

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

**File No: 98-0095**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 1 of 1**

Interpretation Date:	June 20, 2006
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998
Subject:	Computer Server Room
Keywords:	Exit, Service Room
Building Code Reference(s):	1.1.3.2., 3.3.1.3.(8), 3.4.4.4.(7), 3.6.2.1.(5), 3.6.2.2.(4) & (5)

**Question:**

1. May a computer server room open directly into an exit stairshaft?
2. If a vestibule is provided, does the wall between the computer server room and a vestibule have to be a fire separation with fire-resistance rating?

**Interpretation:**

Since the questions are generic there are multiple aspects of this issue:

A. Computer server room is a service room since it contains equipment associated with building services as per definition 1.1.3.2.

1. No.

Sentence 3.4.4.4.(7) prohibits service rooms to open directly into an exit.

2. Yes.

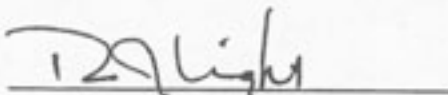
The vestibule providing indirect access should be constructed to the same requirements as the service room.

B. Computer server room that serves the tenant's space is not a "service room" since it serves tenant business operation and should be treated as an office.

1. Yes

Comply with Subclause 3.3.1.3.(8)(b)(i) and Interpretation 98-0129.

2. N/A



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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.