


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0101

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

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| Interpretation Date: | February 16, 2021 |
| Building Code Edition: | BC Building Code 2018, Book II: Plumbing Systems (BCPC) |
| Subject: | Maximum Size Increase for Trap and Trap Arm |
| Keywords: | Trap, Trap Arm, Size |
| Building Code Reference(s): | 2.4.9.3., Table 2.4.9.3. |
| Question: | <p>What is the maximum size permitted for a trap and trap arm serving a fixture, such as a bathtub, with an 1½" fixture outlet pipe?</p> |
| Interpretation: | <p>The 2018 British Columbia Plumbing Code (BCPC) contains no provisions which limit the increase in size for a given fixture outlet pipe in Table 2.4.9.3.</p> <p>In the 1992 BCPC, Sentence 4.9.3.(4) limited the increase in size to one pipe size. This means a bathtub could have had a maximum 2" trap and trap arm. One of the reasons for this provision is to ensure the pipes in the drainage system are self-scouring. This requirement has since been deleted from subsequent BCPC editions with the move to objective based Codes.</p> <p>Given the above statement, discretion should be used when deciding on an increase in size of any drainage pipe and the possible negative impacts of this action on the performance of a drainage system.</p> |
| | <p></p> <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p> |

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