

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

**15-092**

# State Building Code to be Amended:

## International Building Code State Energy Code

ICC ANSI A117.1 Accessibility Code International Mechanical Code International Existing Building Code International Fuel Gas Code International Residential Code NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code

International Fire Code NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

Uniform Plumbing Code Wildland Urban Interface Code

**Section(s):** 2015 IBC 915.2.3, 2015 IFC 915.2.3

## (e.g.: Section: R403.2)

**Title:** Carbon Monoxide Detection, Group E occupancies

## (e.g: Footings for wood foundations)

1. **Proponent Name (Specific local government, organization or individual): Proponent:** Puget Sound School Coalition

# Title:

**Date:** February 27, 2015

1. **Designated Contact Person: Name:** Ash Miller

**Title:** Puget Sound School Coalition

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February 27, 2015

## **Proposed Code Amendment**. Reproduce the section to be amended by underlining all added language, striking through all deleted language. Insert new sections in the appropriate place in the code in order to continue the established numbering system of the code. If more than one section is proposed for amendment or more than one page is needed for reproducing the affected section of the code additional pages may be attached. (Examples on the SBCC [website](https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=191))

**Code(s)** 2015 IBC, 2015 IFC

**Section(s)** 2015 IBC 915.2.3, 2015 IFC 915.2.3

## Enforceable code language must be used; see an example [by clicking here.](https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/SBCC/File.ashx?cid=1803) Amend section to read as follows:

**2015 IBC 915.2.3 Group E occupancies**. When required by Section 915.1 in new buildings, or by Chapter 11 of the International Fire Code, c~~C~~arbon monoxide detection shall be installed in classrooms in Group E occupancies. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel.

**Exceptions**:

1. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall not be required to be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel in Group E occupancies with an occupant load of 50~~30~~ or less.
2. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall not be required to be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel in Group E occupancies where an exception contained in Section 915.1 applies, or in Group E occupancies where signals are transmitted to an off-site service monitored by a third party, such as a service that monitors fire protection systems in the building.

**2015 IFC 915.2.3 Group E occupancies**. When required by Section 915.1 in new buildings, or by Chapter 11 of the International Fire Code, c~~C~~arbon monoxide detection shall be installed in classrooms in Group E occupancies. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel.

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2. Carbon monoxide alarm signals shall not be required to be automatically transmitted to an on-site location that is staffed by school personnel in Group E occupancies where an exception contained in Section 915.1 applies, or in Group E occupancies where signals are transmitted to an off-site service monitored by a third party, such as a service that monitors fire protection systems in the building.
3. **Briefly explain your proposed amendment, including the purpose, benefits and problems addressed.** Specifically note any impacts or benefits to business, and specify construction types, industries and services that would be affected. Finally, please note any potential impact on enforcement such as special reporting requirements or additional inspections required.

The proposed amendment has two purposes. First, it would create consistency with other provisions of the IFC for E occupancies on the question of occupant loads to which exceptions apply. In other areas of fire protection, such as automatic sprinklers and emergency/voice alarm communication systems, exceptions apply to Group E occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or less. WAC 51-54A-0903 (IFC Section 903.2.3), WAC 51-54A-0907 (IFC Section 907.2.3). These occupant load figures were proposed to acknowledge double portable use in E occupancies. The International Code Council’s 2015 IFC also proposes to adopt a 50 occupant load exception threshold for emergency voice alarm systems. 2015 IFC 907.2.3. The proposed amendment would render carbon monoxide requirements consistent with these fire protection provisions in the IFC and create a consistent code-based occupant level for exceptions in E occupancies.

The second purpose of the proposed amendment is to promote consistent application of carbon monoxide detection requirements in E occupancies by clarifying the relationship of 2015 IFC 915.1 and 915.2. The proposed language would reinforce that 915.1 contains the operative language requiring carbon monoxide detectors in E occupancies under certain defined circumstances.

The benefit of the proposed amendment is to allow Washington State school districts to plan, design and develop Group E occupancies without potential inconsistencies in fire protection requirements for portables, and without potential uncertainty that may result from local jurisdictions’ interpretations of the relationship between 2015 IFC

915.1 and 915.2.

1. **Specify what criteria this proposal meets.** You may select more than one. The amendment is needed to address a critical life/safety need.

## The amendment is needed to address a specific state policy or statute.

The amendment is needed for consistency with state or federal regulations. The amendment is needed to address a unique character of the state.

The amendment corrects errors and omissions.

1. **Is there an economic impact:** Yes No Explain:

The proposed amendment would promote consistent code-based occupancy thresholds for fire and carbon monoxide protection systems as applied to portables. Consistency would promote efficient and cost-effective planning, design, budgeting, and construction of these facilities, and is intended to facilitate efficient enforcement, operation and maintenance. Because the proposed amendment would define the carbon monoxide exception threshold at the same level as other fire protection systems (such as automatic sprinklers and emergency voice/alarm systems), levels of occupant protection would remain consistent across the code for these occupancies.

Clarifying the relationship between 2015 IFC 915.1 and 915.2 would promote a uniform application of existing code requirements state-wide, thereby avoiding the potential for varying interpretations by individual jurisdictions and reducing associated uncertainty and costs that may arise from inconsistent interpretations. The proposed amendment would also encourage efficient enforcement, operation and maintenance, by facilitating uniform practices in compliance with code.

## If there is an economic impact, use the Table below to estimate the costs and savings of the proposal on construction practices, users and/or the public, the enforcement community, and operation and maintenance. If preferred, you may submit an alternate cost benefit analysis.

Please see analysis and discussion of anticipated economic impacts provided above.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Building Type | Construction[1](#_bookmark0) | | Enforcement[2](#_bookmark1) | | Operations & Maintenance[3](#_bookmark2) | |
| Costs | Benefits[4](#_bookmark3) | Costs | Benefits4 | Costs | Benefits4 |
| Residential |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single family |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Multi-family |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial/Retail |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Industrial |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Institutional |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Please send your completed proposal to: [sbcc@ga.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@ga.wa.gov)

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

1 $ / square foot of floor area or other cost. Attach data. **Construction** costs are costs prior to occupancy, and include both design and direct construction costs that impact the total cost of the construction to the owner/consumer.

2 Cost per project plan. Attach data. **Enforcement** costs include governmental review of plans, field inspection, and other action required for enforcement.

3 Cost to building owner/tenants over the life of the project.

4 Measurable benefit.