

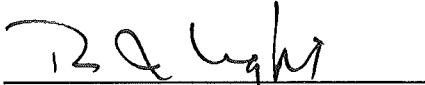
# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 12-0076**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	September 20, 2016
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Fire Alarm Zoning of Sprinkler Systems
Keywords:	Annunciator, Fire Alarm, Zone Indication, Waterflow
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.4.9, 3.2.4.16
<b>Questions:</b>	<p>Is the allowable area of a sprinkler zone on a storey governed by Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2) or by Sentence 3.2.4.16.(1)? For example, in a care or treatment occupancy, is the sprinkler system zone area limited to a maximum of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> in areas with patients' or residents' sleeping rooms or is it limited by the system area limit of NFPA 13 which is substantially larger?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>The allowable sprinkler zone area is determined in accordance with Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2). For the example of the fire compartment in a care or treatment occupancy, the sprinkler zone area must conform to the fire compartment area.</p> <p>Where a building requires a fire alarm annunciator, Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2) requires separate zone indication of the actuation of the alarm initiating devices, in the areas stated in Clauses a) through h) of that Sentence. Examples of areas that require separate zone annunciation include contained use areas, impeded egress zones, and fire compartments required by Sentence 3.3.3.5.(2) which are maximum 1000 m<sup>2</sup> compartments in areas of care or treatment occupancies with patients' or residents' sleeping rooms.</p> <p>Where an annunciator is required, Sentence 3.2.4.16.(1) requires that waterflow detecting devices be installed so that each device serves not more than one storey and an area on each storey that is not more than the system area limits as specified in NFPA 13.</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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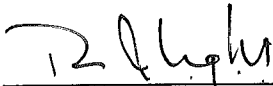
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There are no cross-references in the Building Code between Sentences 3.2.4.9.(2) and 3.2.4.16.(1) and therefore the application of these two Sentences together can be unclear. However, Appendix reference A-3.2.4.9.(2) states that the alarm initiating devices referred to in Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2) include fire detectors, waterflow switches, and manual stations. Since waterflow switches are included, the intent is that the sprinkler system must be zoned in accordance with Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2).

Note that, for sprinkler system zoning, the requirements of Sentence 3.2.4.9.(2) differ from those of Sentence 3.2.4.16.(1) only for the relatively small proportion of buildings that have contained use areas, or impeded egress zones, or fire compartments containing patients' or residents' sleeping room in care or treatment occupancies.

This interpretation is consistent with BC Building Code Appeal Board Ruling #1624.

The Interpretation Committee will be recommending a Building Code change to clarify the relationship in the Code between Sentences 3.2.4.9.(1) and 3.2.4.16.(1).



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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