


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 12-0033

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2014
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Travel distance when corridors contain occupancies
Keywords:	Occupancies in corridors, travel distance
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.9.(2) & (5), 3.4.2.4.(2)
Question:	<p>If a room opens onto a corridor that is used by the public, and the corridor contains an occupancy, can the travel distance from the room to the nearest exit be measured from the room egress door?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes, with conditions</p> <p>Sentence 3.4.2.4.(2) permits travel distance to be measured from an egress door of room with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a)(i) If the building is not sprinklered throughout – the room must be separated from the remainder of the floor area with a fire separation having a ¾ hour fire resistance rating.(a)(ii) If the building is sprinklered throughout – the room must be separated from the remainder of the floor area with a fire separation with no fire resistance rating.(b)(ii) The corridor used by the public must be separated from the remainder of the floor area in conformance with the requirements in Article 3.3.1.4. for the separation of <i>public corridors</i>. <p>The presence of an occupancy within the corridor does not affect the provisions of Sentence 3.4.2.4.(2).</p> <p>Note that minimum corridor widths described in Sentences 3.3.1.9.(2) & (5) must be maintained.</p>  <p>R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. 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>	
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