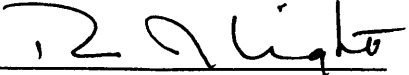


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>File No: 06-0002</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>Page 1 of 1</b>
Interpretation Date:	November 20, 2007	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Ramps and Stairways that do not serve as Exits	
Keywords:	Ramps, Stairways	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.14.(1); 3.4.6.1 to 3.4.6.8.; 3.8.3.11.	
<b>Question:</b>	<p>Are ramps and stairways that do not serve as exits required to conform to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Contrasting coloured stair nosings as per Clause 3.4.6.1.(1)(b),</li><li>2. Contrasting coloured strip at top and bottom of ramps as per Clause 3.4.6.1.(1)(b)</li><li>3. Closed stair risers as per Clause 3.4.6.7.(1)(c),</li><li>4. Tactile warning systems as per Article 3.8.3.11.?</li></ol>	
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>Sentence 3.3.1.14.(1) states that stairways that do not serve as exits need only comply with "dimensional, guard, handrail and slip resistance requirements" as described in Sentence 3.4.3.2.(8), Article 3.4.3.4. and Articles 3.4.6.1. to 3.4.6.8.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. No - Contrasting coloured stair nosings are not within the scope of "dimensional, guard, handrail or slip resistance requirements". Although the title of Article 3.4.6.1. mentions "slip resistance", the actual purpose of the contrasting coloured nosing is to reduce the risk of a fall which is unrelated to "slip resistance". It should be noted that The Objective Statement #OS3.1 has a much broader scope that includes tripping, slipping, falling, contact, drowning and collision. Since Sentence 3.3.1.14.(1) only refers to "slip resistance", the other objectives of #OS3.1 are not regulated for ramps and stairways that do not serve as exits.</li><li>2. No – Similar to item #1 above.</li><li>3. No – Closed stair risers are not within the scope of "dimensional, guard, handrail or slip resistance requirements".</li><li>4. Yes, in most cases - Article 3.8.3.11 requires tactile warning systems in all areas where Section 3.8 applies. If the stairs are located in an area that is exempted from Section 3.8. application of tactile warning strip is not required.</li></ol> <p>Note. It is the opinion of the Committee that all public ramps and stairways should exhibit the same safety features. The Committee has submitted a proposed code change to NRC to delete the words "dimensional, guard, handrail and slip resistance requirements" from Sentence 3.3.1.14.(1).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>	

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of 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.