

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

**File No: 98-0145**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 1 of 1**

Interpretation Date:

June 20, 2006

Building Code Edition:

BC Building Code 1998

Subject:

Guards and adjacent surfaces

Keywords:

Guard, adjacent surface

Building Code Reference(s):

9.8.8.1.(1)

**Question:**

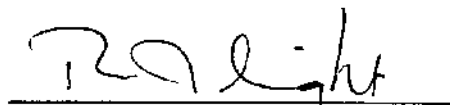
Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1) states that a guard is required at every surface to which access is provided and where there is a difference in elevation greater than 600 mm to adjacent surface.

What constitutes the adjacent surface?

**Interpretation:**

Adjacent surface is not a defined term in BCBC. Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1) does not describe the substance of the "adjacent surface". Appendix "A" provides more explanation of the intent of this sentence but still does not provide a definition of this term. Since there are many possibilities of various configurations related to this Sentence, the decision should be left to the designer and authority having jurisdiction to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution which meets the safety intent of the Building Code.

The National Building Code 2005 edition has revised this Article to address this issue.



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.