



STATE OF WASHINGTON
STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

May 2018
Log No. _____

1. State Building Code to be Amended:

- International Building Code
- ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code
- International Existing Building Code
- International Residential Code
- International Fire Code
- Uniform Plumbing Code

- International Mechanical Code
- International Fuel Gas Code
- NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code
- NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code
- Wildland Urban Interface Code

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

Section(s):
602.4.4.3

Title:
Concealed Spaces

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

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4. Proposed Code Amendment.

Code(s) IBC Section(s) 602.4.4.3

Amend section to read as follows:

602.4.4.3 Concealed spaces. Concealed spaces shall not contain combustible materials other than building elements and electrical, mechanical, fire protection, or plumbing materials and equipment permitted in plenums in accordance with Section 602 of the International Mechanical Code. Concealed spaces shall comply with applicable provisions of Section 718. Concealed spaces shall be protected in accordance with one or more of the following:

1. The building shall be sprinklered throughout in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and automatic sprinklers shall also be provided in the concealed space.
2. The concealed space shall be completely filled with noncombustible insulation.
3. Combustible surfaces within the concealed space shall be fully sheathed with not less than 5/8 -inch Type X gypsum board.

Exception: Concealed spaces within interior walls and partitions with a 1-hour or greater fire-resistance rating complying with Section 2304.11.2.2 shall not require additional protection.

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

The change is necessary to adequately convey the intent of the third protection alternative. Only combustible surfaces in concealed spaces need to be protected. If a concealed space is created by furring out with steel studs, for instance, only the heavy timber surfaces would need to be sheathed with 5/8 inch Type X gypsum board, not the steel studs.

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 not increase or decrease the cost of construction. We feel this change is essentially editorial in nature in that it is only clarifying the text to match the original intent of the 3rd option.