



Snohomish County
Planning and Development
Services

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ONLINE INFORMATION
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Assistance Bulletin

Code Interpretations

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WWW.SNOCO.ORG

Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

Q: What is a code interpretation?

A: A code interpretation authorized by [Chapter 30.83](#) SCC is a decision by the County made to clarify ambiguous provisions of the development code applied to a specific project, determine nonconforming rights, determine whether a use is allowed in a particular zone, and interpret the meaning of terms. Code interpretations described in this bulletin exclude those for the construction and fire codes in Subtitle 30.5 SCC.

Q: Who can request a code interpretation?

A: Any interested person may request a general code interpretation. Only an applicant for a project may request an interpretation relating to a specific project. A request for a code interpretation should explain why the interpretation is necessary and provide reasons in support of a particular interpretation of the code.

Q: What form is used to submit an interpretation request?

A: No specific form is used. The request must simply be made in writing, and it can be submitted in letter form (with attachments, if necessary). SCC 30.83.020(2) describes the minimum submittal requirements that are further outlined within the [code interpretation submittal checklist](#).

Q: Where do I submit a request for a code interpretation?

A: A request for code interpretation should be submitted online at MyBuildingPermit.com. For information on using our online permitting system, please see the following web page: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3920/Online-Permitting>. If you need additional assistance with the online process, please call our office at 425-388-3311.

When applying on MyBuildingPermit.com, please use the following path:

Application Type:	Land Use
Project Type:	Any Project Type
Activity Type:	New Development Activity

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

Q: How is a code interpretation processed?

A: Code interpretations are processed as a Type 1 decision. The review process for a Type 1 request includes a public notice and comment period. The decision may be appealed to the Office of Hearings Administration using the provisions for appeals in Chapter 30.71 SCC.

Q: Who prepares a code interpretation decision?

A: The decision is rendered by the director of PDS or Department of Public Works, depending on which provision of Title 30 SCC is in need of interpretation.

Q: Can a code interpretation decision be appealed?

A: Yes. The decision can be appealed to the Office of Hearings Administration, and the Hearing Examiner will consider the appeal in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 30.71](#) SCC.

Q: Can I request a code interpretation that relates to a pending development permit application?

A: Yes, but only if you are the applicant for the permit application. Persons other than the applicant may submit comments as a party of record for the code interpretation or pending development application, challenge the department's interpretation of a code provision at the public hearing for the underlying development application, or appeal an administrative permit issued by the department where a code interpretation is an issue. The County will suspend the processing of a permit application for a code interpretation only at the request of the permit applicant.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions?

A: Please contact PDS before you submit a code interpretation application via [MyBuildingPermit.com](#). PDS can be reached:

Online: [Ask A Permit Tech](#)

Telephone: 425-388-3311

Visit us at: 2nd Floor, Administration East, Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett
