


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

<b>File No: 06-0040</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>Page 1 of 1</b>
Interpretation Date:	November 18, 2008	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Design to Prevent Climbing on Guards	
Keywords:	Guards, Climbing	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.8.8.3., 9.8.8.5., 9.8.8.6.(1) & (2)	
<b>Question:</b>		
<p>If the height of a guard is increased beyond the required height as prescribed in Article 9.8.8.3., can the zone of nonclimbability as prescribed in Sentence 9.8.8.6.(2) be raised to match the incremental increase in the guard height? (e.g. if the guard height is increased from 1070 mm to 1170 mm, can the zone of nonclimbability increase from 140/900 mm to 240/1000 mm?)</p>		
<b>Interpretation:</b>		
<p>Yes.</p> <p>Although the wording of Article 9.8.8.6. does not contemplate guards that are higher than that prescribed by Article 9.8.8.3., the objective of the nonclimbability zone is to prevent young children from climbing and falling over the guard.</p> <p>Article 9.8.8.6. permits a climbable member that is 140 mm high for a guard that is required to be either 900 mm or 1070 mm high. This would result in a pivot point on the body of a person who is climbing the guard at a height of 760 mm or 930 mm above the bottom of their feet.</p> <p>Article 9.8.8.6. acknowledges that a pivot point of 760 mm or 930 mm provides a reasonable level of safety against a young child falling over the guard.</p> <p>If the top of the guard is raised by 100 mm as described in the question, then it is reasonable to increase the height of the zone of nonclimbability by an equivalent 100 mm because the pivot point on the body will remain at either 760 mm or 930 mm as contemplated by Article 9.8.8.6.</p> <p>The risk of a young child falling over the 1170 mm high guard with a 240 mm high climbable member is identical to that of a 1070 mm high guard with a 140 mm high climbable member.</p> <p>It should be noted that the 100 mm maximum opening per Article 9.8.8.5. applies to the space below the 240 mm high climbable member, so measures are required to limit the opening size.</p>		
		
R. J. Light, Committee Chair		
<small>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.</small>		