



Washington State Building Code Council
Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

1500 Jefferson Street SE • P.O. Box 41449 • Olympia, Washington 98504
(360) 407-9277 • e-mail sbcc@des.wa.gov • sbcc.wa.gov

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION 17-22

CODE: 2015 International Existing Building Code

SECTION: 705 Accessibility

The last sentence of Section 705.1.9 of the IEBC, State Amendment reads, “The number of toilet or bathing rooms and water closets required by the Washington State Building Code is permitted to be reduced by one, in order to provide accessible features.”

QUESTION 1: Since Section 2902.2 of the IBC as amended, dictates when separate facilities shall be required, does this amendment in the IEBC apply to existing buildings or building spaces going through a change of occupancy when the occupancy load of the space would require separate facilities per the IBC?

ANSWER 1: **Yes, for level 1 alterations in an existing building undergoing a change of occupancy, the accessibility provisions of IEBC Section 705 would apply.**

QUESTION 2: Is the intent of the amendment to Section 705.1.9 to allow the reduction of an entire toilet room as stated?

ANSWER 2: **Yes. The intent of the amendment is to help assure adding accessible features to the existing bathroom facilities will be feasible. Where reducing the required number of bathrooms or required number of fixtures provides additional space that is used to increase accessible features in the existing bathroom, the amendment applies.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Moses Lake