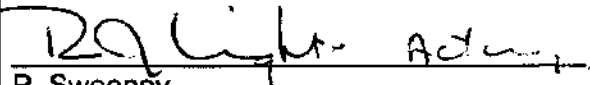
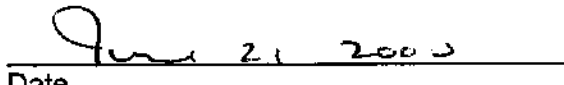


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

INTERPRETATION		
Interpretation Date:	March 15, 2000	File No.:
Building Code Edition:	B.C. Building Code 1998	98 - 0001
Subject:	Number of Egress Doors from a Room or Suite	
Keywords:	egress doors, travel distance, room area, suite area	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.5.(1)	
<p>Question: Is it the intent of Clauses 3.3.1.5.(1)(c) and (d) to allow for a single means of egress from a room or suite when either the travel distance or the area requirements are met, not both, as required for a single exit in Sentence 3.4.2.1.(2)?</p>		
<p>Interpretation: Sentence 3.3.1.5.(1) contains six distinct criteria [a, b, c(i), c(ii), d(i) and d(ii)], <u>each</u> of which trigger a minimum of 2 egress doors from a room or suite. In order to achieve safe egress from the room of fire origin, a minimum of 2 egress doors are required when <u>any one</u> of the following applicable criteria are not met: occupancy type, occupant load, room area or travel distance.</p> <p>Specifically, Clauses 3.3.1.5.(1)(c) and (d) contain Subclauses (i) and (ii) that quantify the room size limits in terms of both room area and travel distance from <u>within</u> the room to the egress door. It is interpreted that both the room area and travel distance limits must be met in order to permit a single egress door from a room or suite. That is, Clauses 3.3.1.5.(1)(c) and 3.3.1.5.(1)(d) require a minimum of 2 egress doors from a room or suite when the room is too large [Subclause 3.3.1.5.(1)(c)(i) or 3.3.1.5.(1)(d)(ii)] and also when the travel distance is too long [Subclause 3.3.1.5.(1)(c)(ii) or 3.3.1.5.(1)(d)(i)] for nonsprinklered and sprinklered buildings, respectively.</p> <p>[Refer to figures on page 2]</p>		
 P. Sweeney, Committee Chair		 Date

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

INTERPRETATION 98-0001 PAGE 2

The following figures provide generic examples of Interpretation 98-0001 (note special rules apply to F1 Occupancies):

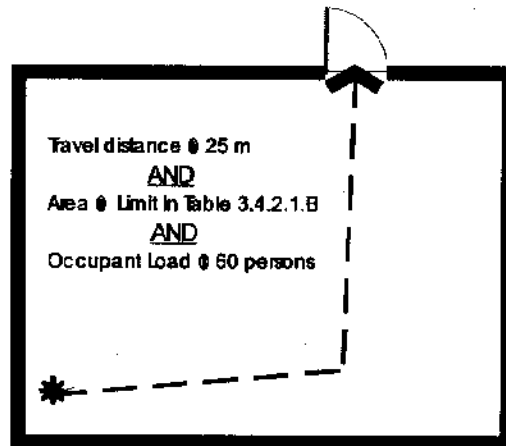


Figure 1: Single Exit Permitted, Sprinklered Floor Area [Clause 3.4.2.1.(2)(b)]

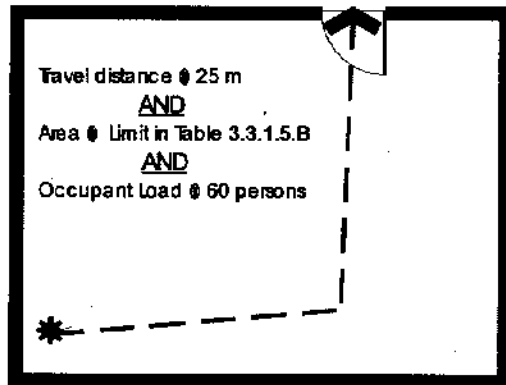


Figure 2: Single Egress Door Permitted, Sprinklered Floor Area [Clause 3.3.1.5.(1)(d)]

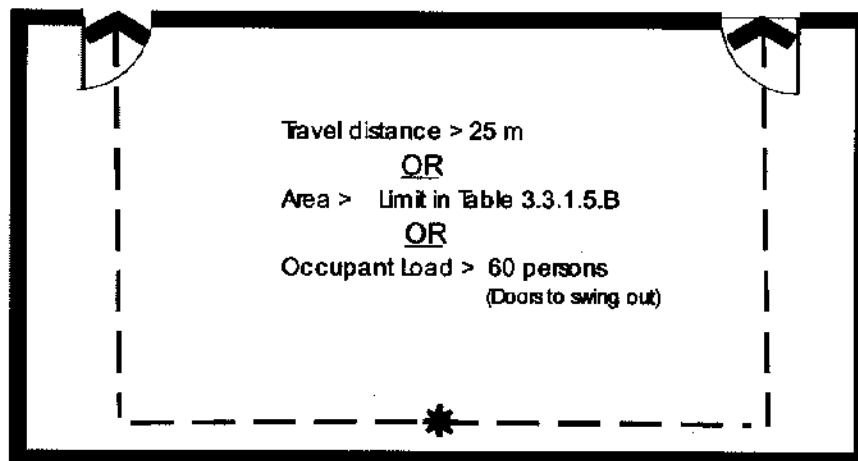


Figure 3: Two Egress Doors Required, Sprinklered Floor Area [Clause 3.3.1.5.(1)(d)]