

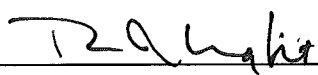
BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0021

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2014
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Graspability of Handrails
Keywords:	Handrails, Ergonomic Design
Building Code Reference(s):	3.4.6.5.(3); 9.8.7.5.(2); A-9.8.7.5.(2)
Question:	<p>Is a handrail with a cross section of 140 mm x 38 mm an acceptable profile to satisfy graspability requirements of Sentences 3.4.6.5.(3) & 9.8.7.5.(2)?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>No.</p> <p>Sentence 3.4.6.5.(3) and 9.8.7.5.(2) and Table A-9.8.7.5.(2) in Appendix A describe the ergonomic requirements for the design of the handrail profile with provision of examples of acceptable shapes. It also notes that "Acceptable handrail sections include, but are not limited to, those shown...". It implies that the main objective is to provide profile that is "graspable" and allows the fingers to wrap around the profile to increase holding grip and not relying only on friction and strength of the grip.</p> <p>The Appendix A clarification leaves open the detailed design options to the designers and AHJ, but requires that the design provides wrapping a handrail with the hand and fingers in order to increase the holding function for people with limited strengths. Profiles that allow wrapping the fingers around due to their size and shape are acceptable and the profiles that rely on "pinch" grip are unacceptable.</p> <p>Note, that Part 3 Sentence 3.4.6.5.(3) requirements are more stringent.</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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