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

File No: 98-0150	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1	
Interpretation Date:	May 16, 2006		
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Visual Obstructions abo	Visual Obstructions above a mezzanine	
Keywords:	mezzanine, visually ope	mezzanine, visually open, enclosure	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.1.1.(3)	3.2.1.1.(3)	

Question:

Can windows be considered as acceptable enclosures to mezzanine for maintaining visual openess 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 openess to the floor below.

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

R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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