


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0058

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	November 16, 2010
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Exit Exposure Protection for Exterior Passageway
Keywords:	Exterior Exit Passageway, Accessibility, Exiting
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.15; 3.4.2.5; 3.4.4.3.(1); 3.8.3.19
Question:	<p>In a Part 3 sprinklered building containing Mercantile Occupancy (Group E) ground level CRU's are served by an exterior exit passageway 1 m above the ground with an open stair at each end. A single ramp located in the mid portion of the exit passageway provides access for persons with disabilities for these CRU's.</p> <p>Is the exterior exit passageway leading to the only access to egress for persons with disabilities required to have an exit exposure protected from the store fronts?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>No.</p> <p>Article 3.8.3.19 addresses egress from the floor area for persons with disabilities. It refers only to the buildings that are not sprinklered.</p> <p>Sprinklered buildings may require access for persons with disabilities but are not required to provide means of egress for persons with disabilities. It is considered that the sprinkler system will provide protection for the people with disabilities. Hence there is no requirement to provide exit exposure protection for the access ramp.</p> <p>The exterior exit passageway that complies with Sentence 3.4.4.3.(1) does not require ramps or refuge areas at the ends of the passageway. Article 3.4.4.3. waives the requirement for a fire separation between the building and exterior exit passageway.</p>
	 R. J. Light, Committee Chair
<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>	