BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0031	**INTERPRETATION**	**Page 1 of 1**
Interpretation Date:	May 20, 2008	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Lintels for Openings in Flat Insulating Concrete Form Walls	
Keywords:	Lintels, Insulating Concrete Form Walls, Registered Professional	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.15.4.5.(4), 9.20.17.3., 9.20.17.4.	

Question:

Is a registered professional (RP) required to provide design and field review for a lintel over an opening in a flat insulating concrete form wall when the span of the lintel exceeds 900 mm and the building is located in a jurisdiction that has a ground snow load that exceeds 3.33 kN/sq.m.?

Interpretation:

Scenario 1 - No – if the lintel is located within a non-loadbearing wall.

Sentence 9.15.4.5.(4) requires that reinforcing around openings in flat insulating concrete form walls be designed to either Sentence 9.20.17.4.(3) for non-loading bearing walls or 9.20.17.4.(4) for load bearing walls.

Sentence 9.20.17.4.(3) provides prescriptive requirements of the reinforcement of openings in non-load bearing walls. A *registered professional* is not required to interpret these prescriptive requirements.

Scenario 2 - No – if the lintel does not support any roof load.

Sentence 9.20.17.4.(4) requires that lintels over openings in load bearing walls be designed to the requirements of Tables A-17, A-18 or A-19 on pages 542 to 544 of Appendix A.

If a lintel supports only floor loads and does not support any roof load (e.g. it is located within a gable end wall), then Tables A-17, A-18 or A-19 can be used without the need for a registered professional. Since these Tables do not have criteria for a lintel that only supports a floor load, it is recommended to use the Column in the Table entitled "Supporting ICF Second Storey and Light-Frame Roof" using 1.5 kN/sq.m. for the Ground Snow Load.

Scenario 3 - Yes – if the lintel supports a roof load.

Tables A-17, A-18 and A-19 are limited to ground snow loads of not more than 3.33 kN/sq.m.

If the lintel supports a roof in a jurisdiction where the ground snow load exceeds 3.33 kN/sq.m. then the lintel is a structural component beyond the scope of Part 9 and must be designed to Part 4.

Division C - Clause 2.2.7.1.(1)(b) requires that structural components within Part 9 buildings that fall within the scope of Part 4 must be designed by an RP and the RP must submit Schedule B1 & B2 to the AHJ prior to issuance of the building permit. This Clause also requires that the RP provide field review and submit a Schedule C-B to the AHJ prior to issuance of the occupancy permit or final inspection by the AHJ.

R. J. Light, Committee Chair