

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0040

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 16, 2014
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Spatial separation for C-shaped buildings
Keywords:	Spatial separation, limiting distance, C-shaped buildings
Building Code Reference(s):	Div A - 1.4.1.2.(1) (def'n of limiting distance), 3.2.3.14.

Question:

This project is a C-shaped building that is divided into separate fire compartments. Are 2 separate fire compartments that face one another in this C-shaped building subject to spatial separation requirements of Subsection 3.2.3.

Interpretation:

Yes, with exceptions

The exposing building faces of 2 separate fire compartments that are located within the same building are subject to the requirements of Article 3.2.3.14.

If the building is not sprinklered throughout, spatial separation requirements described in Sentences 3.2.3.14.(1) & (2) apply, and the distance "D₀" is measured between the exterior building faces of the 2 separate fire compartments as shown in Figure A-3.2.3.14.(1)-B of Division B - Appendix A.

If the building is sprinklered throughout, Sentence 3.2.3.14.(3) permits unlimited unprotected openings in the exposing building faces in both fire compartments that face one another.

The requirements of Article 3.2.3.1. do not apply to the exposing building faces of 2 separate fire compartments that are located within the same building.


R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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