

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 13-Dec01

CODE: 2012 Washington State Energy Code, Commercial

SECTION: C402.4.7 Vestibules

QUESTION: In regards to vestibules, is it permissible to have both the interior and exterior doors open at the same time upon activation of a manual power assist actuator? The language in the energy code seems rather ambiguous, stating that it is “not necessary” to have the two doors open. If four doors are provided in total at the vestibule must each leaf open with its own operator, or must there be four total operators and have each door open separately.

ANSWER: **The code would not prohibit the use of an actuator to open both the interior and exterior doors. However, since the doors must also be furnished with automatic door closers, the doors would need to be designed to allow enough time for someone to enter into, cross and exit from the vestibule without being trapped in the space. A single button actuator may not be the best design to achieve this goal.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Shoreline