

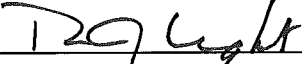
# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0109

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	May 15, 2012
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Exposure protection of exit walkways
Keywords:	Exposure, protection, exit walkways, exit facilities
Building Code Reference(s):	1.4.1.2. (definition of exit), 3.2.3.13., 3.4.4.1.(1)
<b>Question:</b>	<p>Does the BC Building Code address <i>exit</i> exposure protection of exterior walkways with a slope of less than 5% (1 in 20) that lead from a ground level exterior <i>exit</i> door to public thoroughfare or an exterior open space?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>Exit exposure protection is not addressed, but fire separation of exits is addressed:</p> <p>Article 1.4.1.2. defines an <i>exit</i> as part of a <i>means of egress</i>, including doorways, that leads from the <i>floor area</i> it serves, to a separate <i>building</i>, an open public thoroughfare, or an exterior open space protected from fire exposure from the <i>building</i> and having access to an open public thoroughfare.</p> <p>This definition includes the exterior walkway from a ground level exterior <i>exit</i> door to a public thoroughfare.</p> <p>Article 3.2.3.13. addresses <i>exit</i> exposure protection of the following <i>exit</i> facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• exterior walls of <i>exit</i> enclosures (when walls intersect at an angle of less than 135°),</li><li>• exterior <i>exit</i> doors (when an adjacent wall or unprotected opening intersects at an angle of less than 135°),</li><li>• unenclosed exterior <i>exit</i> stairs, and</li><li>• exterior <i>exit</i> ramps</li></ul> <p>Article 3.2.3.13. does not address exit exposure protection of an exterior exit walkway from a ground level exterior exit door to a public thoroughfare.</p> <p>Sentence 3.4.4.1.(1) requires that every <i>exit</i> be separated from the remainder of the building with a <i>fire separation</i> with a <i>fire-resistance rating</i>. Since the exterior exit walkway that leads from an exterior exit door to a public thoroughfare is considered to be part of the <i>exit</i>, the requirements of Sentence 3.4.4.1.(1) apply.</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>	
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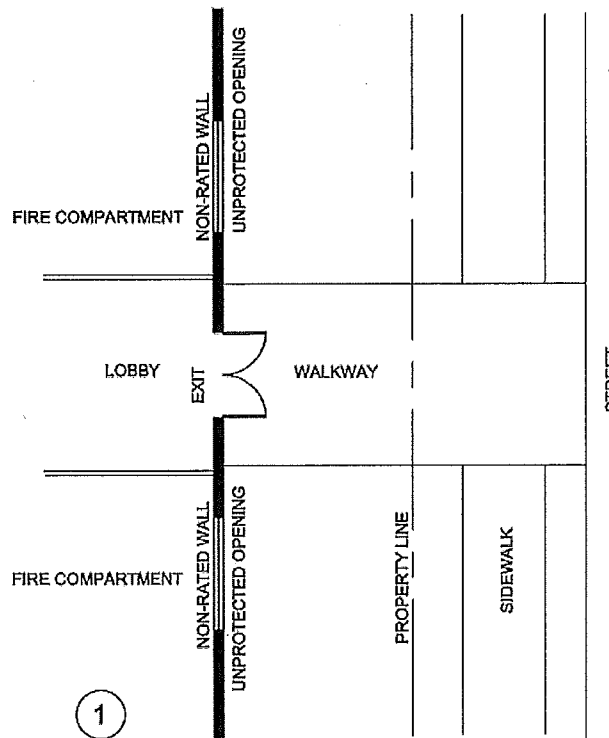
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The following illustrations clarify when the *fire separation* requirements of Sentence 3.4.4.1.(1) would apply to an exterior exit walkway.

The general principle is that if an occupant who exits from a *building* can travel in 2 opposite directions along the exterior *exit* walkway to reach a public thoroughfare, then the *fire separation* requirements of Sentence 3.4.4.1.(1) do not apply – refer to diagrams 1 & 2.

On the other hand, if an occupant who exits the building is forced to walk by an exterior wall of a separate fire compartment, then such exterior wall must be designed as a *fire separation* with the same *fire-resistance rating* as required by Sentence 3.4.4.1.(1). – refer to diagram 3.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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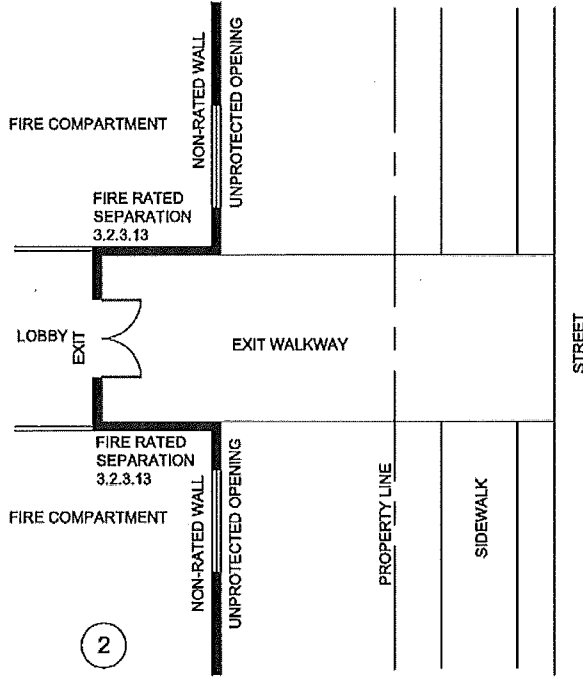
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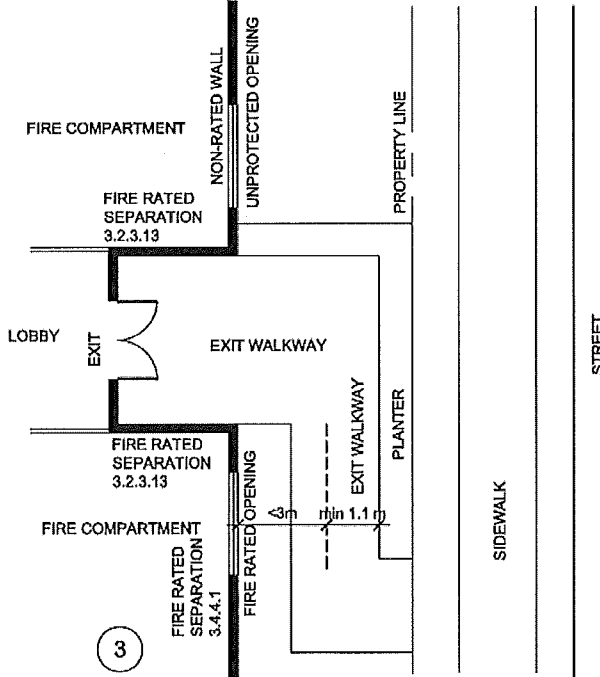
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*R. J. Light*  
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