



# Washington State Building Code Council

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

1500 Jefferson Street SE • P.O. Box 41449 • Olympia, Washington 98504  
(360) 407-9277 • e-mail [sbcc@des.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@des.wa.gov) • [www.sbcc.wa.gov](http://www.sbcc.wa.gov)

## STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 24-03

**CODE:** 2021 Washington State Energy Code  
**SECTION:** R402.2.1 Insulation in ceilings with attic spaces

**QUESTION:** Does this section imply that, like a wall system, we are referencing the R-value of the “cavity” insulation? Or to better explain, an R-49 roof is really an R-42 with the compressed edge insulation. If the answer is yes, what is the minimum edge insulation?

**ANSWER:** **No. This section reflects the two typical ceiling types. An advanced-framed ceiling will allow for full depth, uncompressed insulation to extend over the top plate line of the exterior wall. Standard framing will have insulation that tapers and is compressed at the edges where it approaches the top plate. It would not be compressed throughout the attic space. There is no minimum requirement at the tapered edge, but it should fill the space below the baffle.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** City of West Richland

