

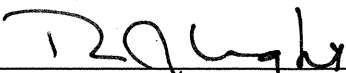
BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0078r

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 2

Interpretation Date:	February 15, 2011 (<i>Revised September 28, 2011</i>)
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Structural Loads on Exterior Glazing within Dwelling Units
Keywords:	Structural Loads, Guards, Exterior Glazing, Dwelling Units
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.18.(1)(c), 3.3.1.19.(6), 3.3.4.7.(1) , 4.1.5.15., 4.1.5.17.(1), 9.8.8.2.(4)
Question:	<p>In a Part 3 building, are exterior windows in non-public areas of residential and other occupancies required to be structurally designed to resist guard loading when the windows extend lower than 1000 mm above finished floor level and the floor level is more than 600 mm above adjacent ground level?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Clause 3.3.1.18.(1)(c) requires that a guard be provided whenever the difference in floor elevation exceeds 600 mm.</p> <p>Sentence 4.1.5.17.(1) requires that a wall act as a guard when the floor elevation on one side of the wall is more than 600 mm above the floor or ground elevation on the other side of the wall.</p> <p><i>If a window is located within a wall, the window is considered part of the wall.</i></p> <p>The required design load for this wall is either the guard loading described in Article 4.1.5.15. or 0.5 kPa, whichever produces the more critical effect. When an exterior wall contains windows that extend lower than 1000 mm above finished floor level, and such window is not protected by a guard, the window would be subject to these loads.</p> <p>Although Sentence 3.3.1.19.(6) only applies to windows in public areas that extend to less than 1000 mm above the floor level, Sentence 4.1.5.17.(1) applies to walls in both public and private areas.</p> <p> _____ R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing 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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	

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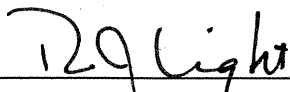
INTERPRETATION

Page 2 of 2

It should be noted that Sentence 3.3.4.7.(1) permits the design of stairs, handrails and guards "within" a dwelling unit to be designed to the requirements of Section 9.8. This relaxation applies only to guards "within" a dwelling unit where the potential fall is relatively small. This relaxation does not apply to exterior balcony guards or exterior windows where the fall could be multiple storeys.

Although Sentence 9.8.8.2.(4) applies to both guards "within" a dwelling unit as well as exterior guards serving not more than 2 dwelling units, the provisions of Sentence 9.8.8.2.(4) for exterior guards do not apply to Part 3 buildings, since Sentence 3.3.4.7.(1) restricts the use of Section 9.8 to guards "within" the dwelling unit.

It should be noted that the 2010 National Building Code has amended the wording of Article 3.3.4.7. to include exterior guards serving not more than 2 dwelling units, but until such time as this provision is adopted in the BC Building Code, this interpretation applies to the 2006 BC Building Code.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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