

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0001

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	February 19, 2019
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Fire Department Connections for High Buildings
Keywords:	Fire department connections, high buildings
Building Code Reference(s):	Div A -1.5.1.2., Div B - 3.2.5.8., 3.2.5.9.(1), 3.2.5.9.(6), 3.2.5.15.

Question:

Are high buildings required to be served with 2 separate fire department connections?

Interpretation:

Yes (unless the local fire department determines that the 2nd FDC is not necessary)

Clause 3.2.5.8.(1)(a) requires a standpipe system in a building when the building height exceeds 3 storeys. Therefore all high buildings require a standpipe system.

Sentence 3.2.5.9.(1) requires that standpipe systems be designed to NFPA-14-2013.

Sentence 3.2.5.9.(6) requires that a fire department connection be provided for every standpipe system. This means that BCBC requires at least 1 fire department connection for every building that requires a standpipe system.

Article 7.12.2. of NFPA-14-2013 requires that a high building be provided with 2 remotely located fire department connections unless the local fire department advises that a single fire department connection is acceptable within their jurisdiction (see excerpt from NFPA-14-2013 below:

7.12.2 High-rise buildings shall have at least two remotely located fire department connections for each zone.

7.12.2.1 A single connection for each zone shall be permitted where acceptable to the fire department.

It should be noted that NFPA 14 defines a high building as one being 75 feet (23m) high measured from the fire department access route to the uppermost floor, rather than 18m in the 2018 BCBC measured from grade to the uppermost floor.

This is not considered to be a conflicting requirement as described in Division A - Article 1.5.1.2. because Sentence 3.2.5.9.(1) requires the standpipe system be designed to NFPA-14-2013, so the requirements of Article 7.12.2. and Sentence 7.12.2.1. would apply.



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

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