

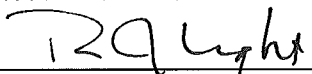
BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0038

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	April 21, 2015
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Elevator car minimum inside dimensions
Keywords:	Elevator car, minimum inside dimensions, patient stretcher
Building Code Reference(s):	3.8.3.10, 3.5.4.1.(1)
Question:	<p>Article 3.8.3.10 provides 4 different options for connecting floors or levels at different elevations, to facilitate access for persons with disabilities. Limited-Use / Limited-Application (LULA) elevators are one such available option under Clauses 3.8.3.10.(1)(b) & (d), and are designed and constructed to ASME A17.1/CSA-B44, "Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators"; but these do not fall under CAN/CSA-B355 "Lifts for Persons with Physical Disabilities" referenced in Clause 3.8.3.10.(1)(c). The LULA elevator is also acceptable under Clause 3.8.3.10.(1)(d) as another means acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.</p> <p>If a LULA classified elevator is the only elevator provided for a storey, must such an elevator also comply with Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1), which requires elevator car minimum inside dimensions to accommodate a patient stretcher in the prone position?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes; however further consideration is warranted for some situations as discussed below.</p> <p>The Elevating Devices Safety Regulation under the ASME A17.1/CSA-B44 standard Section 5.2 allows an elevator classified as a Limited-Use / Limited-Application (LULA) elevator to be used in buildings to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to different floor levels, consistent with Clauses 3.8.3.10.(1)(b) & (d). Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1) provides as an acceptable solution that if 1 or more elevators are provided in a building, all storeys must be served by at least 1 elevator that has inside dimensions that will accommodate and provide adequate access for a patient stretcher 2010 x 610mm held in the prone position. However a LULA elevator does not have the space requirements required under Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1) to accommodate a stretcher in the prone position.</p> <p>For smaller buildings or storeys and limited vertical rise conditions, designers have the option of choosing to specify a lift conforming to CAN/CSA-B355 "Lifts for Persons with Physical Disabilities". These would not be considered an "elevator" and would not be subject to Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1).</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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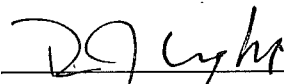
However designers often consider using LULA elevators as a superior option to this. These elevators are designed and constructed to ASME A17.1/CSA-B44, "Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators" and not to CAN/CSA-B355 "Lifts for Persons with Physical Disabilities", but have similarities with lifts under the latter standard. A LULA elevator is defined in ASME A17.1/CSA-B44 Section 1.3 as "a power passenger elevator in which the use and application is limited by size, capacity, speed, and rise", and limited by reference 5.2.1.16 to max 635kg capacity and 1.67m² area (typical dimensions are 1292 x 1292mm or 1065 x 1568mm); maximum vertical travel is 7.6m.

A LULA elevator is substantially similar to an enclosed platform lift conforming to CAN/CSA-B355, and is required by E-19 to meet E-1, and E-3 to E-17 of ASME A17.1/CSA-B44 Nonmandatory Appendix E "Elevator Requirements for Persons with Physical Disabilities in Jurisdictions Enforcing NBCC".

For smaller buildings and storeys, provided the vertical travel of the LULA elevator is limited to a maximum vertical travel of 7m, and if such an elevating device would be used specifically to facilitate access for persons with disabilities, sufficiently similar to a lift under CAN/CSA-B355; such an elevator could be considered to not require the dimensional clearances in Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1). Although the LULA device is defined as an elevator, it essentially functions as a lift for accommodating persons with disabilities, with a limited vertical rise.

Support for this approach is provided by Alberta's Standata Building Code Interpretation 06-BCI-028 of February 2010, and discussions with the BC Building and Safety Standards Branch. A proposed code change to clearly exempt LULA elevators from Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1) has been submitted to NRCC for consideration in the next edition of NBCC.

Where multiple elevators are provided for a building or storey, at least one of the elevators must conform to Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1), which requires elevator car minimum inside dimensions to accommodate a patient stretcher in the prone position.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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