



# Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

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## STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 20-07

**CODE:** 2018 International Residential Code

**SECTION:** R506.2.3, Vapor retarder  
AF103.3, Soil-gas retarder

**QUESTION 1:** Is it the intent of the IRC to regulate the requirements for a vapor barrier under two different code sections (R506, AF103), for two distinct purposes?

**ANSWER 1:** **No. Vapor barriers are addressed in Section R506 and radon control in Appendix F. Vapor barrier and radon control are separate issues. Where radon control is applicable, the code conditions must be met regardless of vapor barrier requirements. Vapor barrier exceptions do not apply to radon control and radon control exceptions do not apply to vapor barriers.**

**QUESTION 2:** If the answer to question one is yes, can the vapor barrier be removed per the exception in Section R506.2.3 #4, but still be required per Section AF103.3?

**ANSWER 2:** **The answer to Question 1 is no. See the answer to Question 1.**

**QUESTION 3:** If the answer to question two is yes, can the vapor barrier be removed per the exception #4 in Section R506.2.3, and not required if *SUBSLAB DEPRESSURIZATION SYSTEM (Active)* is installed.

**ANSWER 3:** **See the answer to Question 1.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Spokane County