

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0129

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	July 20, 2021 DRAFT
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Special Knowledge of Door Opening Mechanism
Keywords:	Door Hardware, Exit Door
Building Code Reference(s):	Division B, Part 9; 9.9.6.7.

Question:

Is it acceptable to use a deadbolt lock that requires one full turn or more to open to be installed on an exit door from a single dwelling unit or a house with a secondary suite?

Interpretation:

Yes.

The deadbolt hardware with a separate operation is allowed in a single dwelling unit or a house with a secondary suite. The hardware must be openable from inside of the unit in direction of travel to an exit without keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the door opening mechanism. Turning the lockset one or more times is not considered to be requiring a special knowledge. Many higher-grade deadbolts use two turns to provide deeper deadbolt extraction to prevent forced entry from outside. Contrary to this, special opening devices or special knowledge is not permitted if in order to open the door one must use a key, keypad, fob, voice control or wi-fi operating hardware that does not have a thumb turn mechanism at the door.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. 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.