

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 12-0112

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	October 16, 2018
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Fire separation between dwelling unit (DU) and a secondary suite in a building
Keywords:	Fire separation, secondary suite
Building Code Reference(s):	1.4.1.2., 9.10.9.14., 9.37.2.15.(1), 9.37.2.19.(1), (2) & (3).(a).

Question:

1. What is the required fire resistance rating of the fire separation between a single level dwelling unit (DU) and a single level secondary suite, as per definition in Article 1.4.1.2., in a building that is unsprinklered and does not have interconnected smoke alarms?
2. What is the required fire resistance rating of the fire separation between a two-level DU and a single level secondary suite in a building that is unsprinklered and does not have interconnected smoke alarms?
3. What is the required fire resistance rating of the fire separation between two-level DU and a single level secondary suite in a building that is unsprinklered and has interconnected smoke alarms as defined in Sentences 9.37.2.19.(1) & (2)?

Interpretation:

1. 45 min as per Sentence 9.10.9.14.(1). Both units are single level and the secondary suite is less than 40% of habitable area of a building.



2. 1 h as per Sentence 9.10.9.14.(3).



3. 30 min. with interconnected smoke alarms.

Patrick Shek

Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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