

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**  
**AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

**File No: 06-0056**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: November 17, 2009

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2006

Subject: Intermediate landing included in maximum length of ramp

Keywords: Ramp, landing, maximum length

Building Code Reference(s): 3.8.3.3.(1)(e) & (f), Table 3.8.3.3

**Question:**

1. For a ramp designed for persons with disabilities, Clause 3.8.3.3.(1)(e) requires landings at maximum intervals and Clause 3.8.3.3.(1)(f) prescribes maximum lengths of ramps; per Table 3.8.3.3.

Is it intended that the maximum ramp length includes landings?

2. Where Table 3.8.3.3 does not specify maximum intervals between landings, does it mean that intermediate landings are not permitted?

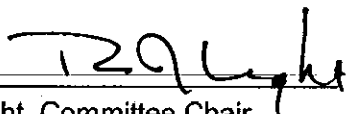
**Interpretation:**

1. Yes

The maximum length of ramp referred to in the 2<sup>nd</sup> column of Table 3.8.3.3 refers to the entire ramp system which includes the inclined surface of the ramp plus intermediate landings. Landings required at floor levels or at significant changes in direction are not considered part of the ramp system since these are transition areas where the user has left the ramp system to enter a floor level or to negotiate a significant directional change.

For ramps in the range of 1 in 20 to 1 in 12 slope, there is no limit on the length of the ramp, except that at every 12m or 9m, depending on the ramp slope, an intermediate landing of 1500mm minimum length is required.

For steeper ramps in the range of 1 in 12 to 1 in 8 slope, intermediate landings are not permitted and therefore not present in the ramp system, such that the maximum length prescribed is applied only to the inclined surface. It should be noted that for a ramp in the range of 1 in 12 to 1 in 10 slope, a 3m long inclined section plus intermediate landing plus another 3m long inclined section would be prohibited, even though it could be readily shown through an alternative solution that the design is ergonomically acceptable for persons with disabilities.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of 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.

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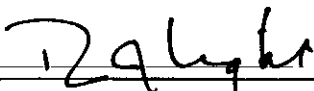
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2. Yes, correct

Where Table 3.8.3.3 does not specify maximum intervals between landings, it means intermediate landings are not permitted and therefore not applicable for the respective ramp slopes in the range of 1 in 12 to 1 in 8. As indicated on page 21 of the Building Access Handbook 2007 for example, it is not permissible to have a 1 in 10 ramp of 6m, a landing, and then another 1 in 10 or 1 in 11 ramp. For these situations, only termination landings at the top and bottom of the ramp (at floor levels), or at significant changes in ramp direction, are permitted per Clause 3.8.3.3.(1)(d).

Illustrations of the various ramp configurations permitted or prohibited as discussed above, are provided below:



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

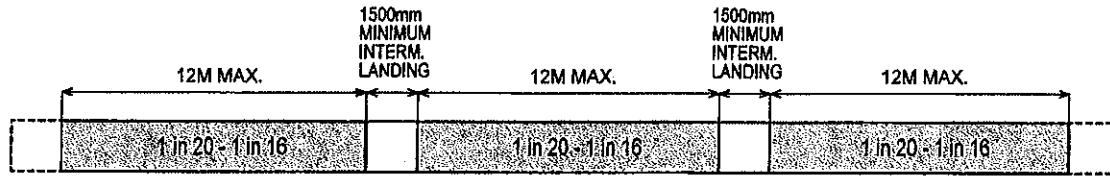
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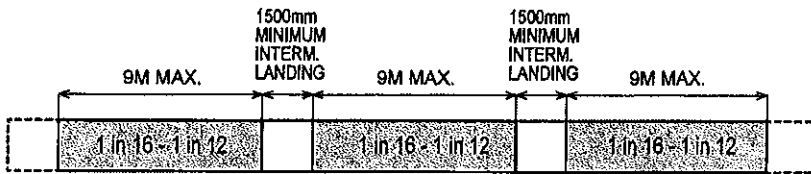
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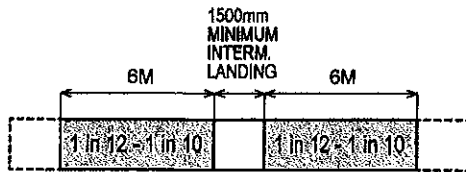
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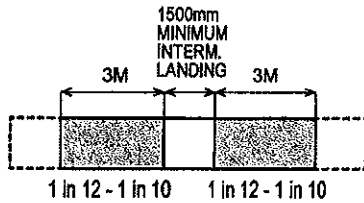
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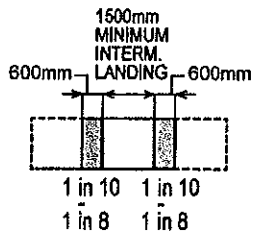
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✗

INDICATES 1500mm  
LONG LANDING AT  
FLOOR LEVEL OR  
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE  
OF DIRECTION

✓ INDICATES  
ACCEPTABLE

✗ INDICATES  
NOT ACCEPTABLE

*R. J. Light*

R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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