

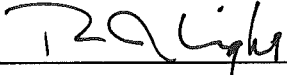
BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0053

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	May 19, 2015
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Visibility of Leading Edges of Stair Treads and Landings
Keywords:	Treads, Landings, Demarcation, Visible
Building Code Reference(s):	3.4.6.1.(1)
Question:	<p>Can the demarcation of the leading edge of stair treads and landings be provided by contrasting colours or patterns only on the stair tread or landing, with no additional demarcation on the riser?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Clause 3.4.6.1. (1)(b) requires the surfaces of ramps, landings and treads that are accessible to the public to have either a colour contrast or a distinctive pattern, readily visible from both directions of travel, to demarcate the leading edge of the tread and the landing, as well as the beginning and end of a ramp.</p> <p>This is a performance-based requirement, since the type, dimension and location of the colour contrast or pattern are not specified. For a person descending a stair, a colour contrast or distinctive pattern on the treads at the leading edges will be visible for all treads in a straight flight. For a person ascending a stair flight, the colours or patterns on the treads will be visible for the treads up to about eye level in front of the person, which would be approximately 5 to 10 steps ahead depending on the stair rise and on the person's height. This is considered to be sufficient to meet the Building Code intent by allowing persons to identify the leading edge of stair treads and landings.</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>	
<p>1107875 April 22, 2010</p>	