

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0015

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	March 26, 2019
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Stair run construction tolerances for public stairs
Keywords:	Stair, run, construction tolerances, public stairs
Building Code Reference(s):	Div A-1.5.1.2.(1), Div B-3.4.6.8.(1), 3.4.6.8.(4)

Question:

Can public stairs have a run that varies between 275 mm to 285 mm within a single flight?

Interpretation:

No

Sentence 3.4.6.8.(1) requires that public stairs must have a run of not less than 280 mm between successive steps. There are no exceptions within this sentence, so the 280 mm is the absolute minimum run that is permitted.

Sentence 3.4.6.8.(4) permits construction tolerances for uniformity of stair runs of 5 mm between adjacent treads, and a maximum 10 mm between the deepest and shallowest treads in a single flight. This would mean that the dimension of runs within a flight could vary from 280 mm to 290 mm, provided that the variance between adjacent runs does not exceed 5mm.

It should be noted that Article 6.4.6.1. of the CSA A23.1 reference standard for the design and construction of concrete stairs permits plus and minus construction tolerances for concrete stairs.

As stated in Division A Sentence 1.5.1.2.(1), where there is a conflict between a reference standard and the building code, the building code governs.

Therefore, the wording of Sentence 3.4.6.8.(1) of the BCBC supersedes this reference standard, so minus tolerances below 280 mm are not permitted.



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

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