indicate any location for savings in the design.

If there is an economic impact, use the Table below to estimate the costs and savings of the proposal on construction practices, users and/or the public, the enforcement community, and operation and maintenance. If preferred, you may submit an alternate cost benefit analysis.

Building Type	Construction <sup>1</sup>		Enforcement <sup>2</sup>		Operations & Maintenance <sup>3</sup>	
	Costs	Benefits <sup>4</sup>	Costs	Benefits <sup>4</sup>	Costs	Benefits <sup>4</sup>
Residential						
Single family						
Multi-family						
Commercial/Retail						
Industrial						
Institutional						

Please send your completed proposal to: [sbcc@ga.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@ga.wa.gov)

All questions must be answered to be considered complete. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

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<sup>1</sup> \$ / square foot of floor area or other cost. Attach data. **Construction** costs are costs prior to occupancy, and include both design and direct construction costs that impact the total cost of the construction to the owner/consumer.

<sup>2</sup> Cost per project plan. Attach data. **Enforcement** costs include governmental review of plans, field inspection, and other action required for enforcement.

<sup>3</sup> Cost to building owner/tenants over the life of the project.

<sup>4</sup> Measurable benefit.