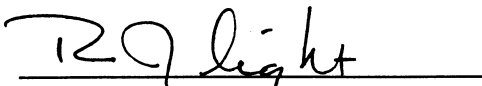


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 98-0065	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	January 15, 2003	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Automatic Flushing Device	
Keywords:	Sensor Control	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.7.4.7 & 7.6.1.6	
Question:		
<p>Does a urinal with an infrared sensor fit the definition of an automatic flushing device?</p> <p>The BC Building Code Article 3.7.4.7. requires a floor drain in a washroom containing a urinal equipped with an automatic flushing device, making the definition an issue of concern.</p>		
Interpretation:		
<p>NO --- An infrared sensor would not be considered an automatic flushing device.</p> <p>An automatic flushing device is considered to be a urinal equipped with an elevated flush tank that would discharge a volume of water at regular intervals even when no one is present in the room. A blockage of the urinal drain system could cause considerable damage to a building if the floor drain was not provided.</p> <p>Such sensors are a method of activating a manual flush valve that is consistent with a person pushing a lever or button on a manual flush valve. All of these methods require the presence of a user to activate the flush valve, therefore ensuring someone would be present to observe any overflow condition that may occur and avoid damage to the building.</p> <p>Further support is found in the Oxford Dictionary definition of automatic, which states " working by itself, without direct human intervention.</p>		
 R. J. Light, Committee Chair		
<small>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.</small>		