


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0068

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	February 15, 2011
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Fire Separation between Public Corridors and low hazard services
Keywords:	Public Corridor, Service Rooms
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.4.(1) and (4)
Question:	<p>Is a fire separation with fire rated access doors required between the public corridor and low hazard services located within closets, such as electrical panels, electrical meters, communication equipment and wiring, plumbing shut-offs and valves?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Sentence 3.3.1.4.(1) requires a fire separation between a public corridor and the remaining floor area. The electrical closet is considered to be outside of the public corridor therefore it is a part of the remaining area.</p> <p>No</p> <p>For a sprinklered building no fire separation is required if the travel distance from any part of a floor area to an exit is not more than 45 m as waived per Sentence 3.3.1.4.(4). Refer also to BCBCIC Interpretation 06-0055.</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>	