



SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3

Fire Prevention Division

**OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION**

**TITLE / SUBJECT: HIGH-PILED STORAGE**

CODE: International Fire Code (IFC), 2006 Edition  
Authority: IFC 104.1  
Date: April 15, 2008

Fire Code Official Signature

#### Background:

Section 2302 defines a high-piled storage area as an area within a building which is designated, intended, proposed or actually used for high-piled combustible storage. This definition does not adequately give guidance to circumstances where there may be multiple different places within a building where single row racks are installed, nor does it declare whether or not aisles are included as part of the high-piled storage area.

This becomes important when applying the 500 square feet threshold specified for permit purposes in §105.6.22.

#### Interpretation:

- In the City of Monroe, the high-piled storage area shall include all of the following:
  - the definition as stated in §2302
  - the aggregate area as defined in §2306.3.2.1 of:
    - racking that allows for storage over 12 feet in height
    - required flue spaces
    - required aisles as specified in §2306.9

#### Net Effect:

This interpretation provides guidance of when an Operational Permit for High-Piled Storage is required by §105.6.22. Essentially, if the aggregate floor area of the racking, including required aisles and flue spaces exceeds 500sf, then an Operational Permit is required.