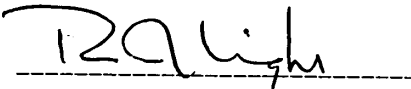


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**  
**AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

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| <b>File No: 98-0083</b>   | <b>INTERPRETATION</b>   | <b>Page 1 of 1</b> |
| Interpretation Date:  | December 17, 2003   |                    |
| Building Code Edition:  | BC Building Code 1998   |                    |
| Subject:  | Window openings in Waterproof Interior Wall Finish  |                    |
| Keywords:   | Waterproof, Interior Wall, Finish, Window, Openings   |                    |
| Building Code Reference(s):   | 9.29.2.1.(1), 9.29.2.2.(1)  |                    |
| <b>Question:</b>  | <p>Sentence 9.29.2.1.(1) indicates dimensional parameters for waterproofing of interior wall finishes. These relate to finishes close to bathtubs and showers.</p> <p>Are wood frame windows allowed in a waterproof interior wall finish?</p>  |                    |
| <b>Interpretation:</b>  | <p>No.</p> <p>The intent of Sentence 9.29.2.1.(1) is to prescribe the vertical extent of waterproof finishes on interior wall surfaces which are adjacent to bathtubs and showers. The objective is to prevent deterioration of the wall finish, if not waterproof, due to excessive moisture which can accumulate from water splashing effects.</p> <p>The deterioration can compromise the durability of the wall and its substrate, and potentially the structure, over the long term.</p> <p>If wood frame windows are proposed which are within the extents specified in Sentence 9.29.2.1.(1), then the interior exposed surfaces of such window frames must be designed to meet the waterproofing objectives. Interior surfaces of wood frame windows and their joints are not typically designed to have a sufficiently waterproof finish, as described in Sentence 9.29.2.2.(1).</p> |                    |
| <br>-----<br>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> |   |                    |