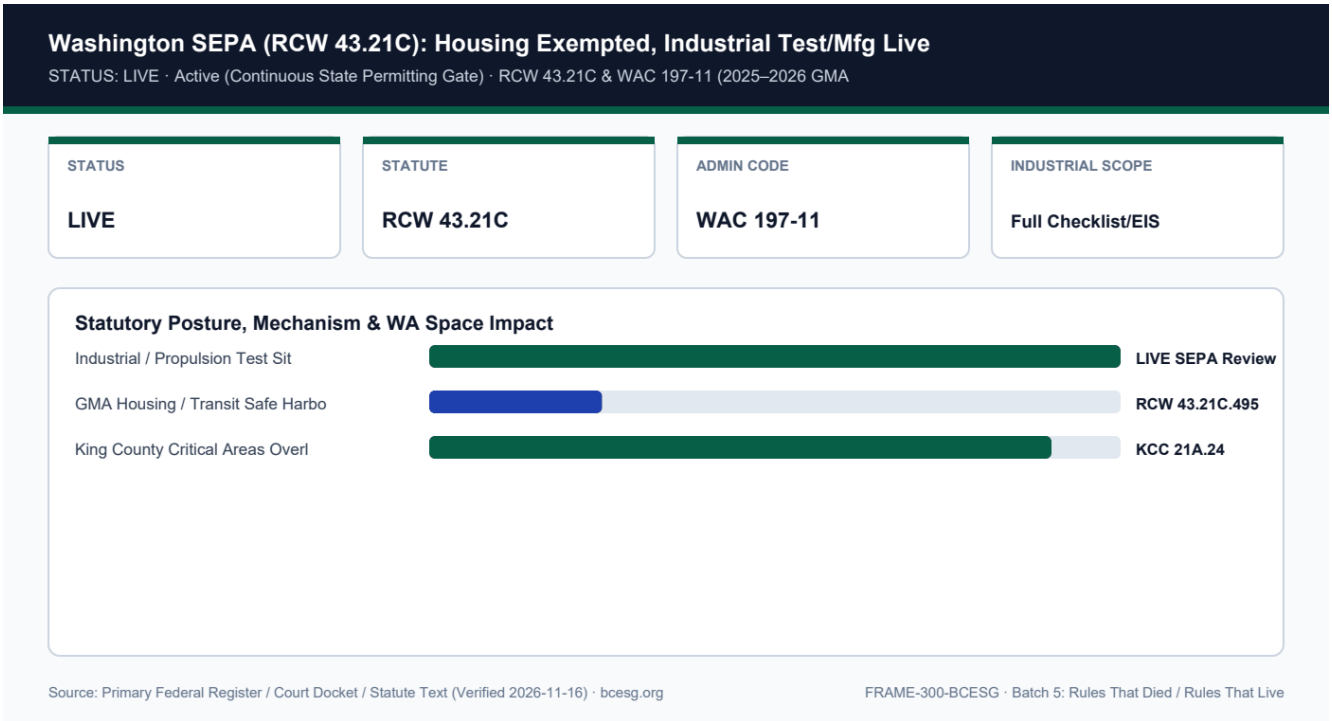
BC ESG · RULES THAT DIED / RULES THAT LIVE · STATUS: LIVE

Washington SEPA (RCW 43.21C / WAC 197-11): LIVE — Active State Environmental Gate for Industrial Siting

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Rule: Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, RCW 43.21C & WAC 197-11) | **Status:** LIVE | **Instrument:** RCW 43.21C & WAC 197-11 (2025–2026 GMA Safe Harbors Narrowed to Housing/Transit) | **Date:** Active (Continuous State Permitting Gate)

Verdict & Proof: Washington SEPA (RCW 43.21C) is LIVE for aerospace manufacturing, propulsion test stands, and industrial expansions. While 2025–2026 legislative safe harbors (RCW 43.21C.495 / .229) shielded qualifying housing and transit projects from SEPA appeals, industrial space facilities still require SEPA checklists, DNS/MDNS, or EIS review.



SEPA Document	Trigger	Status
SEPA Environmental Checklist	Non-exempt industrial/land-use permit	LIVE — Required at application
DNS / MDNS	No significant adverse impact (with/without mitigation)	LIVE — Subject to comment/appeal
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Probable significant adverse impact	LIVE — Full study required

Who Owes What by When: Triggered at Local Permit Application

Whenever a Washington space company applies for a non-exempt grading permit, conditional use permit, shoreline permit, or major industrial building permit in Kent, Tukwila, Redmond, Bothell, Marysville, or Moses Lake, the lead local agency conducts a SEPA threshold determination under RCW 43.21C and WAC 197-11.

Recent statutory appeal safe harbors (RCW 43.21C.495 and 43.21C.229) apply to urban housing, middle housing, and transit-oriented development—not to rocket test stands, chemical storage, or heavy manufacturing.

NEPA vs. SEPA

SEPA is a state-law gate independent of federal NEPA; streamlining federal NEPA for FAA launch licenses does not waive SEPA for Washington ground facilities.

Verified Primary Sources & Internal Bridges

- WA Dept. of Ecology: SEPA Environmental Review: https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review
- RCW 43.21C (Washington Legislature): https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21C