



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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RE: Request for off-cycle rulemaking related to the adoption of Group R-4

Background Information:

In 2006 when the state of Washington transitioned from the Uniform Building Code to the International building code codes, the state building code council determined not to adopt the R-4 occupancy classification. At that point in time, the smaller residential treatment facilities had been addressed by a specific state amendment for at least a decade. These facilities were classified as "licensed care (LC) occupancies" and the state had a successful history with mitigating building and fire risk using this strategy. We believe this state specific approach led to discomfort with adopting the R-4 occupancy at that point. In the following 15 years, the International Code Council (ICC) has undertaken a focused review of care facilities through the Care Facilities task group of the Code Technology Committee and the Committee for Healthcare. In that time, these committees have considered many state approaches to safely constructing care facilities and made several changes to the approach for I-1 and R-4 occupancy classes. As it stands today, the ICC has an established and recently reviewed approach for classifying smaller residential treatment type facilities – which is the R-4 occupancy. Because the R-4 is not currently adopted in the state a facility or designer is left with choosing the I-1 occupancy classification as the closest fit. This occupancy classification works, however, it was intended for slightly larger facilities and has more safety mitigations. Striking the current state amendment in Section 310.5 will provide a safe occupancy option for these types of facilities and bring our state code more in line with national approaches and standards.

Justification:

As the model codes have evolved, the R-4 occupancy has been confirmed to be a safe option that is broadly used across the country. The R-4 classification includes both active and passive fire life safety requirements that mitigate risks based on both use and the number of residents served. Additionally, the R-4 occupancy is divided into two sub-classifications: condition 1 and 2, which capture the unique risks of residents who need limited assistance with evacuation. These enhancements were added to the ICC model codes in 2015. Currently, Construction Review Services has no reason to oppose adoption of the R-4 occupancy classification. Based on feedback from the design and facilities management industries, this would allow a safe approach to developing smaller facilities with lower construction costs.

2021 International Building Code – sections with state amendments

BLUE – Existing amendment

RED – Proposed modifications to existing amendments

BLUE UNDERLINED – Proposed new amendment

WAC 51-50-0308 – Institutional Group I

308.2 Institutional Group I-1. Institutional Group I-1 occupancy shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than sixteen persons, excluding staff, who reside on a twenty-four-hour basis in a supervised environment and receive custodial care. Buildings of Group I-1 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in Section 308.2.1 or 308.2.2 and shall comply with Section 420. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Alcohol and drug centers;
Assisted living facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 388-78A WAC;
Congregate care facilities;
Group homes;
Halfway houses;
Residential board and care facilities;
Social rehabilitation facilities;
Residential treatment facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 246-337 WAC.

308.2.6 Licensed care facilities. Assisted living facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 388-78A WAC shall be classified as Group R-4 or Group I-1, Condition 2.
~~Residential treatment facilities licensed by Washington state under chapter 246-337 WAC shall be classified as one or more occupancy types in accordance with chapter 246-337 WAC.~~

WAC 51-50-0310 Section 310—Residential Group R.

~~**310.5 Residential Group R-4.** R-4 classification is not adopted. Any reference in this code to R-4 does not apply.~~

310.5 Residential Group R-4. Residential Group R-4 occupancy shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than five but not more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a 24-hour basis in a supervised residential environment and receive custodial care. Buildings of Group R-4 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions specified in Section 310.5.1 or 310.5.2. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Alcohol and drug centers
Assisted living facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 388-78A WAC
Congregate care facilities
Group homes
Halfway houses
Residential board and care facilities
Social rehabilitation facilities
Residential treatment facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 246-337 WAC.

Group R-4 occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except as otherwise provided for in this code.

WAC 51-50-0420 – Groups I-1, R-1, R-2, and R-3, and R-4

420.2 Separation walls. Walls separating dwelling units in the same building, walls separating sleeping units in the same building and walls separating dwelling or sleeping units from other occupancies contiguous to them in the same building shall be constructed as fire partitions in accordance with Section 708. Buildings containing multiple sleeping units with common use or central kitchens shall not be classified as a single dwelling.

