

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

File No: 98-0078

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: September 17, 2003

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Fabric Canopies and Marquees

Keywords: Fabric, awning, canopy, marquee

Building Code Reference(s): 3.1.5.5., 3.2.3.20.(1)

Question:

1. Although Sentence 3.2.3.20.(1) for fabric canopies and marquees appears under the subsection for exposure protection and spatial separation, does it imply that a fabric awning is permitted on a building of noncombustible construction?
2. Would the fabric awning also have to comply with Article 3.1.5.5.?
3. Does testing to CAN/ULC-S109M imply compliance with Article 3.1.5.5.?

Interpretation:

1, Yes.

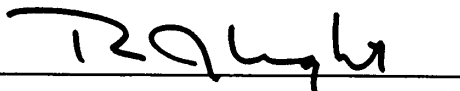
Since Sentence 3.2.3.20.(1) permits fabric awning, canopy or marquee located within or attached to a building of any type of construction, therefore, if the fabric conforms to CAN/ULC-S109M it is permitted in a building required to be of noncombustible construction.

2. No.

The intent of Sentence 3.2.3.20.(1) is to reduce the probability of fire spread across the surface of the fabric to the other parts of the building. Article 3.1.5.5. addresses the ability of the exterior wall assembly to resist flame propagation up the outside of a building.

3. No.

Since CAN/ULC-S109M required by Sentence 3.2.3.20.(1) is a different test than CAN/ULC-S134 required by Article 3.1.5.5., therefore, fabric in compliance with CAN/ULC-S109M does not imply compliance with Article 3.1.5.5.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair