

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0057

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	July 21, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Minimum Distance of Air Intakes from Source of Contaminants
Keywords:	Air intakes, kitchen cooking exhaust
Building Code Reference(s):	Table 6.3.2.9., 6.3.1.1.(4)

Question:

1. Do the minimum distances between "kitchen cooking exhaust" and "outdoor air intakes" only apply to commercial kitchen cooking exhaust?
2. If the answer to Question 1 is no, if operable windows are used for natural ventilation, are they considered to be "Outdoor Air Intake" for the purposes of Table 6.3.2.9.?

Interpretation:

1. No
The minimum distances between Source of Contaminants and Outdoor Air Intakes applies to all building types, including exhaust from conventional residential kitchen ranges.

2. No
Operable windows in new construction that are used for natural ventilation are not considered to be "Outdoor Air Intake" for the purposes of Table 6.3.2.9.

The 3m minimum distance between a conventional residential kitchen exhaust air opening and an operable window does not apply.

Although the 3m distance between a residential a conventional residential kitchen exhaust air opening and an outdoor air intake is mandatory as required by Table 6.3.2.9., designers may be able to justify a shorter distance using an alternative solution based on Appendix F of ASHRAE 62.1-2010 which takes into consideration exhaust air volume, dilution factor and exhaust air discharge velocity.

Note that for new construction, Sentence 6.3.1.1.(4) requires suites in buildings conforming to Subsection 9.36.6. or 10.2.3. to have outdoor air supplied directly to each suite by mechanical ventilation through ducting, so operable windows are not the only means of providing outdoor air to the suite.



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

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