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

File No: 98-0068	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1	
Interpretation Date:	September 17, 2003	September 17, 2003	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Mezzanine considered a	Mezzanine considered as a storey	
Keywords:		Mezzanine, building height, storey, fire- resistance rating, fire separation	
Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.1.1.(3), (4),(5),(6); 3.2.8.		2.8.1; 3.2.8.2.	

Question:

- 1. Where a mezzanine is considered as a storey in determining building height and must conform with the fire separation requirements for floor assemblies does this mean that the mezzanine must meet both the fire separation and fire-resistance rating of a floor assembly of a storey?
- 2. Where a mezzanine is considered as a storey in determining building height and must conform with the fire separation requirements for floor assemblies does this mean that not only the floor assembly must meet both the fire separation and fire-resistance rating but the mezzanine must be enclosed vertically with a fire separation having a fire-resistance rating the same as the floor assembly of a storey?

Interpretation:

1, Yes.

In Articles 3.2.2.20. to 3.2.2.83. there are requirements for floor assemblies for mezzanines and floor assemblies for storeys. Mezzanines only require to have a fire-resistance rating while floor assemblies shall be fire separations that may require a fire-resistance rating.

Where a mezzanine is considered as a storey in determining the building height in accordance with Sentences 3.2.1.1.(3), (4) and (5), the floor assembly of the mezzanine must be constructed in conformance with the fire separation requirements of Articles 3.2.2.20. to 3.2.2.83. for floor assemblies as per Sentence 3.2.1.1.(6). In other words the floor assembly of the mezzanine must be a fire separaton having a fire-resistance rating equal to those for floor assembly.

2. Yes, except as per Article 3.2.8.2.

A mezzanine, which is considered as a storey in determining the building height, is required to be enclosed with a vertical fire separation in accordance with Article 3.2.8.1. and Subclause 3.2.8.2.(1)(c)(ii), however, there are exceptions such as balconies in theatres and arena as noted in Clauses 3.2.8.2.(1)(a) and (b).

129 Cy Cr.

R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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.