



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 21-06

CODE: 2018 International Residential Code

SECTION: IRC M1505.4 Dwelling Unit Ventilation

BACKGROUND: The ventilation requirements do not specifically address how to apply these requirements to unheated storage area conversions within an existing dwelling, attached garage conversions or additions to existing homes.

QUESTION 1: Is it the intent of the code to require the ventilation for the entire existing home to comply with this section when an addition is constructed or a garage is converted?

ANSWER: **No. Only the converted/added habitable space must meet the requirements of Section M1505.4. This can be via a new dedicated compliant system or by linking to an existing compliant ventilation system.**

QUESTION 2: If the answer to question 1 is no; is it the intent to allow the attached garage conversions and additions to use the ventilation code in effect at the time the home was constructed?

ANSWER: **See answer to Question 1 and Section R102.7.1 for exception for smaller additions/alterations.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Thurston County