

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

**File No: 98-0068**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: September 17, 2003

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Mezzanine considered as a storey

Keywords: Mezzanine, building height, storey, fire-resistance rating, fire separation

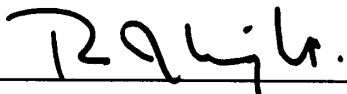
Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.1.1.(3), (4),(5),(6); 3.2.8.1; 3.2.8.2.

**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).



R. J. Light, Committee Chair