


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 06-0081**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	January 18, 2011
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Spatial separation between sprinklered houses
Keywords:	Spatial separation, area of glazed opening, sprinklers
Building Code Reference(s):	Subsection 9.10.15., Table 9.1.15.4.
<b>Question:</b>	<p>If the spatial separation requirements of a house (or similar dwelling unit that has no dwelling unit above another dwelling unit) are based on Subsection 9.10.15., can the area of glazed openings in exterior walls as indicated in Table 9.10.15.4. be doubled when the house is sprinklered?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>No</p> <p>Sentence 9.10.15.4.(1) provides 3 options for determining the area of glazed openings in an exposing building face of a house:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Conform to Table 9.10.15.4.,</li><li>b) Conform to Subsection 3.2.3., or</li><li>c) Be equal to or less than the limiting distance squared</li></ul> <p>If Options "a" or "c" are selected as the method for determining the area of glazed openings, Subsection 9.10.15. does not have any provision to double the area of glazed openings in an exterior wall when the house is sprinklered.</p> <p>If Option "b" is selected, the area of unprotected openings is effectively doubled when the building is sprinklered in accordance with Tables 3.2.3.1.C. or 3.2.3.1.D. It should be noted that if Option "b" is selected, the limiting distance is determined by Sentence 3.2.3.1.(4). For Option "b" irregularly shaped or skewed exterior walls cannot be evaluated using individual portions of the exterior wall as described in Subclause 9.10.15.2.(1)(b)(iii).</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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