Exceptions:

1. Where sleeping units include private bathrooms, walls between bedrooms and the associated private bathrooms are not required to be constructed as fire partitions.
2. Where sleeping units are constructed as suites, walls between bedrooms within the sleeping unit and the walls between the bedrooms and associated living spaces are not required to be constructed as fire partitions.
3. In Groups R-3 and R-4 facilities, walls within the dwelling units or sleeping units are not required to be constructed as fire partitions.
4. ~~Groups R-2 and I-1 arranged into residential sleeping suites containing a maximum of five sleeping residents. Separation between bedrooms, living areas and toilet rooms within these residential sleeping suites shall not be required.~~
5. Group I-1 sleeping areas arranged so that a dedicated staff member has direct observation over a multiple resident sleeping room, without intervening full height walls, shall not be required to provide fire partitions within the resident sleeping area.

Commented [BS(1)]: The first three exceptions were model code exceptions in 2018. They appeared in the first printing, but then were eliminated in the following printings. The exceptions are not in 2021 IBC and must be eliminated from WAC 51-50-0420. The SBCC vote was to adopt the model code with the existing state amendments. If there are no exceptions in 2021 IBC, the first three exceptions must be deleted. If the exceptions are not part of WAC and 2021 IBC, there is no need for the proposal in Exception 3.

420.3 Horizontal separation. Floor assemblies separating dwelling units in the same buildings, floor assemblies separating sleeping units in the same building and floor assemblies separating dwelling or sleeping units from other occupancies contiguous to them in the same building shall be constructed as horizontal assemblies in accordance with Section 711.

Exception: In Group R-3 and R-4 facilities, floor assemblies within the dwelling units or sleeping units are not required to be constructed as horizontal assemblies.

Commented [BS(2)]: This exception was in the first printing of 2018 IBC, but was eliminated in the following printings. The exception is not in the 2021 IBC. If the exception is not part of WAC and not in the 2021 IBC, there is no need for the proposed amendment.

WAC 51-50-0504 Section 504—Building height and number of stories.

Table 504.4 Allowable number of stories above grade plane (Not affected, R-4 is currently in the table)

WAC 51-50-0706 Section 706—Fire walls.

706.4 Fire-resistance rating. Fire walls shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than that required by Table 706.4.

**Table 706.4
Fire Wall Fire-resistance Ratings**

GROUP	FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING (hours)
A, B, E, H-4, I, R-1, R-2, U	3 ^a
F-1, H-3 ^b , H-5, M, S-1	3
H-1, H-2	4 ^b
F-2, S-2, R-3, R-4	2

^a In Type II, III, IV, or V construction, walls shall be permitted to have a 2-hour fire-resistance rating.

^b For Group H-1, H-2, or H-3 buildings, also see Sections 415.7 and 415.8.

Commented [BS(3)]: The state amendment is the elimination of R-4. If R-4 is adopted, the entire section must be eliminated from WAC.

WAC 51-50-1006 Section 1006—Number of exits and exit access doorways.

Table 1006.2.1 Spaces with one exit or exit access doorway. (Not affected, R-4 is currently in the table)

1006.3.4 Single exits. (Not affected)

A single exit or access to a single exit shall be permitted from any story or occupied roof where one of the following conditions exists:

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4. Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies shall be permitted to have one exit or access to a single exit.

WAC 51-50-10100 Section 1010—Doors, gates, and turnstiles.

1010.2.14 Controlled egress doors in Groups R-4, I-1 and I-2. Electric locking systems, including electromechanical locking systems and electromagnetic locking systems, shall be permitted to be locked in the means of egress in Group R-4, I-1 or I-2 occupancies where the clinical needs of persons receiving care require their containment. Controlled egress doors shall be permitted in such occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or an approved automatic smoke detection system installed in accordance with Section 907, provided that the doors are installed and operate in accordance with all of the following:

1. The door locks shall unlock on actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* or automatic smoke detection system.
2. The doors locks shall unlock on loss of power controlling the lock or lock mechanism.
3. The door locking system shall be installed to have the capability of being unlocked by a switch located at the *fire command center*, a nursing station or other approved location. The switch shall directly break power to the lock.
4. A building occupant shall not be required to pass through more than one door equipped with a controlled *egress* locking system before entering an *exit*.
5. The procedures for unlocking the doors shall be described and approved as part of the emergency planning and preparedness required by Chapter 4 of the *International Fire Code*.
6. There is a system, such as a keypad and code, in place that allows visitors, staff persons and appropriate residents to exit. Instructions for exiting shall be posted within six feet of the door. All clinical staff shall have the keys, codes or other means necessary to operate the locking systems.
7. Emergency lighting shall be provided at the door.
8. The door locking system units shall be listed in accordance with UL 294.

