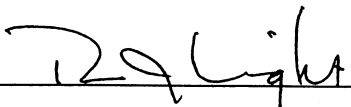


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

INTERPRETATION		
Interpretation Date:	January 15, 2003	File No:
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	98-0063
Subject:	Window Opening Mechanism	
Keywords:	Window Opening Mechanism	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.7.1.6., A-9.7.1.6.	Page: 1 of 1
<p>Clause 9.7.1.6.(2)(b) waives the requirement for any guards or window restrictors, and permits an opening larger than 100 mm x 380 mm when the opening is a "horizontal opening at the top of the window".</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can this unlimited horizontal opening be located lower than 450 mm from the floor level? 2. Is the vertical dimension of this unlimited horizontal opening limited to 100 mm or 380 mm? 		
<p>Interpretation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes. Clause 9.7.1.6.(2)(b) is any one of 4 options available for waiving window restrictors, and it is independent from Clause 9.7.1.6.(2)(c) that references the 450 mm height off the floor 2. 100 mm – Although it is not abundantly clear from the wording of Clause 9.7.1.6.(2)(b), the intent is to prevent a child from falling out of the window when it is lower than 450 mm from the floor. Therefore the clear unobstructed opening must be limited to 100 mm in order to prevent such accident. <p>Due to the lack of clarity of the current wording of the Article, a proposed code change is warranted.</p> <p>Attached to this Interpretation is a proposed code change that has been sent to both NRC and the BC Building Policy Branch.</p> <div style="margin-top: 20px;">  <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; width: 350px; margin: 0;"/> </div> <p>R.J. Light, Committee Chair</p>		
<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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>		

BRITISH COLUMBIA BUILDING CODE 1998 PROPOSED CODE CHANGE

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Proposed Code Change:

Delete
9.7.1.6.(2)(a)

Delete
9.7.1.6.(2)(b)

Reasons for the Proposed Code Change:

The code should limit all unobstructed windows openings to less than 100 mm when the opening is lower than 450 mm above the floor level and the potential fall exceeds 2 meters. Children can be equally injured from falling from a 3rd storey of a single family home as they can from a 3rd floor apartment suite.

The current wording of Clause 9.7.1.6.(2)(b) could be interpreted to allow a window opening that is 380 mm high and unlimited in width, even when it is lower than 450 mm above the floor level. This obviously is an extreme hazard for small children.