

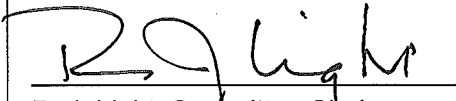
BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0037

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2014
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Unsprinklered electrical room in an interstitial service space not considered a storey
Keywords:	Unsprinklered electrical room, interstitial service space
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.1.1.(8), 3.2.5.12.(1), NFPA 13 – 8.15.10.3
Question:	<p>Service spaces permitting entry for the purposes of maintenance and other operations relating to building services, are permitted to not be considered a storey if such space conforms to a series of fire and life safety measures, which also includes those covered by Article 3.2.5.14. This Article requires automatic sprinkler protection if the floor is other than catwalks. Can the provisions of NFPA 13 – 8.15.10.3 be then used to waive the automatic sprinklers inside an electrical room occupying partially or wholly the interstitial service space?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Interstitial service spaces designed to 3.2.1.1.(8) are required to be sprinklered to 3.2.5.12.(1), 3.2.5.14, and NFPA 13. However NFPA 13 – 8.15.10.3 allows sprinklers to be omitted from electrical equipment rooms subject to certain conditions:</p> <p>“8.15.10.3 Sprinklers shall not be required in electrical equipment rooms where all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) The room is dedicated to electrical equipment only.(2) Only dry-type electrical equipment is used.(3) Equipment is installed in a 2-hour fire-rated enclosure including protection for penetrations.(4) No combustible storage is permitted to be stored in the room.” <p>If all the above protection conditions are met, compliance with NFPA 13 would be achieved and the space would be deemed to be protected under NFPA 13. Note that this approach differs however, for example from that in Sentence 3.2.5.12.(6) for rooms or spaces immediately below a roof, where sprinklers are required notwithstanding any exemptions in the referenced sprinkler standards.</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>	