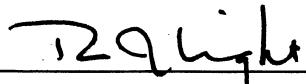


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 98-0094	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	April 19, 2005	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Guards on Roofdecks	
Keywords:	Guards, Roofdecks	
Building Code Reference(s):	1.1.3.2., 3.3.1.17., 4.1.10.1.	
Question:		
<p>Do the guards of the occupied roof deck have to comply with lateral guard loads of Part 4. if they are setback from the roof edge?</p>		
Interpretation:		
<p>Yes.</p> <p>Article 1.1.3.2. defines a "guard" as a protective barrier around openings in floors or at the open sides of stairs, landings, balconies, mezzanines, galleries, raised walkways or other locations to prevent accidental falls from one level to another. The reason for this, is to prevent access to the dangerous zone. The fact that the guard is set back from the roof edge does not change it's role and required physical resistance to the lateral forces, as set in Article 4.1.10.1.</p> <p>However, if the design provides a guard at the edge of the roof, the area that is occupied and set back from the roof edge, may be designed with the railing that does not provide the protection as set by the guard design.</p>		
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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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</small>		