



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

### Washington State Energy Code Development Standard Energy Code Proposal Form

Log No. 24-GP1-152 V2

Received 5/2/25

Code being amended: ☒ Commercial Provisions ☐ Residential Provisions

Code Section # **C202**

Brief Description:

The terms “change of use” and “change of occupancy” are often used interchangeably when describing an alteration. However, there are distinct differences in the definition of these terms and associated requirements in the WSEC. The scope of a change of use is narrower than a change of occupancy. This proposal provides a definition for change of use to clarify the intent of this term.

Proposed code change text: (Copy the existing text from the Integrated Draft, linked above, and then use underline for new text and ~~strikeout~~ for text to be deleted.)

**CHANGE OF USE.** The usage of a building or portion of a building is changed from one space or building area type to another space or building area type within the same general use category and occupancy classification. Space types and building area types are defined in Tables C405.4.2 (1) and (2). A change of space use is not a *change of occupancy*.

**CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY.** A change in the use of a building or a portion of a building that results in any of the following:

- A change ~~of~~ from one occupancy classification to another as defined in the International Building Code.
- A change from one group to another group within an occupancy classification.
- ~~((Any change in use within a group for which there is a change in the application of the requirements of this code.))~~

Purpose of code change:

**Provide a definition that clearly differentiates between a change in use and change of occupancy alteration.**

- ☐ Addresses a critical life/safety need.
- ☒ The amendment clarifies the intent or application of the code.
- ☒ Addresses a specific state policy or statute.  
(Note that energy conservation is a state policy)
- ☐ Consistency with state or federal regulations.
- ☐ Addresses a unique character of the state.
- ☐ Corrects errors and omissions.

☐ Single family/duplex/townhome
 ☒ Multi-family 4 + stories
 ☒ Institutional

☒ Multi-family 1 – 3 stories
 ☒ Commercial / Retail
 ☐ Industrial

## Economic Impact Data Sheet

Briefly summarize your proposal's primary economic impacts and benefits to building owners, tenants, and businesses. If you answered "No" above, explain your reasoning.

Provide your best estimate of the **construction cost** (or cost savings) of your code change proposal? (See OFM Life Cycle Cost [Analysis tool](#) and [Instructions](#); use these [Inputs](#). [Webinars on the tool can be found \[Here\]\(#\) and \[Here\]\(#\)](#))

Show calculations here, and list sources for costs/savings, or attach backup data pages

Click here to enter text.KWH/ square foot (or) Click here to enter text.KBTU/ square foot

(For residential projects, also provide [Click here to enter text.](#)KWH/KBTU / dwelling unit)

Show calculations here, and list sources for energy savings estimates, or attach backup data pages

List any **code enforcement** time for additional plan review or inspections that your proposal will require, in hours per permit application:

**May reduce project review time by providing better clarity about what requirements require plan review and inspection.**

***Small Business Impact.*** Describe economic impacts to small businesses:

**No change.**

***Housing Affordability.*** Describe economic impacts on housing affordability:

**No change.**

***Other.*** Describe other qualitative cost and benefits to owners, to occupants, to the public, to the environment, and to other stakeholders that have not yet been discussed:

**NA**

**Instructions:** Send this form as an email attachment, along with any other documentation available, to:  
[sbcc@des.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@des.wa.gov). For further information, call the State Building Code Council at 360-407-9255.

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