

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

**File No: 98-0104**

**INTERPRETATION**

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**Interpretation Date:** April 21, 2004

**Building Code Edition:** BC Building Code 1998

**Subject:** Fire separations between floors

**Keywords:** Floor assemblies, fire separations, suites

**Building Code Reference(s):** 3.1.3.1., 3.2.2., 3.3.1.1.

**Question:**

Subsection 3.2.2. requires in most cases that the floor assemblies shall be fire separations with or without a fire-resistance rating. Sentence 3.3.1.1.(2) requires each suite to be separated from adjoining suites by a fire separation having a minimum fire-resistance rating of 45 minutes. What is the minimum fire-resistance rating for the floor assembly between suites?

**Interpretation:**

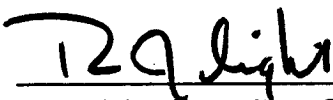
The minimum fire-resistance rating for a floor assembly separating suites shall be the greater of the fire-resistance rating required by Article 3.1.3.1., Subsection 3.2.2., and Article 3.3.1.1.

Article 3.1.3.1. determines the fire-resistance ratings of fire separations between major occupancies.

Subsection 3.2.2. determines the fire-resistance ratings of floor assemblies, mezzanines and roof assemblies to prevent fire spread and collapse caused by the effects of fire regardless whether the building has a single suite or multiple suites.

Article 3.3.1.1. determines the fire-resistance ratings of fire separations between suites.

There are other code requirements which may affect the fire-resistance rating for the fire separations between suites, therefore, the most restrictive requirement in the code will determine the fire-resistance rating of the floor assemblies between suites.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair