

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

File No: 06-0045

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: April 21, 2008

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2006

Subject: Height of handrail at landing

Keywords: Handrail, landing, guard

Building Code Reference(s): 3.4.6.4.(3), (4), (5); 9.8.7.4.(3).

Question:

In accordance with Sentences 3.9.6.4.(5) and 9.8.7.2.(1) at least one handrail is required to be continuous.

Can the continuous handrail on the landing be installed at a different height than on the stair?

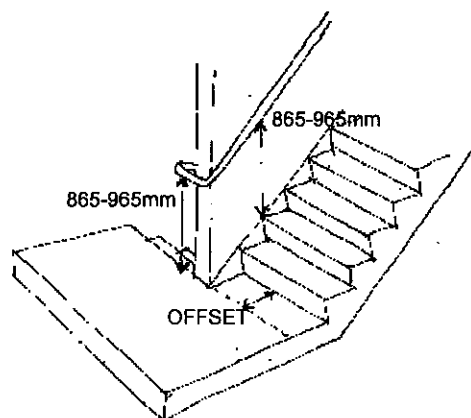
Interpretation:

Yes.

Part 3: Article 3.4.6.4. regulates the handrail requirements. The height of the handrail at the landing is not defined.

Part 9: Sentence 9.8.7.4.(3) allows the height of the handrail to increase to 1070 mm at the landing.

It is good design practice to avoid a vertical drop in the handrail. Offsetting the flight of stairs by one tread at the landing will allow for the smooth and leveled transition between the handrails (See diagram below). This treatment assures the most safe and comfortable position of the handrail.




R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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