

WAC 51-11R-50100 Section R501—General.

R501.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall control the alteration, repair, addition and change of occupancy of existing buildings and structures.

R501.1.1 General. Except as specified in this chapter, this code shall not be used to require the removal, alteration, or abandonment of, nor prevent the continued use and maintenance of, an existing building or building system lawfully in existence at the time of adoption of this code. Unaltered portions of the existing building or building supply system shall not be required to comply with this code.

R501.1.2 Thermostats for accessory dwelling units. Where a separate *dwelling unit*, that provides independent facilities for living, sleeping, cooking, bathing and sanitation, is established within or attached to an existing *dwelling unit*, the heating and cooling for the newly-created *dwelling unit* shall be controllable with a separate programmable thermostat in accordance with Section R403.1.1.

R501.2 Compliance. *Additions, alterations, repairs* or changes of occupancy to, or relocation of, an existing building, building system or portion thereof shall comply with Sections R502, R503, R504 or R505, respectively, in this code. Changes where unconditioned space is changed to *conditioned space* shall comply with Section R502.

R501.3 Maintenance. Buildings and structures, and parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. Devices and systems that are required by this code shall be maintained in conformance with the code edition under which installed. The owner or the owner's authorized agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings and structures. The requirements of this chapter shall not provide the basis for removal or abrogation of energy conservation, fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures.

R501.4 Compliance. *Alterations, repairs, additions* and changes of occupancy to, or relocation of, existing buildings and structures shall comply with the provisions for *alterations, repairs, additions* and changes of occupancy or relocation, respectively, in this code and the *International Residential Code, International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, International Fire Code, International Fuel Gas Code, International Mechanical Code, Uniform Plumbing Code, International Property Maintenance Code*, and NFPA 70.

R501.5 New and replacement materials. Except as otherwise required or permitted by this code, materials permitted by the applicable code for new construction shall be used. Like materials shall be permitted for *repairs*, provided hazards to life, health or property are not created. Hazardous materials shall not be used where the code for new construction would not permit their use in buildings of similar occupancy, purpose and location.

R501.6 Historic buildings. The *code official* may modify the specific requirements of this code for *historic buildings* and require alternative provisions which will result in a reasonable degree of energy efficiency. This modification may be allowed for those buildings or structures that are listed in the state or national register of historic places; designated as a historic property under local or state designation law or survey; certified as a contributing resource with a national register listed or locally designated historic district; or

with an opinion or certification that the property is eligible to be listed on the national or state register of historic places either individually or as a contributing building to a historic district by the state historic preservation officer or the keeper of the *National Register of Historic Places*.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.045, 19.27A.160, and chapter 19.27A RCW. WSR 24-03-084, § 51-11R-50100, filed 1/16/24, effective 3/15/24; WSR 23-02-060, 23-12-102, and 23-20-022, § 51-11R-50100, filed 1/3/23, 6/7/23, and 9/25/23, effective 3/15/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27A.045 and chapter 19.27A RCW. WSR 20-21-081, § 51-11R-50100, filed 10/19/20, effective 2/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.045, 19.27A.160 and chapter 19.27 RCW. WSR 20-01-047, § 51-11R-50100, filed 12/9/19, effective 7/1/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.045, 19.27A.160, and 19.27.074. WSR 16-02-127, § 51-11R-50100, filed 1/6/16, effective 7/1/16.]