



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 24-12

CODE: 2021 International Mechanical Code

SECTION: Chapter 15, Application of ASHRAE addenda

BACKGROUND: IMC requires compliance with IMC Chapter 11 and ASHRAE 15. 2021 IMC references ASHRAE 15-2019 and ASHRAE 34-2019 in Chapter 15. ASHRAE 15-2019 has 21 approved addenda and ASHRAE 15-2022 has approximately 14 approved addenda and more in public review. ASHRAE 34-2019 has 31 approved addenda and ASHRAE 15-2022 has 29 approved addenda.

QUESTION 1: Is it acceptable to use the latest version of ASHRAE 15 and ASHRAE 34 with approved addenda?

ANSWER 1: **Yes. Both ASHRAE 15 and ASHRAE 34 are continuous maintenance standards that include the latest development of safety standards for refrigeration systems and designation and safety classification of refrigerants. The latest versions of these standards are needed to properly design, manufacture and install refrigeration systems that are being designed to comply with the latest ASHRAE standards. Proposed addenda that are in public review are not recommended to be used until issued by ASHRAE.**

QUESTION 2: In the case of a conflict between the IMC and the ASHRAE standards does the IMC take precedence?

ANSWER 2: **Yes. In accordance with ASHRAE 15-2022 and clarifications in ASHRAE Addendum f, the local code takes precedence over the ASHRAE standard in the case of conflicts. Local jurisdictions have the ability to approve code alternatives in accordance with IMC Section 105.2.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Bellevue