

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

File No: 98-0132

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:

April 19, 2005

Building Code Edition:

BC Building Code 1998

Subject:

Water Pipe Sizing

Keywords:

Water Pipe, Residential

Building Code Reference(s):

7.6.3.1.(1)(2), 7.6.3.2.(3)(4), 7.6.3.4.(2)(4)

Question:

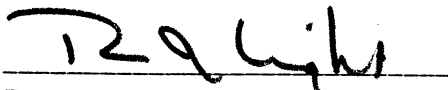
1. For the purposes of water pipe sizing, can dwelling units with self-contained hot water systems located in multi-family buildings be considered the same as single family dwellings?
2. For the purposes of water pipe sizing, to what types of buildings or occupancies does Sentence 7.6.3.2.(3) apply?
3. Does the use of private or public use hydraulic load values determine which method of water pipe sizing is to be used?

Interpretation:

1. No. Only single family dwelling and duplex water piping is to be sized in accordance with Sentence 7.6.3.4.(4) using Table 7.6.3.4.

It should be noted that higher water velocities permitted by the use of this Table can result in an increase in noise levels and a greater probability of system component failures. The only exception to this requirement is side by side row housing where each unit is serviced separately and has a self-contained hot water system. Noise and system failures in this type of unit are unlikely to have an effect on other units within this type of multiple family occupancy.

2. Except for single family dwellings and duplexes, all buildings or occupancies may apply the provisions of Sentence 7.6.3.2.(3) when detailed engineering design methods are used. Further assistance can be found in BCIC Interpretation 98-0075 that makes reference to the use of POABC Interpretation #6065 water pipe sizing tables based on a detailed engineering design method.



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.

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3. No. The method of sizing required is determined by Sentences 7.6.3.1.(1)&(2).

Private or public use definitions are only used to determine the hydraulic load value for each classification of fixture according to its location (see BCIC Interpretation #98-0025 for further explanation).

It should be noted that Table P-7.6.1. and sizing examples provided in Code Appendix P are taken from the National Plumbing Code and are not consistent with the body of the BC Building Code Part 7 which was amended to address aggressive water conditions within our Province.



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