

STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

Department of General Administration

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 11-18

CODE: 2009 IFC

SECTION: Chapter 45, Marinas

QUESTION: 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) Section 4502.1 includes non-

transportation vessels such as boathouses and houseboats in the definition

of "Vessel." Based upon this definition, would it be appropriate to

consider boathouses as structures regulated by the International Building

Code?

ANSWER: No. Local jurisdictions may choose to adopt ordinances requiring

compliance with provisions of the IBC for construction of houseboats or

boathouses.

Chapter 45/Marinas was added to the IFC as a new chapter in 2009 due to a history of very hazardous marina fires. The intent is to enhance fire safety through standpipe requirements, water supply, and other fire protection

methods.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Bellingham