



City of Bainbridge Island  
Planning & Community Development  
Building Division  
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**BUILDING DEPARTMENT POLICY  
INSULATION INSPECTION SELF-CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**APPROVED BY:** Building Official

Revised Date:  
Effective Date: 12-5-2013

**Prepared by: Trish Bennon**

**Background:**

The International Residential Code requires foundation, plumbing, mechanical, gas, electrical, floodplain, framing and final inspections. It allows the Building Official the freedom to “make or require any other inspections to ascertain compliance with [the] code and other laws enforced by the Building Official.” (IRC R109.1.5)

In addition, the Washington State Energy Code requires that “The building official, upon notification, shall make a wall insulation inspection in addition to those inspections required in Section R109 of the International Residential Code.” (WSEC R104.2.1) It further states that the code official “is authorized to accept reports of approved inspection agencies, provided such agencies satisfy the requirements as to qualifications and reliability.” (WSEC R104.5)

**Purpose:**

In order to alleviate constraints which prevent the timely inspection and facilitate construction in the jurisdiction, a waiver program has been implemented which allows current registered and licensed contractors to self-certify the insulation stage of a residential project.

**Authority:**

IRC Section R109.1.5

**Policy:**

Single family residential projects may utilize the insulation waiver certificate program provided:

1. The project has a general contractor listed and is currently registered and licensed in the State of Washington.
2. The property owner has given authorization for the general contractor to self-certify the insulation work done.

**Additional Information:**

The general contractor shall inspect the work upon completion, complete the self-certification form and provide to the city inspector at final inspection. If it becomes apparent that a general contractor is not appropriately utilizing the self-certification program, they will no longer be allowed to participate and must call for insulation inspections as part of the normal inspection procedure.

James R. Weaver,  
City Building Official