

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0031

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 2

Interpretation Date:	January 27, 2015
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Central Alarm Control Facility
Keywords:	Central Alarm Control Facility, auxiliary equipment, manual controls
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.6.2.(2), 3.2.6.2.(4), 3.2.6.2.(5), 3.2.6.3., 3.2.6.6., 3.2.6.7.(2)(i)

Question:

Subclause 3.2.6.7.(2)(i)(i) requires that the central alarm and control facility (CACF) shall include means, as appropriate to the measure for fire safety provided in the building, to actuate auxiliary equipment.

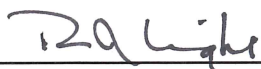
1. What is considered auxiliary equipment?
2. Are all stair pressurization equipment in a high building, including ones that activate automatically, required to be provided with a control device at the CACF for manual operation (such as ON/OFF override switch)?

Interpretation:

1. Appendix B-3.2.6.7.(2) states that "depending on the method of mechanical venting and air control that is selected for the building, additional controls may be required at the CACF. These additional controls include those with a capability of opening closures to vents in shafts, stopping air-handling systems, and initiating mechanical air supply to stair shafts.

Sentence 3.2.6.2.(4) requires that measures shall be taken to limit movement of smoke from a fire in a floor area below the lowest exit storey into upper storeys. Further clarification in

Appendix B-3.2.6.2.(4)(3)(c) requires that any closure provided for a vent opening for vertical shafts referred to in Sentence (2) must be operable by a control device located at the CACF.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0031

INTERPRETATION

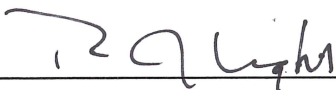
Page 2 of 2

In addition to the manual switches for the required smoke control system Sentence 3.2.6.2.(5) also requires manually operated switches at the CACF for all air moving fans in a system that serves more than 2 storeys except exhaust fans in kitchens, washrooms and bathrooms in dwelling units and except for fans used for smoke venting to aid firefighting.

Currently there is a proposed code change to Clause 3.2.6.7.(2)(i) in 2015 NBC to clarify the intent of the code and refer to auxiliary equipment that manages smoke movement in high buildings in Articles 3.2.6.2., 3.2.6.3. and 3.2.6.6.

It is interpreted that the auxiliary equipment specified in Subclause 3.2.6.7.(2)(i)(i) are all smoke control systems as required by Articles 3.2.6.2., 3.2.6.3. and 3.2.6.6.

2. Subclause 3.2.6.7.(2)(i)(i) only requires means to actuate auxiliary equipment but it does not specify if the actuation should be manual or automatic. Smoke control systems that are activated automatically deem to meet the intent of Subclause 3.2.6.7.(2)(i)(i). Local Fire Department should be consult regarding means of actuation of auxiliary equipment.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.