



STATE OF WASHINGTON
STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

May 2018
Log No. _____

1. State Building Code to be Amended:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Building Code | <input type="checkbox"/> International Mechanical Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code | <input type="checkbox"/> International Fuel Gas Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Existing Building Code | <input type="checkbox"/> NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Residential Code | <input type="checkbox"/> NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Fire Code | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildland Urban Interface Code |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Plumbing Code | |

For the Washington State Energy Code, please see specialized [energy code forms](#)

Section(s):

602.4.2.2.2, 602.4.2.2.4

Title:

Interior Protection

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

Proponent: Washington Association of Building Officials, Technical Code Development

Title: WABO TCD Committee Chair

Date: May 24, 2021

3. Designated Contact Person:

Name: Micah Chappell

Title: Technical Code Development Manager, Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Address: 700 Fifth Ave. Suite 2100, Seattle, WA. 98104

Office Phone: (206) 305-4362

E-Mail address: micah.chappell@seattle.gov

4. Proposed Code Amendment.

Code(s) IBC Section(s) 602.4.2.2.2, 602.4.2.2.4

602.4.2.2.2 Protected area. Interior faces of mass timber elements, including the inside face of exterior mass timber walls and mass timber roofs, shall be protected in accordance with Section 602.4.2.2.1.

Exceptions: Unprotected portions of mass timber ceilings and walls complying with Section 602.4.2.2.4 and the following:

1. Unprotected portions of mass timber ceilings and walls complying with one of the following:
 - 1.1. Unprotected portions of mass timber ceilings, including attached beams, shall be permitted and shall be limited to an area less than or equal to ~~20~~ 100 percent of the floor area in any dwelling unit or fire area.
 - 1.2. Unprotected portions of mass timber walls, including attached columns, shall be permitted and shall be limited to an area less than or equal to 40 percent of the floor area in any dwelling unit or fire area.
 - 1.3. Unprotected portions of both walls and ceilings of mass timber, including attached columns and beams, in any dwelling unit or fire area shall be permitted in accordance with Section 602.4.2.2.3.
2. Mass timber columns and beams that are not an integral portion of walls or ceilings, respectively, shall be permitted to be unprotected without restriction of either aggregate area or separation from one another.

602.4.2.2.4 Separation distance between unprotected mass timber elements. In each dwelling unit or fire area, unprotected portions of mass timber walls and ceilings shall be not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from unprotected portions of other walls ~~and ceilings, measured horizontally along the ceiling and from other unprotected portions of walls~~ measured horizontally along the floor.

5. Briefly explain your proposed amendment, including the purpose, benefits and problems addressed.

The proposed revisions above are based upon recently completed research conducted at the Research Institute of Sweden (RISE). These fire tests demonstrated that the proposed amounts of unprotected areas on the ceiling and walls, as a function of floor area, can be safely implemented while still achieving the performance objectives specified by the ICC Tall Wood Building Ad-Hoc Committee in the development of the tall building mass timber provisions in the 2021 I-codes. Specifically, Test 1 of the test series conducted at RISE involved a ceiling in which 100% of the area was unprotected mass timber. Tests 2 and 5 had unprotected mass timber on 100% of the ceiling area, in addition to unprotected areas on the two opposing side walls, equivalent to 78% of the floor area. These tests exhibited satisfactory performance in that no significant fire re-growth was observed and temperatures within the compartment decreased continuously from the time of the fully-developed phase until the end of the four-hour test.

The proposed increase of allowable unprotected area on the ceiling from 20% to 100% is consistent with the configurations tested in all of the RISE tests. Although the RISE data also justifies a higher percentage of unprotected area of the wall, this proposal leaves the limit at 40% of the floor area for the sake of conservatism. Videos of the tests performed at RISE may be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.ri.se/en/what-we-do/expertises/fire-safety-timber-buildings>

Furthermore, all of the code proposals included in the work of the TWB were based on CLT products using an earlier edition of material standard PRG 320. During that code development process, being responsive to the concerns of the TWB, the industry demonstrated that the latest PRG-320 standard required a higher grade of adhesive to limit delamination during fire exposure. These RISE fire tests used the subsequent improvements in the code-referenced product standard for CLT (ANSI/APA PRG-320), resulting in enhancements to fire safety.

6. 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 clarifies the intent or application of the code.

- 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.

7. Is there an economic impact: Yes No

Explain:

The code change proposal will decrease the cost of construction. The proposed changes will reduce the required amount of noncombustible protection on walls and ceilings in Type IV-B Construction.

Please send your completed proposal to: sbcc@des.wa.gov

All questions must be answered to be considered complete. Incomplete proposals will not be accepted.