

WSR 21-22-002

EMERGENCY RULES

BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

[Filed October 20, 2021, 3:06 p.m., effective October 20, 2021, 3:06 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: To modify requirements in WAC 51-11R-40310 to temporarily rescind the prohibition for gas fireplaces with continuously burning pilot lights.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 51-11R-40310.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 19.27A.045.

Other Authority: RCW 19.27A.020.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The state building code council was notified by the industry that because of the current global microchip shortage, they are not able to meet this new requirement in the energy code. After the initial 120 emergency rule, the industry was still unable to supply the required controls and asked that the council enter into rule making to allow a year extension before the requirements become effective. On September 28, 2021, the state building code council began the permanent rule-making process for the effective date extension. See WSR 21-20-057. The emergency rule is being extended until the adoption of this permanent rule.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: October 20, 2021.

Andrew S. Klein  
Council Chair

**OTS-3164.1**

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-01-047, filed 12/9/19, effective 7/1/20)

**WAC 51-11R-40310 Section R403.1—Controls.**

**R403.1 Controls.** At least one thermostat shall be provided for each separate heating and cooling system.

**R403.1.1 Programmable or connected thermostat.** Where the primary heating system is a forced-air furnace, at least one thermostat per dwelling unit shall be Energy Star certified and capable of controlling the heating and cooling system on a daily schedule to maintain different temperature set points at different times of the day. The thermostat shall allow for, at a minimum, a 5-2 programmable schedule (weekdays/weekends) and be capable of providing at least two programmable set-back/setup periods per day. This thermostat shall include the capability to set back, set up or temporarily operate the system to maintain zone temperatures down to 55°F (13°C) or up to 85°F (29°C). The thermostat shall initially be programmed by the manufacturer with a heating temperature set point no higher than 70°F (21°C) and a cooling temperature set point no lower than 78°F (26°C). The thermostat and/or control system shall have an adjustable deadband of not less than 10°F.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Systems controlled by an occupant sensor that is capable of shutting the system off when no occupant is sensed for a period of up to 30 minutes.
2. Systems controlled solely by a manually operated timer capable of operating the system for no more than two hours.
3. Ductless mini-split heat pump systems that have an integral proprietary thermostat.

**R403.1.2 Heat pump supplementary heat.** Unitary air cooled heat pumps shall include controls that minimize supplemental heat usage during start-up, set-up, and defrost conditions. These controls shall anticipate need for heat and use compression heating as the first stage of heat. Controls shall indicate when supplemental heating is being used through visual means (e.g., LED indicators). Heat pumps equipped with supplementary heaters shall be installed with controls that prevent supplemental heater operation above 40°F. At final inspection the auxiliary heat lock out control shall be set to 35°F or less.

**R403.1.3 Continuously burning pilot lights.** The natural gas systems and equipment listed below are not permitted to be equipped with continuously burning pilot lights.

1. Fan-type central furnaces.
2. Household cooking appliances.

EXCEPTION: Household cooking appliances without electrical supply voltage connections and in which each pilot light consumes less than 150 Btu/hr.

3. Pool heaters.
4. Spa heaters.
- (~~5. Fireplaces.~~)

EXCEPTION: ~~Any fireplace with on-demand, intermittent or interrupted ignition (as defined in ANSI Z21.20) is not considered continuous.)~~

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.045, 19.27A.160 and chapter 19.27 RCW. WSR 20-01-047, § 51-11R-40310, 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-40310, filed 1/6/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27A.020, 19.27A.045 and chapters 19.27 and 34.05 RCW. WSR 13-04-055, § 51-11R-40310, filed 2/1/13, effective 7/1/13.]