



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION 21-12

- CODE:** 2018 International Building Code
2018 International Fire Code
- SECTION:** Chapter 2 Definitions / [SBCC Opinion #08-09](#)
- ORIGINAL EMAIL:** I'm aware of the Nightclub interpretation the SBCC performed in 2008 specifically [Interpretation # 08-09](#). But is the SBCC still firm on their stance? Recently I have found in my jurisdiction that advertising "Karaoke" is a way around the sprinkler requirements set forth in the code.
- QUESTION 1:** Does the State consider Karaoke as a form of live entertainment?
- ANSWER:** *The state does not have any formal interpretation of Karaoke. The local jurisdiction or Code Official would interpret live entertainment.*
- QUESTION 2:** Does the State consider Karaoke as a form of live entertainment regardless of the Max occupancy?
- ANSWER:** *The state code does not define this. The local jurisdiction or Code Official approves occupancy and use during the plan review and permitting process.*
- QUESTION 3:** Does the State consider a DJ as live entertainment triggering the Sprinkler requirement?
- ANSWER:** *The state does not have any authority over enforcement. Interpretations/requirements not defined in the code would be up to the local jurisdiction or Code Official.*
- QUESTION 4:** Regarding "primary use", If a restaurant or tavern with unfixed tables and chairs 8+/- hours a day has a DJ or Karaoke for the last 2+/- hours of the day with a "viewing" area greater than 350sqf trigger the Sprinkler requirements?
- ANSWER:** *This would be defined by the local jurisdiction or Code Official. Viewing area is not defined in the definitions of the model code.*
- QUESTION 5:** Who has the Final say determining if Karaoke is live entertainment and requires Fire Sprinklers?
- ANSWER:** *The local jurisdiction or Code Official.*
- SUPERSEDES:** None
- REQUESTED BY:** Troy Hendren, Pasco Washington