

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

**File No: 98-0066**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: March 26, 2003

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Distance between exits

Keywords: exit remoteness, divided floor area

Building Code Reference(s): 3.4.2.3.(1)

**Question:**

Sentence 3.4.2.3.(1) waives the requirement for exit remoteness when a floor area is divided with a fire separation such that not less than 1/3 of the floor area is located one side of the fire separation.

Does this mean that the floor area could be divided such that 5% is located on one side and 95% is located on the other side of the fire separation? Note that 95% is greater than 1/3 of the floor area.

**Interpretation:**

Answer:

1. No

Although the wording of Sentence 3.4.2.3.(1) is not abundantly clear, the intent is that the area of the floor on both sides of the fire separation wall cannot be less than 1/3 of the total floor area.

  
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R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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