

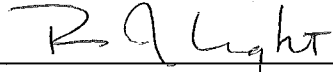
BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0032

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2014 (Updated March 17, 2015)
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Noncombustible Building: Combustible Exit Stair Treads Finish Flooring
Keywords:	Flame-spread rating, combustibile flooring in exits
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.5.8.(4), 3.1.13.2., 3.1.13.7., 3.1.13.8.(1)(b)
Question:	<p>Is it permitted to have noncombustible exit stair treads with combustibile finish flooring in a building that is sprinklered throughout and that is required to be of noncombustibile construction?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes (with conditions)</p> <p>Noncombustibile stair treads with combustibile finished flooring are permitted in a noncombustibile building that is sprinklered throughout, provided that the building is not classified as a high building that contains a Group B major occupancy.</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.5.8.(4) permits combustibile finished flooring in a building required to be of noncombustibile construction.</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.13.2.(1) and Table 3.1.13.2. restricts the flame-spread rating to a maximum of 25 for wall and ceiling surfaces within an exit, regardless of the building being sprinklered or unsprinklered. Sentence 3.1.13.2.(1) and Table 3.1.13.2. does not limit the flame-spread rating of floor finishes within exits.</p> <p>Clause 3.1.13.8.(1)(b) requires that the flame-spread rating for wall and ceiling finishes within exits maintain the maximum 25 flame-spread rating when the surface finish is cut in any direction with a knife. Again this requirement does not apply to floor finishes within exits.</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.13.7.(1) and Table 3.1.13.7. have additional requirements for flame-spread ratings and smoke development classifications for high buildings, including floor finishes, although Sentence 3.1.13.7.(2) waives these requirements when the building is sprinklered. This waiver does not apply to high buildings that contain a Group B major occupancy or for elevator cars within a high building.</p> <p>Although the 2012 BCBC requires all high buildings to be sprinklered, there are many existing high buildings that are unsprinklered. Existing unsprinklered high buildings would be subject to the additional requirements of Sentence 3.1.13.7.(1) and Table 3.1.13.7., so noncombustibile stair treads with combustibile finished flooring would not be permitted in such buildings.</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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