



# MASON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Building, Planning, Environmental Health, Community Health

## Cargo Shipping Containers

Cargo containers, also known as intermodal freight containers, are standardized, reusable portable vessels that were originally designed for use in intercontinental traffic of freight and designed to be mounted on a rail car, truck or ship. When such containers are used as a building or structure, they are subject to the provisions of the building code as adopted and modified by Mason County.

Accordingly, a building permit is required when a cargo container is modified or altered beyond its manufactured specifications. The site and building construction plans shall be adequate to demonstrate compliance with zoning, building, and fire regulatory standards. Structural calculations are required for altered or structurally connected containers. As with other prefabricated structures such as portables or manufactured homes, building code approval of cargo containers may be obtained through the Washington State's Factory Built Structure Agency in addition to the county.

### Exemptions:

- Buildings or structures used for the storage of belongings, not designed for human habitation, and not used for remunerative purposes. These structures shall not be a place of human habitation or a place of employment, nor shall it be a place used by the public. Storage buildings shall be exempt when less than 576 square feet, and
- The property owner must obtain an Affidavit of Exemption and certify through the use of an affidavit recorded on title in accordance with Mason County Code [14.08.031](#).
- Units 200 square feet or less do not require an Affidavit of Exemption.

### Exempt structures as noted above shall:

- Comply with all other building and planning site requirements as determined appropriate,
- Meet required setbacks and fire code access,
- Be separated by at least 10' from all other buildings or structures,
- Be non-heated with no plumbing.

### Code References:

- 2015 Internal Building Code Sect. 105.1- Permit Required
- Mason County Code Sect. 14.08.031 - Work Exempt from Permit



**Public Health**  
**(Community Health/ Environmental Health)**  
415 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Shelton, WA 98584  
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Belfair: 360-275-4467, Ext. 400  
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**Community Development**  
**(Permit Assistance Center/ Building/ Planning)**  
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