


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0066

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	October 20, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Mezzanine access to exit via another storey
Keywords:	Mezzanine egress, access to exit
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.1.1, 3.2.8.1, 3.2.8.2, 3.4.2.2
Question:	<p>Sentence 3.4.2.2.(1) requires mezzanines to be served by means of egress leading to exits accessible at the mezzanine level on the same basis as floor areas, unless Sentence 3.4.2.2.(2) can be met.</p> <p>If Sentence 3.4.2.2.(2) is not met, Sentence 3.4.2.2.(3) permits one of the means of egress to be via the stair providing access to the mezzanine level.</p> <p>Can the required second means of egress be via a door in a fire separation into another storey (different from the storey that contains the mezzanine) that happens to be located at the same level as such mezzanine, and from there, via the floor area access to the exit?</p> <p>Refer to the explanatory cross section Diagram below.</p>
Interpretation:	<p>No.</p> <p>Assuming the mezzanine is intended to be designed to Article 3.2.1.1, the required means of egress cannot be via a fire separation into another storey (different from the storey within which the mezzanine is located) and from there, via the floor area access to the exit serving that other storey; even if the other storey happens to be located at the same level as the mezzanine.</p> <p>Refer to the explanatory cross section Diagram below.</p> <p>The intent statement for Sentence 3.4.2.2.(1) indicates: "To limit the probability that egress routes from a mezzanine will become untenable in a fire situation during the time involved in reaching the exits accessible at mezzanine level, which could lead to delays in the evacuation or movement of persons to a safe place, which could lead to harm to persons".</p> <p></p> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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When the Building Code uses the term "floor area", consistent with its definition, it typically implies located on the same storey as the area, room, or mezzanine served (within the same fire compartment).

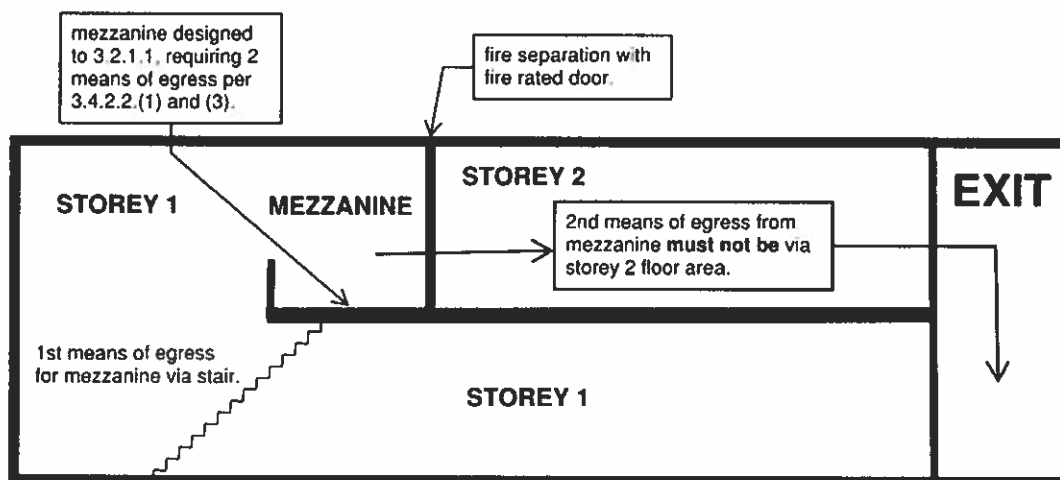


DIAGRAM not to scale

Patrick Shek

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

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