


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0025

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2014
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Bicycle storage areas opening directly into exits
Keywords:	Bicycle storage, opening, exits
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.5.4.(1), 3.3.5.7., 3.4.4.4.(8)
Question:	
	Can bicycle storage areas open directly into an exit?
Interpretation:	
	Yes, with exceptions
	Sentence 3.4.4.4.(8) prohibits storage rooms, washrooms, toilet rooms, laundry rooms and similar ancillary rooms from opening directly into an exit.
	If bicycle storage areas are used exclusively for storing bicycles, then they represent a fire risk that is considerably less than a "storage room", and are permitted to open directly into an exit.
	If the bicycle storage area is located within an underground storage garage, then the requirements for vestibules between the storage garage and the exit would apply in accordance with Sentence 3.3.5.4.(1) and Article 3.3.5.7.
	If the bicycle storage area is located within an enclosed room, and the room has opaque perimeter walls, there is a high possibility that this room could be used for purposes other than bicycle storage. In this case, the enclosed room would be considered to be a "storage room" and could not open directly into an exit.
	
	R. J. Light, Committee Chair
<small>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.</small>	
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