

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0029

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	April 21, 2015
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Group B, Division 3, Care Occupancy
Keywords:	Care occupancy, residents' sleeping rooms, fire compartment, suites of care occupancy
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.3.5.(1), 3.3.3.5.(2), 3.3.3.5.(9), 3.3.3.5.(11), 3.3.3.5.(15)

Question:

For a Group B, Division 3, care occupancy, is it necessary to separate the floor areas containing residents' suites of care occupancy into at least 2 fire compartments as required by Sentence 3.3.3.5.(2)?

Interpretation:

Yes

Floor area containing patients' or residents' sleeping rooms in a care or treatment occupancy where overnight sleeping accommodation is provided for more than a total of 10 patients or residents shall be divided into not less than 2 fire compartments, each not more than 1000 m² in area as per Sentences 3.3.3.5.(1) and (2).

These residents' sleeping rooms are required to be separated from the remainder of the floor area by fire separations without a fire-resistance rating as per Sentence 3.3.3.5.(9) but this requirement does not apply to sleeping rooms within individual suites of care occupancy according to Sentence 3.3.3.5.(11) since individual suites are separated from the remainder of the floor area by fire separations with a fire-resistance rating as per Sentence 3.3.3.5.(15).

If a floor area containing suites of care occupancy with patients' or residents' sleeping rooms such floor area shall be divided into at least two fire compartments as per Sentence 3.3.3.5.(2). Sentence 3.3.3.5.(2) applies to all patients' or residents' sleeping rooms even if they are located within a suite.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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