


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 12-0084**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	October 18, 2016
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Dimensional requirements for service stairs
Keywords:	Service stairs, rise, run, dimensions
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.14.(1) & (2), 9.8.4.1., 9.8.4.2.
<b>Question:</b>	<p>Are there any dimensional requirements in the BC Building Code for the rise and run of service stairs in either Part 3 or Part 9 buildings?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>No</p> <p>Service stairs are defined as follows:</p> <p>For Part 3 Buildings - stairs that serve service rooms and service spaces, and within industrial occupancies, where such stairs are intended for occasional use for servicing equipment and machinery.</p> <p>For Part 9 Buildings - stairs that serve areas only used as service rooms and service spaces.</p> <p>For Part 3 buildings, Sentence 3.3.1.14.(2) specifically exempts service stairs from the rise and run requirements referenced in Sentence 3.3.1.14.(1).</p> <p>For Part 9 buildings, Articles 9.8.4.1. and 9.8.4.2. specifically exempts service stairs from the rise and run requirements of Table 9.8.4.1.</p> <p>Refer to Worksafe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation for the appropriate design requirements for stairs and ladders that lead to service rooms and service spaces.</p> <p>Refer to CAN/CSA-B44 for requirements for stairs serving elevator machine rooms and elevator shafts.</p> <p>Refer to the BC Gas Safety Regulation and CSA B149.1 for stairs leading to service rooms that contain gas appliances.</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>	