Exceptions:

1. Items 1 through 4, and 6, shall not apply to doors to areas occupied by persons who, because of clinical needs, require restraint or containment as part of the function of a psychiatric or cognitive treatment area, provided that all clinical staff shall have the keys, codes or other means necessary to operate the locking devices.
2. Items 1 through 4, and 6, shall not apply to doors to areas where a listed egress control system is utilized to reduce the risk of child abduction from nursery and obstetric areas of a Group I-2 hospital.

WAC 51-50-10170 Section 1017—Exit access travel distance.

**Table 1017.2
Exit Access Travel Distance^a**

Occupancy	Without Sprinkler System (feet)	With Sprinkler System (feet)
A, E, F-1, M, R, S-1	200 ^b	250 ^b
I-1	Not Permitted	250 ^b
B	200	300 ^c
F-Z, S-Z, U	300	400 ^c
H-1	Not Permitted	75 ^d
H-Z	Not Permitted	100 ^d
H-3	Not Permitted	150 ^d
H-4	Not Permitted	175 ^d
H-5	Not Permitted	200 ^c
1-Z, 1-3	Not Permitted	200 ^c
I-4	150	200 ^c

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

^a See the following sections for modifications to exit access travel distance requirements:

- Section 402.8: For the distance limitation in malls.
- Section 407.4: For the distance limitation in Group I-2.
- Sections 408.6.1 and 408.8.1: For the distance limitations in Group I-3.
- Section 411.2: For the distance limitation in special amusement areas.
- Section 412.6: For the distance limitations in aircraft manufacturing facilities.
- Section 1006.2.2.2: For the distance limitation in refrigeration machinery rooms.
- Section 1006.2.2.3: For the distance limitation in refrigerated rooms and spaces.
- Section 1006.3.4: For buildings with one exit.
- Section 1017.2.2: For increased distance limitation in Groups F-1 and S-1.
- Section 1030.7: For increased limitation in assembly seating.
- Section 3103.4: For temporary structures.
- Section 3104.9: For pedestrian walkways.
- [Section 3116: For fixed guideway and passenger rail stations.](#)

^b Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2. See Section 903 for occupancies where automatic sprinkler systems are permitted in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2.

^c Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

^d Group H occupancies equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.2.5.1.

^e [Group R-3 and R-4 buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3. See Section 903.2.8 for occupancies where automatic sprinkler systems are permitted in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3.](#)

Commented [BS(4)]: This is a model code language currently not adopted in WAC.

WAC 51-50-1019 Section 1019—Exit access stairways and ramps.

1019.3 Occupancies other than Groups I-2 and I-3. In other than Groups I-2 and I-3 occupancies, floor openings containing *exit access stairways* or ramps shall be enclosed with a shaft enclosure constructed in accordance with Section 713.

Exceptions:

1. Exit access stairways and ramps that serve or atmospherically communicate between only two adjacent stories. Such interconnected stories shall not be open to other stories.
2. In Group R-1, R-2 or R-3 occupancies, exit access stairways and ramps connecting four stories or less serving and contained within an individual dwelling unit or sleeping unit or live/work unit.
3. Exit access stairways serving and contained within a Group R-3 congregate residence **or a Group R-4 facility** are not required to be enclosed.
4. *Exit access stairways and ramps* in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, where the area of the vertical opening between stories does not exceed twice the horizontal projected area of the stairway or ramp and the opening is protected by a draft curtain and closely spaced sprinklers in accordance with NFPA 13. In other than Group B and M occupancies, this provision is limited to openings that do not connect more than four stories.
5. *Exit access stairways and ramps* within an atrium complying with the provisions of Section 404.
6. *Exit access stairways and ramps* in open parking garages that serve only the parking garage.
7. *Exit access stairways and ramps* serving smoke-protected or open-air assembly seating complying with the exit access travel distance requirements of Section 1030.7.
8. *Exit access stairways and ramps* between the balcony, gallery or press box and the main assembly floor in occupancies such as theaters, places of religious worship, auditoriums, and sports facilities.
9. Exterior *exit access stairways* or *ramps* between occupied roofs.

