


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0082**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	November 17, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018, Book II: Plumbing Systems (BCPC)
Subject:	Fixture Unit Load for a Wet Vent Serving a Water Closet
Keywords:	Wet Vent, Fixture Unit Load
Building Code Reference(s):	2.5.2.1., 2.5.8.1.(1), 2.5.8.1.(2), 2.5.2.1.(1)(f), Table 2.5.8.1.
<b>Question:</b>	<p>When using a 3"x2" Double Y in the horizontal position where one side of the Y connects to a 2" shower drain and the other side of the Y is the wet vent connecting to the lavatory;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is the fixture unit load used when determining the size of the wet vent?</li><li>2. Can a 2" branch with a load of 6 fixture units be connected to one side of the 3"x2" double Y in lieu of the 2" shower drain?</li></ol>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sentence 2.5.8.1.(2) states "When determining the size of a wet vent the hydraulic load from the most downstream fixture or symmetrically connected fixture shall not be included." Therefore, since the 2" shower drain is symmetrically connected at the 3"x2" double Y the hydraulic load need not be included when sizing the wet vent. If the lavatory has an 1¼" p-trap the fixture unit load would be 1 and the minimum size would be 2" in accordance with Sentence 2.5.8.1.(1), which directs the Code user to Table 2.5.8.1..</li><li>2. No, Clause 2.5.2.1.(1)(f) limits the hydraulic load of separately vented branches or fixture drains connected to the wet vent to 2 fixture units. Since the branch which is connected to the 3"x2" double Y in this question has a hydraulic load of 6 fixture units it is not permitted. It is important to keep in mind that if the branch had a hydraulic load of 2 fixture units it would be permitted to be connected to the 3"x2" double Y, however the load of 2 fixture units would need to be included in the load when sizing the wet vent (if the lavatory is as above then the total load on the wet vent would be 3 fixture units). This Interpretation is consistent with a previous Plumbing Officials Association of British Columbia (POABC) Interpretation #5080 which is attached for reference.</li></ol> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>
<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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	