**15-004**

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

International Building Code  State Energy Code

ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code  International Mechanical Code

International Existing Building Code  International Fuel Gas Code

International Residential Code  NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code

International Fire Code  NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

Uniform Plumbing Code  Wildland Urban Interface Code

**Section(s): 503.1 and 706.1**

**Title:** Fire walls create separate buildings for the purposes of height, area and type of construction.

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

**Proponent:** Lee J. Kranz, representing the Washington Association of Building

Officials Technical Code Development Committee

**Title:** Plan Review Supervisor

**Date:** February 11, 2015

**3. Designated Contact Person:**

**Name:** Lee J. Kranz

**Title:** Plan Review Supervisor

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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](https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=191))

**Code:** **2015 IBC** **Section**s **503.1 and 706.1**

Enforceable code language must be used; see an example [by clicking here](https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/SBCC/File.ashx?cid=1803).

Amend section to read as follows:

Revise text as follows:

**503.1 General.**

Unless otherwise specifically modified in Chapter 4 and this chapter, *building height*, number of stories and *building area* shall not exceed the limits specified in Sections 504 and 506 based on the type of construction as determined by Section 602 and the occupancies as determined by Section 302 except as modified hereafter. *Building height*, number of stories and *building area* provisions shall be applied independently. For the purposes of determining area limitations, height limitations and type of construction, each portion of a building separated by one or more fire walls complying with Section 706 shall be considered to be a separate building.

**706.1 General.**

~~Each portion of a building separated by one or more fire walls that comply with the provisions of this section shall be considered a separate building~~. Fire walls shall be constructed in accordance with Sections 706.2 through 706.11. The extent and location of such fire walls shall provide a complete separation. Where a fire wall also separates occupancies that are required to be separated by a fire barrier wall, the most restrictive requirements of each separation shall apply.

1. **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.

**Reason:** This code change clarifies that each portion of a building separated by fire walls complying with Section 706 is considered to be a separate building but only for purposes of determining the maximum allowable area, maximum number of stories or height and to separate buildings of different types of construction. Taken literally, the first sentence in Section 706.1 potentially creates the need for separate egress systems as well as separate mechanical, electrical, sprinkler, fire alarm, smoke control and plumbing systems.

1. **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.

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

Explain: Will not increase the cost of construction. This code change is for clarification only.

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[[1]](#footnote-1) | | Enforcement[[2]](#footnote-2) | | Operations & Maintenance[[3]](#footnote-3) | |
| Costs | Cost/DU | Costs | Benefits4 | Costs | Benefits4 |
| Residential |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single family | No difference | No difference | No difference | No difference | No difference | No difference |
| Multi-family | No difference | No difference | No difference | No difference | No difference | No difference |
| 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.

1. $ / 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cost per project plan. Attach data. **Enforcement** costs include governmental review of plans, field inspection, and other action required for enforcement. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Cost to building owner/tenants over the life of the project. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)