



KitsapCounty

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Director's Administrative Interpretation

Subject of Interpretation

Definitions of "Research Laboratory" and "Warehousing and Distribution".

Zoning Ordinance Section Number

KCC 17.110.658 "Research Laboratory"
KCC 17.110.743 "Warehousing and Distribution"

Cause for Interpretation

The definitions of "Research Laboratory" and "Warehousing and Distribution" were written prior to recent emerging technologies. A formal interpretation will clarify these definitions to ensure the original intent is met.

Interpretation

A research laboratory must involve ongoing on-site research, investigation, testing, or experimentation conducted by researchers, scientists, technicians, engineers, or similar personnel. This distinguishes research laboratories from facilities primarily used for equipment operation, utility services, storage, warehousing, or other non-research functions. The warehousing and distribution definition emphasizes storage and movement of tangible goods as the principal activity and therefore excludes uses that do not maintain a substantial physical inventory.

The changes described above are necessary to clarify, distinguish, emphasize, and ensure the intent and purpose of the uses of research laboratories and warehousing are met.

Code Change Considerations

A code update is anticipated for Q3 of 2026.

Director Authority



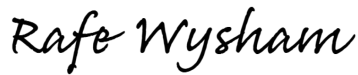
Pursuant to KCC 21.04.040, the DCD Director has the authority to make formal determinations and may respond to formal inquiries regarding code provisions. The interpretation shall be in writing and will be made available by the department pursuant to this section. Formal director's interpretations are binding and may be appealed. A fee for a formal interpretation shall be assessed at the hourly rate of the department and the prosecutor's office.



6-29-26

Author of the Interpretation, Scott Diener,
Planning Manager, DCD

Date



7/2/2026

Rafe Wysham, Director, DCD

Date

Notice, Appeal and Record of Interpretation

In accordance with KCC 21.04.040(C)(3) and (4), this decision is subject to notice to the public and is appealable, and the decision shall be retained by DCD and considered at the next reasonable opportunity for changes to Kitsap County Code. The decision shall be maintained on the DCD website at Director Code Interpretations and Determinations, Code Interpretations and Determinations.