

## STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION 25-May02

**CODE:** 2021 WSEC-R / 2021 IBC

**SECTION:** WSEC R402, Building Thermal Envelope  
WSEC R201.3, Terms Defined in Other Codes  
IBC 202, Definitions

**QUESTION:** The use of alternative building options has increased, such as stress skin panels and berm housing. The main issue is how you determine which sections of these structures are required to meet which assembly requirements? There is no clear guidance in the code beyond the definition of vertical versus non vertical glazing.

**ANSWER:** The IBC defines an exterior wall as having a slope 60 degrees or greater from horizontal. WSEC Section R201.3 states that terms that are not defined within the WSEC but are defined in other codes shall have the meaning ascribed to them in those codes. Thus, the definition of a wall is equivalent to that of the definition of vertical glazing. If the slope is greater than 60 degrees, it is a wall assembly. If it is less than 60 degrees, it is a roof/ceiling assembly.

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** City of West Richland