



San Juan County
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POLICIES/PROCEDURES/INTERPRETATIONS

**Application of Current Code Allowances to Structures Permitted
Under Previous Codes**

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ISSUE: The current codes contain several alternate materials, design and methods of construction, or less restrictive requirements not specifically addressed in the code under which a permit was reviewed and permitted. Such provisions include, but are not limited to, portal wall frame design and occupancy separation requirements. May such code allowances be retroactively applied to permits covered under previous codes during the review, inspection and approval process?

ANALYSIS: The newly adopted codes are the successor codes to the previous codes. They have gone through a governmental consensus review and adoption process. They have also gone through the Washington State Building Code Council amendment process and been adopted by the State Legislature.

The new codes reflect the currently accepted best practices needed to “provide the minimum requirements necessary to safeguard the public safety, health and general welfare.” Where specific standalone provisions of a new code provide for alternate materials, design and methods of construction, or contain less restrictive requirements, than what was required in the previous code it makes no sense to prohibit the application of such provision to permits issued under the previous codes.

POLICY: Where specific standalone provisions of a new code provide for alternate materials, design and methods of construction, or contain less restrictive requirements, these code allowances shall be allowed to be applied to permits issued under previous codes.