

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

INTERPRETATION		
Interpretation Date:	January 16, 2002	File No.: 98-0044
Building Code Edition:	B.C. Building Code 1998	
Subject:	<i>Exits from 2-level interconnected floors</i>	
Keywords:	<i>Exit, floor area</i>	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.8.2.(6); 3.4.2.1.;3.4.4.1.	Page 1 of 1

Question:

An "open" stair (i.e., non-enclosed stair open to both the first and 2nd storeys) serves the 2nd storey of a 2 storey interconnected floor space conforming to Sentence 3.2.8.2.(6).

(1) Can this "open" stair be classified as an exit stair serving the 2nd storey?

(2) If the 2nd storey floor assembly does not require a fire-resistance rating (eg., assembly building conforming to 3.2.2.26), can this "open" stair be classified as an exit stair serving the 2nd storey?

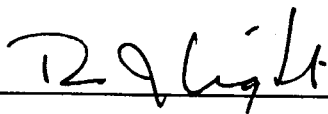
Interpretation:

(1) No.

Article 3.4.2.1. requires each floor area to be served by not less than 2 exits (with the exception of small floor areas as noted). The 2nd storey as described in the question is defined as a floor area and as such, requires not less than 2 exits. Article 3.4.4.1. requires exit stairs to be separated from the remainder of the building by a fire separation having a fire-resistance rating at least equal to that required by the floor assembly but not less than 45 min.

(2) No.

As explained above, even though the 2nd storey floor assembly may not require a fire-resistance rating, Article 3.4.4.1. requires exit stairs to be separated from the remainder of the building by a fire separation having a fire-resistance rating of at least 45 min.



R.J. Light, Committee Chair

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