

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0072

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	January 20, 2016
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Minimum width of interior doors within a dwelling unit
Keywords:	Door width, interior, dwelling unit, Part 3
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.23., 3.8.5.4., 9.5.5.1.

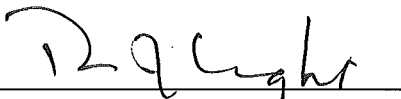
Question:

1. In a Part 3 building that contains multiple dwelling units, does the 750 mm minimum width described in Article 3.3.1.23. apply to the width of an interior door within a dwelling unit, where such a door forms part of the only means of egress from a room?
2. If the answer to Question 1 is "no", are there any prescriptive requirements for the minimum width of an interior door within a dwelling unit in a Part 3 building?

Interpretation:

1. No
Appendix note A-3.3.1.23.(1) includes some examples of "obstructions" such as posts, counters or turnstiles. Minimum door widths are addressed separately in the building code and vary, depending upon the use and location of the door.
2. No (except for Adaptable Suites)
Part 3 of the building code contains numerous requirements for minimum door widths for certain types of doors, but there are no specific requirements for interior doors within a dwelling unit in a Part 3 building.
 - 3.3.1.13.(1)(a) – an egress door from the suite to a public corridor requires a minimum clear opening width of 800 mm.
 - 3.3.3.4.(1) – an egress door from an individual suite of care occupancy to a public corridor requires a minimum clear width of 850 mm.
 - 3.3.3.4.(2) – a doorway in a care occupancy which is used to move patients in beds requires a minimum clear width of 1050 mm.
 - Table 3.4.3.2.A – an exit doorway requires a minimum 800 mm width.
 - Table 3.4.3.2.B – an exit doorway in a Group B Div 2 or and Group B Div 3 occupancy requirements a minimum width of 850 mm (or 1050 mm when moving patients in beds).
 - 3.8.5.4. – within adaptable suites – doorways providing access to common living areas and at least one bathroom and one bedroom to have a clear opening width of 800 mm.

Note that the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee has submitted a proposed change to the Building Safety and Standards Branch to provide a cross reference in Part 3 to Article 9.5.5.1. with respect to minimum widths of interior doors within a dwelling unit.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.