

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 18-0118**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	May 18, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Guards with Flexible Pickets or Horizontal Rails
Keywords:	Guards, Openings in Guards
Building Code Reference(s):	Division B, Part 9; 9.8.8.2.; 9.8.8.5., 9.8.8.6.; Table 9.8.8.2.

## Question:

Clause 9.8.8.5.(3)(a) requires that openings through guards must prevent the passage of a spherical object of 100 mm diameter. Is there a limit of applied force to resist this test?

## Interpretation:

No (with provisions)

Table 9.8.8.2. requires the pickets to withstand a horizontal load of 0.5kN applied over area of 100 mm by 100 mm in an outward direction on the guard (i.e. perpendicular to the guard).

There is no requirement in Table 9.8.8.2. to apply a load on the picket in opposite directions in the plane of the guard. This prescriptive requirement only applies to buildings subject to Part 4.

Due to the silence in Table 9.8.8.2., the Part 9 guard may not meet the performance requirements of Clause 9.8.8.5.(3)(a) to prevent the passage of a sphere having a diameter of 100 mm through the guard.

It is considered good design practice to use the requirements of Sentence 4.1.5.14.(4) of Part 4 for the in-plane forces on vertical pickets.



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

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