

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0039

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: March 10, 2020

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Curb Ramps in Compliance with CSA B651

Keywords: Exterior Walks, Curb Ramps

Building Code Reference(s): 3.8.3.1

Question:

Sentence 3.8.3.1.(1) allows accessible design provisions of Subsection 3.8.3 to be designed instead in conformance with the applicable provisions of CSA B651 "Accessible Design for the Built Environment" in their entirety, as stated in Table 3.8.3.1. (Also refer to Interpretation 18-0008 regarding the line by line application of Table 3.8.3.1.) The applicable provisions of CSA B651 do not include Subsection 8.3.3 which deals with curb ramps. Since Table 3.8.3.1 does not reference the CSA B651 requirements for curb ramps, does this mean that curb ramps must be designed in accordance with the BC Building Code?

Interpretation:

No.

In the BC Building Code, curb ramps are regulated in Article 3.8.3.3 "Exterior Walks". For this Article, Table 3.8.3.1 refers to CSA B651 8.2.1 to 8.2.5 and 8.2.7 as the alternative design provisions. In CSA B651, curb ramps are regulated in 8.3.3. "Curb ramps and blended transitions". This portion of CSA B651 is not referenced in Table 3.8.3.1. There are indirect references in 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 to pedestrian routes adjacent to curb ramps, and a reference in 8.2.2 to Figure 64 which is in 8.3.3, showing a pedestrian route and a curb ramp.

It is clear from these references that the exterior accessible routes of CSA B651 are intended to integrate with curb ramps where applicable. It is interpreted that, where exterior accessible routes are designed in their entirety in conformance with CSA B651, the curb ramp requirements of 8.3.3 are applicable based on the references to curb ramps in 8.2.1 and 8.2.2.



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

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