Commented [BS(5): This is in the model code, which doesn't exist in WAC. The state amendment is the deletion of R-4. If R-4 is adopted, there is no need for this state amendment.

WAC 51-50-1107 Section 1107—Motor vehicle related facilities.

1107.2 Electrical vehicle charging stations. Electrical vehicle charging stations shall comply with Sections 1107.2.1 and 1107.2.2.

Exception: Electrical vehicle charging stations provided to serve Group **R-2, R-3 and R-4** occupancies are not required to comply with this section.

Commented [BS(6): R-2 and R-4 are in the model code, but not in WAC. If R-4 is adopted, R-4 must be added to WAC.

WAC 51-50-2405 Section 2405—Sloped glazing and skylights.

2405.3 Screening. Where used in monolithic glazing systems, annealed, heat strengthened, fully tempered and wired glass shall have broken glass retention screens installed below the glazing material. The screens and their fastenings shall be:

1. Capable of supporting twice the weight of the glazing;
2. Firmly and substantially fastened to the framing members; and
3. Installed within 4 inches (102 mm) of the glass.

The screens shall be constructed of a noncombustible material not thinner than No. 12 B&S gage (0.0808 inch) with mesh not larger than 1 inch by 1 inch (25 mm by 25 mm). In a corrosive atmosphere, structurally equivalent noncorrosive screen materials shall be used. Annealed, heat strengthened, fully tempered and wired glass, when used in multiple-layer glazing systems as the bottom glass layer over the walking surface, shall be equipped with screening that conforms to the requirements for monolithic glazing systems.

EXCEPTION: In monolithic and multiple layer sloped glazing systems, the following applies:

1. Fully tempered glass installed without protective screens where glazed between intervening floors at a slope of 30 degrees (0.52 rad) or less from the vertical plane shall have the highest point of the glass 10 feet (3048 mm) or less above the walking surface.
2. Screens are not required below any glazing material, including annealed glass, where the walking surface below the glazing material is permanently protected from the risk of falling glass or the area below the glazing material is not a walking surface.
3. Any glazing material, including annealed glass, is permitted to be installed without screens

in the sloped glazing systems of commercial or detached noncombustible greenhouses used exclusively for growing plants and not open to the public, provided that the height of the greenhouse at the ridge does not exceed 30 feet (9144 mm) above grade.

4. Screens shall not be required within individual dwelling units in Groups R-2, R-3, and R-4 where fully tempered glass is used as single glazing or as both panes in an insulating glass unit, and the following conditions are met:

4.1. Each pane of the glass is 16 square feet (1.5 m²) or less in area.

4.2. The highest point of the glass is 12 feet (3658 mm) or less above any walking surface or other accessible area.

4.3. The glass thickness is 3/16 inch (4.8 mm) or less.

5. Screens shall not be required for laminated glass with a 15 mil (0.38 mm) polyvinyl butyral (or equivalent) interlayer ~~used in individual dwelling units in Groups R-2, R-3 and R-4~~ within the following limits:

5.1. Each pane of glass is 16 square feet (1.5 m²) or less in area.

5.2. The highest point of the glass is 12 feet (3658 mm) or less above a walking surface or other accessible area.

Commented [BS(7)]: This is the existing state amendment, deleting R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancy groups from the exception. If R-4 is adopted, there is no need for amendments in this section.

Model code sections without state amendments

308.2.3 Six to 16 persons receiving custodial care. A facility housing not fewer than six and not more than 16 persons receiving *custodial care* shall be classified as Group **R-4**.

