

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

File No: 98-0138

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: March 21, 2006

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Vestibule Pressurization on Emergency Power

Keywords: emergency power, interconnected floor spaces, pressurized vestibules

Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.8.5. and 3.2.7.9

Question:

Sentence 3.2.8.5.(1) requires the vestibule protecting an exit serving an interconnected floor space be designed to limit the passage of smoke so that the level of contamination in an exit does not exceed the limit described in Sentence 3.2.6.2.(2) [that is, more than 1 % by volume of contaminated air from the fire floor]. Does the fan that provides the pressurization of the vestibule, require an emergency power supply in conformance with Article 3.2.7.9?

Interpretation:

No.

Article 3.2.7.9 does not require the fan that provides the pressurization of the vestibule, required by Article 3.2.8.5, to have an emergency power supply.

Article 3.2.8.5 references Sentence 3.2.6.2.(2) only for the purpose of defining the air quality required to be maintained within the exit stair protected by the pressurized vestibule [that is, not more than 1 % by volume of contaminated air from the fire floor]. Clause 3.2.7.9.(1)(c) requires a 2 hour emergency power supply for fans that are installed to maintain the air quality specified in Article 3.2.6.2. It is interpreted that Clause 3.2.7.9.(1)(c) applies only to the fans and electrical equipment within the scope of Subsection 3.2.6. as specifically outlined in Article 3.2.6.2.

Subsection 3.2.6. was substantially revised from the 1992 BC Building Code to the 1998 BC Building Code to consolidate requirements based on incorporating the former Measure A into the body of the code. Part of the associated editorial revisions was a change to Article 3.2.8.5 to reference the air quality specified in Sentence 3.2.6.2.(2) [1998 BC Building Code]. The 1992 BC Building Code referenced the same air quality criteria from Measure E of the former Supplement to the NBC 1990 (which did not provide a direct link to Article 3.2.7.9.).



R. J. Light, Committee Chair