

Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 13-16

CODE: 2012 Washington State Energy Code, Commercial

SECTION: C402.4.7 Vestibules

QUESTION: In regards to vestibules, is it permissible to have both the interior and

exterior doors open at the same time upon activation of a manual power assist actuator? The language in the energy code seems rather ambiguous, stating that it is "not necessary" to have the two doors open. If four doors are provided in total at the vestibule must each leaf open with its own operator, or must there be four total operators and

have each door open separately.

ANSWER: The code would prohibit the use of an actuator to open both the

interior and exterior doors, which would make it necessary to open both doors at the same time. In addition, it is required by the building code that anyone passing through the vestibule have

access to an actuator to get them through the doorway.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Shoreline