

## STATE OF WASHINGTON

## STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 06-01

**CODE:** 2003 Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code

2003 International Building Code 2003 International Residential Code

**SECTION:** VIAQ Section 502.1.2

IBC Section 1203.3.2 IRC Section 408.2

**QUESTION:** The Ventilation and Air Quality Code requires that a radon vent be installed

when crawlspace ventilation is provided at less than 1 square foot per 300 square feet of crawlspace area, or if the vents are equipped with operable louvers. Both the IRC and the IBC allow the use of continuous mechanical ventilation in lieu of crawlspace vents. Would a mechanical ventilation

system satisfy the requirements of the VIAQ?

**ANSWER:** Yes, as long as the fan does operate continuously and the vent exhausts

independently of any other mechanical systems. The intent is that the

crawlspace be ventilated to prevent the buildup of radon gas, and to prevent

the radon gas from entering into the living space. If the mechanical

ventilation system communicates with the whole house ventilation system, there could be contamination issues. There could also be a potential problem if the crawlspace ventilation system is capable of being shut off, allowing

the gas to accumulate and penetrate into the living space.

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** Mason County