


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 12-0006

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	February 19, 2013
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Smoke alarms locations within dwelling unit
Keywords:	Smoke alarms, storeys, split level, sleeping rooms, living areas
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.19.3.(1)
Question:	<p>Subclause 9.10.19.3.(1)(b)(i) requires that smoke alarms be installed in every sleeping room within a dwelling unit. However the Division B Appendix 9.10.19.3.(1) commentary has no mention at all of this requirement. Is this consistent with Subclause 9.10.19.3.(1)(b)(i)?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Subclause 9.10.19.3.(1)(b)(i) is the acceptable solution reference requiring that smoke alarms be installed in every sleeping room within a dwelling unit.</p> <p>The Division B Appendix 9.10.19.3.(1) commentary discusses only the smoke alarm location aspects outside of the sleeping room, as addressed in clause 9.10.19.3.(1)(a) and Subclause 9.10.19.3.(1)(b)(ii); and only clarifies the smoke alarm location criteria for the "living areas" that constitute the storeys of the dwelling unit. The commentary uses the example of split level configurations.</p> <p>This Appendix commentary does not discuss the interpretation of Subclause 9.10.19.3.(1)(b)(i) requiring the smoke alarms within the sleeping rooms, as the code reference is deemed to be sufficiently clear for that requirement.</p>
	<p> R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	