

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0132**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	September 21, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Spatial Separation between Buildings Above a 3.2.1.2. Slab
Keywords:	Storage garage, separation building, spatial separations
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.1.2.

## Question:

For a project that is sprinklered throughout and has multiple buildings above a common basement storage garage that is designed in accordance with Article 3.2.1.2., are unlimited unprotected openings permitted in an exposing building face of one building that faces an adjacent building which is located above the same basement storage garage.

## Interpretation:

Yes (with one exception)

Article 3.2.1.2. permits a basement storage garage to be treated as a separate building for the purposes of Subsection 3.2.2. (Building Size and Construction Relative to Occupancy) and 3.2.5.12.(2) & (3) (the application of sprinkler design standards NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D).

For Subsections 3.2.3., 3.2.4., 3.2.5. [except 3.2.5.12.(2) & (3)], 3.2.6., 3.2.7, 3.2.8. and 3.2.9., the basement storage garage and all buildings above the basement storage garage are treated as a single building.

Sentence 3.2.3.14.(3) permits unlimited unprotected openings between 2 adjacent fire compartments when the buildings are sprinklered throughout, except when the unprotected openings are on opposite sides of a firewall.



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

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