

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

File No: 98-0085

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:

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Building Code Edition:

BC Building Code 1998

Subject:

Openings in Guards

Keywords:

guards, openings, open stair treads, single family dwelling

Building Code Reference(s):

9.8.8.4.(1), 9.8.3.1.(2)

Question:

Interpretation #98-0014 concluded that the triangular area created by the stair tread, stair riser and the underside of guard bottom rail is subject to the maximum 100 mm sphere rule as described in Sentence 9.8.8.4.(1).

Since Sentence 9.8.3.1.(2) permits open risers in stairs within dwelling units, and the vertical opening between successive stair treads could typically be 162 mm (i.e. $200 - 38 = 162$ mm), does this mean that the openings in guards at the triangular space could be larger than 100 mm for stairs within dwelling units?

Interpretation:

No

The requirements for openings in guards as described in Sentence 9.8.8.4.(1) applies to "ALL" guards, including guards located within dwelling units.


R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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