


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0002

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	February 26, 2013
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Travel Distances in Storage Garages
Keywords:	Travel distance, storage garage
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.5.7., 3.4.2.4., 3.4.6.7., 3.8.3.3.
Question:	What is the appropriate method for measuring travel distances in an underground storage garage?
Interpretation:	<p>Since there are many variations in designs of storage garages, the most appropriate method for measuring travel distances for a particular design is left to the discretion of the <i>registered professional</i> in consultation with the <i>authority having jurisdiction</i>.</p> <p>The following design criteria can be used as a basis for measuring travel distances in underground storage garages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. As described in Sentence 3.4.2.4.(1), travel distance in an underground storage garage is measured from the most remote location in the floor area to the nearest <i>exit</i> door that leads directly to an <i>exit</i> stair.2. The travel distance is measured along the path of travel that an occupant would use to reach the <i>exit</i> stair door, assuming that all of the parking stalls are occupied with vehicles.3. Other than the egress path from an occupant's own vehicle, or between tandem parking stalls, the path of travel cannot traverse between 2 parked vehicles, unless there is an 1100 mm wide dedicated pedestrian walkway between such vehicles. This pedestrian walkway should be delineated to indicate the dedicated pedestrian walkway (refer to Labels B and E on the drawing on Page 3).4. If the <i>exit</i> stair has a vestibule as required by Article 3.3.5.7., the travel distance is measured to the <i>exit</i> stair door rather than to the vestibule entrance door (refer to Labels C & D on the drawing on Page 3). If the vestibule is mechanically pressurized under fire alarm conditions, and there are no other rooms opening onto the vestibule, it may be appropriate to measure travel distance to the vestibule entry door rather than the <i>exit</i> stair door (refer to Labels A & B on the drawing on Page 3). This should be reviewed with the <i>authority having jurisdiction</i>. <p> R. J. Light, Committee Chair</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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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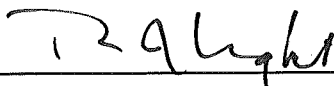
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5. As permitted by Sentence 3.4.2.4.(2), travel distance can be measured from a *suite* or room entry door, rather than from the most remote location within the *suite* or room, when the *suite* or room is separated from the remainder of the floor area with a fire separation having a fire resistance rating of not less than 45 minutes, AND the egress door from the suite or room opens onto an exterior passageway or a corridor that is separate from the remainder of the floor area.
6. Travel distance from rooms that open directly into the storage garage, such as service rooms or storage rooms, must be measured from the most remote location within the room to the nearest exit stair door along the path of travel used by an occupant. As noted in Item 5 above, the travel distance cannot be measured to the room entry door (refer to Label A on the drawing on Page 3).
7. If the internal layout of a room is fixed at the time of the design (e.g. an emergency generator room), the travel distance can be measured along the pedestrian walkway between the contents within the room.
8. If the internal layout of the room is not fixed or known at the time of the design, the travel distance is measured from the most remote corner of the room using 90° corners for the path of travel (i.e. you cannot travel diagonally across a room since it could be filled with furnishings or equipment – refer to Label A on the drawing on Page 3).
9. Travel distance within the storage garage itself can be measured diagonally across drive aisles because it is reasonable to assume that there will not be any contents within drive aisles which could obstruct the path of travel (refer to Labels B & C on the drawing on Page 3).
10. Drive aisles can be used as a means of egress, without any increase in the drive aisle width, provided that the ramp slopes do not exceed those described in Article 3.4.6.7.
11. It should be noted that if a floor area in a storage garage contains parking stalls for persons with disabilities, the slope of the drive aisle in the accessible path of travel cannot exceed 5% when no handrails are provided. If the drive aisle slope exceeds 5%, then dedicated accessible ramps are required in accordance with Article 3.8.3.3.



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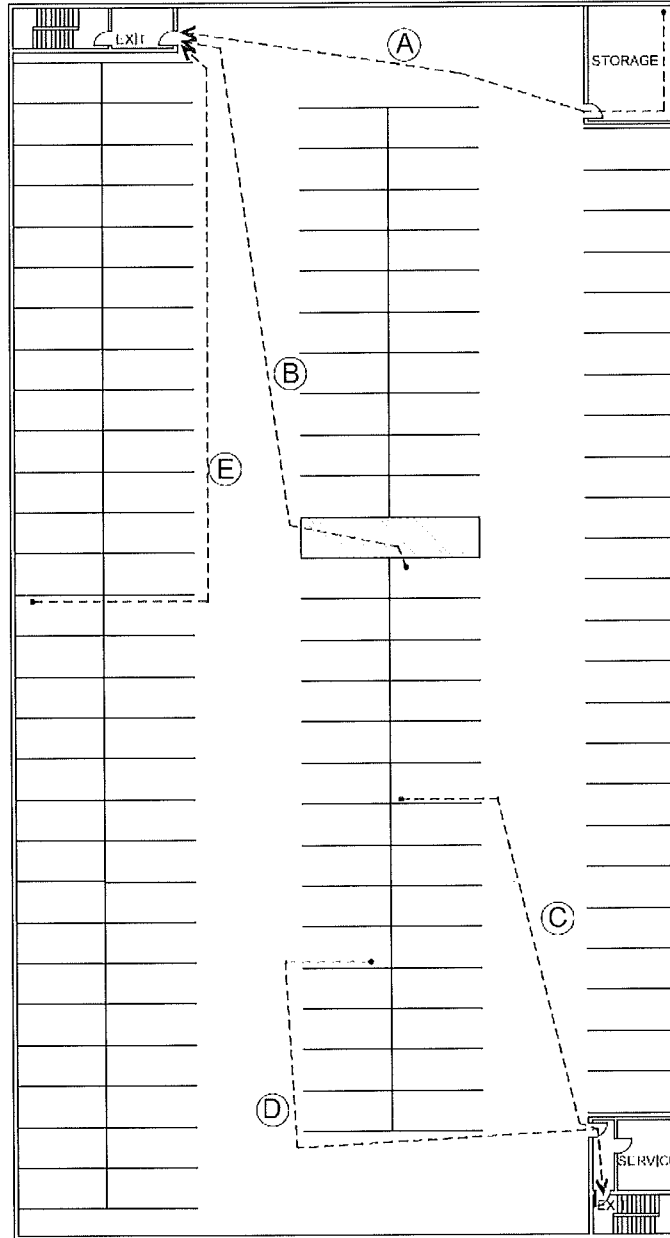
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