

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0057

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: June 15, 2010

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2006

Subject: Dead end corridor within single tenure

Keywords: Dead end corridor, suite

Building Code Reference(s): 3.3.1.9.(7), 3.3.3.3.(1)

Question:

Does the 6 m dead end corridor limitation apply to a building under a single tenure, such as schools and hospitals?

Interpretation:

Yes.

Sentence 3.3.1.9.(7) limits the length of a dead end corridor to a maximum of 6 m except for a dead end corridor that is entirely within a suite or as permitted by Sentences 3.3.3.3.(1) and 3.3.4.4.(6).

A suite is defined as a single room or series of rooms of complementary use, operated under a single tenancy. However, Appendix A-1.4.1.2.(1) states that the term suite is not normally applied in the context of buildings such as schools and hospitals, even though the entire building is under a single tenure. Since schools and hospitals are not considered as a single suite the 6 m dead end corridor limitation will apply.

The exemption for 6 m dead end corridor within a suite was on the basis that the occupants are familiar with the suite arrangement and are expected to make appropriate decisions in an emergency. Public are allowed in schools and hospitals and they may not be familiar with the layout; therefore, the 6 m dead end corridor limitation shall apply.

However, in some instances a number of rooms within an area, such as administration offices, operating rooms, etc. where general access by the public is not permitted, can be considered as a suite and dead end corridors are permitted within those areas.

The other exception to the 6 m dead end corridor limitation is Sentence 3.3.3.3.(1). It further prohibits dead end corridor of any length that serves the public or patients' sleeping rooms in a care or detention occupancy unless the area served by the dead-end portion has a second and separate means of egress.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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