

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

**File No: 98-0150**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: May 16, 2006

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Visual Obstructions above a mezzanine

Keywords: mezzanine, visually open, enclosure

Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.1.1.(3)

**Question:**

Can windows be considered as acceptable enclosures to mezzanine for maintaining visual openness to the floor below?

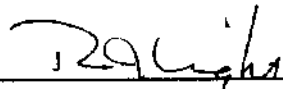
**Interpretation:**

Yes.

Clause 3.2.1.1.(3)(b) requires that the mezzanine, to a height of not less than 2150 mm above the mezzanine floor, is visually open to the floor space below except for guards not more than 1070 mm in height, columns and posts.

Windows of clear glass, without coverings, can be considered as visually open and can be used to enclose a mezzanine while maintaining visual openness to the floor below.

Covering of those windows with drapes and blinds is not permitted by the building code. Maintaining visual openness is an on-going maintenance issue which is regulated by the B.C. Fire Code.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair