

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0031

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	January 21, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Ventilation for Bedrooms in Dwelling Units
Keywords:	Passive, air vents, bedrooms
Building Code Reference(s):	9.5.1.2.; Table 9.32.2.2.; 9.32.3.4.(6)

Question:

This project is a Part 9 sprinklered multi-family residential building with dwelling units that contain bedrooms that have no exterior windows. The dwelling units meet the requirements of Clause 9.32.3.4.(6)(a) to permit the use of natural ventilation. The bedroom has a 0.5 sq.m. permanent opening to the living room, and the living room is provided with passive vents to the outdoors for natural ventilation as described in Sentence 9.32.3.4.(6).

Is it acceptable to provide natural ventilation to the bedroom using the passive vents located in the living room?

Interpretation:

No

Subclause 9.32.3.4.(6)(b)(i) clearly states that dedicated inlets to supply air passively from the outdoors must be located in each bedroom and at least one common area.

It is not acceptable to indirectly supply the outdoor air to the bedroom from the living room's passive vents via the opening between the living room and the bedroom.

Note that Table 9.32.2.2. does permit bedrooms that are part of a "combination room" to be provided with natural ventilation to the "combination room".

These dwelling units do not meet the criteria for "combination rooms" as described in Article 9.5.1.2. since the opening between the bedroom and the living room is less than 3 sq.m. and less than 40% of the area of the wall separating the bedroom from the living room.

Therefore, indirect natural venting of the bedrooms is not permitted.



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

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