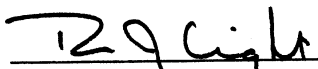


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 98-0128	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	February 15, 2005	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	smoke alarms in dwelling units at stair landings and split level floors	
Keywords:	smoke alarms, dwelling units, floor levels, stair landings	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.18.2.(1)(a), 9.10.18.4.(1)	
Question:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Are smoke alarms required within dwelling units at intermediate stair landings?2. Where should smoke alarms be located in dwelling units with split level floors?	
Interpretation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No (in most cases) <p>For the purpose of Clause 9.10.18.2.(1)(a), intermediate stair landings are not considered to be floor levels, and do not require smoke alarms. Small closets that are located at the intermediate stair landings would not trigger the requirement for smoke alarms at the stair landing level.</p><p>In the event that a larger room such as a den opens onto an intermediate stair landing, and the landing level is more than 900 mm above or below an adjacent floor level, then a smoke alarm would be required at this level.</p>2. Locations of smoke alarms will vary to suit the layout of each particular dwelling unit. <p>Clause 9.10.18.2.(1)(a) requires smoke alarms within dwelling units to be located on each floor level, including basements, where the floor level is 900 mm or more above or below an adjacent floor level.</p><p>Sentence 9.10.18.4.(1) states that when more than one smoke alarm is required within a dwelling unit, the smoke alarms must be interconnected so that the activation of one smoke alarm will cause all smoke alarms to sound throughout the dwelling unit.</p><p>Dwelling units that contain multiple floor levels or split floor levels must be carefully evaluated to determine the most effective placement of smoke alarms that will provide early warning to the occupants of a fire that originates anywhere within the dwelling unit. The presence of dropped ceilings and bulkheads must be considered when evaluating the potential movement of smoke throughout the dwelling unit.</p><p>Some examples of smoke alarms in dwelling units with split levels floors are attached for guidance.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"> _____ R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>	
<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>		