310.4 Residential Group R-3. Residential Group R-3 occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, **R-4** or I, including:

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420.1 General. Occupancies in Groups I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3 and **R-4** shall comply with the provisions of Sections 420.1 through 420.11 and other applicable provisions of this code.

420.5 Fire alarm systems and smoke alarms. *Fire alarm* systems and smoke alarms shall be provided in Group I-1, R-1 and R-2 occupancies in accordance with Sections 907.2.6, 907.2.8 and 907.2.9, respectively. Single- or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be provided in Groups I-1, R-2, R-3 and **R-4** in accordance with Section 907.2.11.

Table 506.2 Allowable area factor

Table 803.13 Interior wall and ceiling finish requirements by occupancy

903.2.8.2 Group R-4, Condition 1. An *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in Group **R-4**, Condition 1 occupancies.

903.2.8.3 Group R-4, Condition 2. An *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group **R-4**, Condition 2 occupancies.

Section 903.3.1.2.3 Attics. (Item 4)

903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. *Automatic sprinkler systems* installed in one- and two-family *dwelling*s; Group R-3; Group **R-4**, Condition 1; and *townhouses* shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D.

903.2.8.2 Group R-4, Condition 1. An *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3 shall be permitted in Group R-4, Condition 1 occupancies.

903.2.8.3 Group R-4, Condition 2. An *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.2 shall be permitted in Group R-4, Condition 2 occupancies.

903.3.1.3 NFPA 13D sprinkler systems. *Automatic sprinkler systems* installed in one- and two-family *dwelling*s; Group R-3; Group **R-4**, Condition 1; and *townhouses* shall be permitted to be installed throughout in accordance with NFPA 13D.

906.1 Where required. (Related to portable fire extinguishers)

907.2.11.2 Groups R-2, R-3, R-4 and I-1. Single or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in Groups R-2, R-3, **R-4** and I-1 regardless of *occupant load* at all of the following locations:

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1006.2.2.6 Groups R-3 and R-4. Where Group R-3 occupancies are permitted by Section 903.2.8 to be protected by an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3, the *exit access* travel distance for Group R-3 shall be not more than 125 feet (38 100 mm). Where Group R-4 occupancies are permitted by Section 903.2.8 to be protected by an *automatic sprinkler system* installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.3, the *exit access* travel distance for Group **R-4** shall be not more than 75 feet (22 860 mm).

1006.3.2 Path of egress travel. The path of egress travel to an *exit* shall not pass through more than one adjacent *story*.

Exception: The path of egress travel to an *exit* shall be permitted to pass through more than one adjacent

story in any of the following:

.....

2. *Exit access stairways* serving and contained within a Group R-3 congregate residence or a Group R-4 facility.

1010.1.1 Size of doors. (Exception 8)

Table 1020.2 Corridor Fire-Resistance Rating. (Footnote d)

1031.2 Where required. In addition to the *means of egress* required by this chapter, *emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be provided in the following occupancies:

1. Group R-2 occupancies located in stories with only one *exit* or *access* to only one *exit* as permitted by Tables 1006.3.4(1) and 1006.3.4(2).
2. Group R-3 and R-4 occupancies.

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1106.3 Groups I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4. *Accessible* parking spaces shall be provided in Group I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies in accordance with Items 1 through 4 as applicable.

1. In Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies that are required to have *Accessible*, *Type A* or *Type B dwelling units* or *sleeping units*, at least 2 percent, but not less than one, of each type of parking space provided shall be *accessible*.

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1108.4 Accessible route. (Exception 6)

1108.6.4 Group R-4. *Accessible units* and *Type B units* shall be provided in Group R-4 occupancies in accordance with Sections 1108.6.4.1 and 1108.6.4.2. Bedrooms in Group R-4 facilities shall be counted as *sleeping units* for the purpose of determining the number of units.

1108.6.4.1 Accessible units. In Group R-4, Condition 1, at least one of the *sleeping units* shall be an *Accessible unit*. In Group R-4, Condition 2, at least two of the *sleeping units* shall be an *Accessible unit*.

1111.2 Facilities serving Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies. Recreational facilities that serve Group R-2, R-3 and Group R-4 occupancies shall comply with Sections 1111.2.1 through 1111.2.3, as applicable.

1111.2.1 Facilities serving Accessible units. In Group R-2 and R-4 occupancies where recreational facilities serve *Accessible units*, every recreational facility of each type serving *Accessible units* shall be *accessible*.

1111.2.2 Facilities serving Type A and Type B units in a single building. In Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies where recreational facilities serve a single building containing *Type A units* or *Type B units*, 25 percent, but not less than one, of each type of recreational facility shall be *accessible*. Every recreational facility of each type on a site shall be considered to determine the total number of each type that is required to be *accessible*.

1111.2.3 Facilities serving Type A and Type B units in multiple buildings. In Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies on a single site where multiple buildings containing *Type A units* or *Type B units* are served by recreational facilities, 25 percent, but not less than one, of each type of recreational facility serving each building shall be *accessible*. The total number of each type of recreational facility that is required to be *accessible* shall be determined by considering every recreational facility of each type serving each building on the site.

1112.1 Signs. (Exception for Item 2)

1609.2 Protection of openings. (Exception 1)

2021 IFC

WAC 51-54A-0202 General definitions.

SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Residential Group R. Residential Group R includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for sleeping purposes when not classified as an Institutional Group I or when not regulated by the *International Residential Code*. This group shall include:

No changes to R-1 and R-2.

R-3 Residential occupancies where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, ~~R-4~~, or I, including:

.....

~~R-4 Classification is not adopted. Any reference in this code to R-4 does not apply.~~

R-4 Residential occupancies shall include buildings, structures or portions thereof for more than five but not more than 16 persons, excluding staff, who reside on a 24-hour basis in a supervised residential environment and receive custodial care. Buildings of Group R-4 shall be classified as one of the occupancy conditions indicated below. This group shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Alcohol and drug centers;
Assisted living facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 388-78A WAC;
Congregate care facilities
Group homes;
Halfway houses;
Residential board and care facilities;
Social rehabilitation facilities;
Residential treatment facilities as licensed by Washington state under chapter 246-337 WAC.

Group R-4 occupancies shall meet the requirements for construction as defined for Group R-3, except as otherwise provided for in the International Building Code.

~~403.10.3 Group R-4 occupancies. This section not adopted.~~

WAC 51-54A-10100 – Doors, gates, and turnstiles.

1010.2.14 Controlled egress doors in Groups ~~R-4~~, I-1 and I-2. Electric locking systems, including electromechanical locking systems and electromagnetic locking systems, shall be permitted to be locked in the means of egress in Group ~~R-4~~, I-1 or I-2 occupancies where the clinical needs of persons receiving care require their containment. Controlled egress doors shall be permitted in such occupancies where the building is equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or an approved automatic smoke or heat detection system installed in accordance with Section 907, provided that the doors are installed and operate in accordance with all of the following:

1. The doors shall unlock on actuation of the *automatic sprinkler system* or automatic smoke detection system.
2. The door locks shall unlock on loss of power controlling the lock or lock mechanism.
3. The door locking system shall be installed to have the capability of being unlocked by a switch located at the fire command center, a nursing station or other approved location. The switch shall directly break power to the lock.
4. A building occupant shall not be required to pass through more than one door equipped with a controlled *egress* locking system before entering an *exit*.
5. The procedures for unlocking the doors shall be described and approved as part of the emergency planning and preparedness required by Chapter 4 of the *International Fire Code*.

6. There is a system, such as a keypad and code, in place that allows visitors, staff persons and appropriate residents to exit. Instructions for exiting shall be posted within six feet of the door.
7. All clinical staff shall have the keys, codes or other means necessary to operate the locking systems.
8. Emergency lighting shall be provided at the door.
9. The door locking system units shall be listed in accordance with UL 294.

Exceptions:

1. Items 1 through 4, and 6, shall not apply to doors to areas where persons, which because of clinical needs, require restraint or containment as part of the function of a psychiatric treatment area
2. Items 1 through 4, and 6, shall not apply to doors to areas where a listed egress control system is utilized to reduce the risk of child abduction from nursery and obstetric areas of a Group I-2 hospital.