

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

File No: 06-0043

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: February 17, 2009

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2006

Subject: Fire Separation of Service Room containing fire safety equipment

Keywords: Fire separation, service room

Building Code Reference(s): 3.6.2.1.(1) to 3.6.2.1.(8)

Question:

If service equipment, such as sprinkler valves and fire alarm components, are located in a service room within a sprinklered floor area, is a fire separation required for such a service room?

Interpretation:

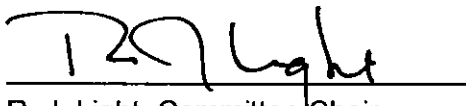
No.

Sentences 3.6.2.1.(1) to (6) determine when a service room is required and the required fire-resistance ratings of the fire separations for those service rooms based on the hazard presented by the equipment located therein and has no bearing on whether the floor area is sprinklered.

Sentence 3.6.2.1.(7) states that in a storey that is not sprinklered throughout a 1 h fire separation is required around a service room containing equipment other than that addressed by Sentences (1) to (6); however, Sentence 3.6.2.1.(8) waives the requirement for such a fire separation if the service room contains a limited quantity of service equipment, and the service equipment neither constitutes a fire hazard nor is essential to the operation of fire safety systems in the building. Both sentences only apply to service rooms in a storey that is not sprinklered throughout.

In a storey that is sprinklered throughout a service room containing equipment essential to the operation of fire safety systems in the building and such equipments are not listed in Sentences (1) to (6), no fire separation is required. If the fire safety equipments are those listed in Sentences (1) to (6), such as diesel emergency power generator and dielectric liquid-filled electrical equipment, a 1 h fire separation is required.

It is concluded that in a sprinklered floor area service room containing service equipment, such as sprinkler valves and fire alarm components, does not required a fire separation.



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.