

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

File No: 06-0046

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: January 20, 2009

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2006

Subject: Fire separation of roof-top mechanical enclosure

Keywords: Roof-top mechanical enclosure, fuel-fired appliance, floor assembly, fire separation

Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.1.1.(1), 3.2.2.14., 3.6.2.1.(1) & (10)

Question:

In a sprinklered building where the roof assembly does not require any fire resistance rating, is there any requirement for a fire separation at the floor assembly of a single level roof-top mechanical enclosure which contains fuel-fired equipment and is less than 200 sq.m. in area.

Interpretation:

No.

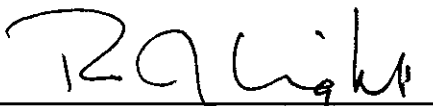
Sentence 3.2.1.1.(1) states that a roof-top mechanical enclosure need not be considered as a *storey* in calculating *building height*.

Sentence 3.2.2.14.(1) states that the type of construction (i.e. *combustible* or *noncombustible*) of a roof-top mechanical enclosure is determined by the relevant Articles 3.2.2.20 to 3.2.2.83.

Sentence 3.2.2.14.(2) states that a single level roof-top enclosure does not require any fire-resistance rating.

Sentence 3.6.2.1.(1) states that, except as permitted in Sentence (10), fuel-fired appliances must be installed in a *service room* that is separated from the remainder of the building with a fire separation with a 1 hour fire-resistance rating.

The exception in Sentence 3.6.2.1.(10) waives the requirement to install roof-top fuel-fired appliances in a service room, and also waives the requirement for any fire separation between the roof-top appliance at the building it serves. It is clear from this Sentence that open-air roof-top appliances do not require any fire separation to the building below. If the roof-top appliance is voluntarily installed within a roof-top mechanical enclosure, then the exception for any fire separation between this roof-top mechanical enclosure and the building below still applies.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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