BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0102 INTERPRETATION Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	November 22, 2011
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Combustible Refuse Storage, Soiled Linen Storage
Keywords:	Combustible, refuse, storage, soiled linen, linen chute
Building Code Reference(s):	3.6.2.5.(1), 3.6.3.3.(7)

Question:

Does Article 3.6.2.5. for combustible refuse storage apply to a room that is used to store soiled linen?

Interpretation:

No

Sentence 3.6.2.5.(1) requires that a room that is used for the storage of combustible refuse must be separated from the remainder of the building by a fire separation with a 1 hour fire resistance rating and must also be sprinklered.

Combustible refuse in this context means garbage and recycling materials.

Soiled linen is not considered to be combustible refuse.

It should be noted that if the linen storage room is a discharge location for a linen chute, then Sentence 3.6.3.3.(7) requires the room to be separated from the remainder of the building by a fire separation with a 1 hour fire resistance rating.

R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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