



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 21-11

CODE: 2018 International Residential Code

SECTION: R408.2, Openings for under-floor ventilation
R332.1, Protection against radon
Appendix F, Radon control methods

QUESTION 1: IRC Section R408.2 states in the exception that if the crawlspace ventilation is less than 1:300, or if operable louvers are installed, then a radon vent shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of Appendix F. IRC Section R332.1 and AF101.1 state that the radon control provisions of Appendix F apply to high radon potential counties (Zone 1) of Table AF101 and to all buildings constructed using the provisions of Section R408.3. Should Sections R332.1 and AF101.1 also reference the exception in Section R408.2?

ANSWER: **Yes. The original proposal to amend Section R408 in 2009 only included amendments to Section R408.3. The proposal was later amended to also include the exception to Section R408.2; however, the language to Section R332 and Appendix F was not modified to reflect that change as they should have been.**

QUESTION 2: If the answer to Question 1 is “Yes,” is there room for less stringent requirements in low radon potential counties (Zone 3), such as SBCC Interpretation #06-01 if it still applies?

ANSWER: **Interpretation No. 06-01 was issued before the requirements discussed in this Opinion were adopted. As the requirements of the section have changed, the published interpretation would not be applicable to the 2018 code. Code alternates to provide equivalent safety and effectiveness can be approved at the discretion of the building department on a case by case basis.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Kitsap County