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

File No: 98-0141	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1	
Interpretation Date:	September 20, 2005		
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Separation of suites		
Keywords:		Fire separation, suites, business and personal services occupancy	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.3.1.(1), 3.3.1.1.(1)	3.1.3.1.(1), 3.3.1.1.(1)	

## Question:

Is a smoke barrier required between suites of business and personal services?

## Interpretation:

No smoke barrier is required between suites of business and personal services occupancy.

Requirements for fire separations between different major occupancies are basically regulated by Sentence 3.1.3.1, "Multiple Occupancy Requirements" and those between suites are regulated by Sentence 3.3.1.1., "Separation of Suites".

According to Table 3.1.3.1. no fire separation is required between Group D major occupancies.

Sentence 3.3.1.1. (1) exempts business and personal services occupancies from the requirement of fire separations between suites.

It can be concluded that neither a smoke barrier nor a physical barrier is required between suites of business and personal services occupancies.

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.