



# Washington State Building Code Council

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

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## STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 21-03

**CODE:** 2018 International Residential Code  
2018 Washington State Energy Code - Residential

**SECTION:** IRC R408.3, Unvented crawl space  
WSEC R403.3.7

**BACKGROUND:** The IRC allows for a conditioned air supply to be delivered to the crawlspace and recirculated to the common area. Washington removed this option in their amendment, so as to not allow communication between the crawlspace and common areas. The amendment allows continuously operated mechanical exhaust but does not require an air intake from the outside.

**QUESTION:** Can a heat duct be provided into the crawl space which would be mechanically drawn to the exterior and thus not communicating with the common area to provide a conditioned space for ductwork complying with Section R403.3.7 of the Washington State Energy Code, if the other conditions in the amendment to IRC Section R408.3 are met?

**ANSWER:** **Either the space is considered an unvented crawlspace and considered outside the thermal envelope barrier and meets the requirements of Section R408.3, or it is designed as part of the conditioned space where ducts are within the space enclosed by air barrier and thermal requirements and does not require continuous exhaust per IRC Section R408.3, Item 2 but must comply with Item 1 radon requirements.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Kittitas County