


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0144

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 21, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018, Book II: Plumbing Systems (BCPC)
Subject:	3" Vent for a Sanitary Building Drain Connected to a Private Sewage Disposal System
Keywords:	Building Drain, Vent Size
Building Code Reference(s):	2.5.7.2.(2), 2.5.8.4.(5)
Question:	<p>Does a sanitary building drain which is connected to a private sewage disposal system, such as a septic tank and disposal field, require a 3" vent as required by Sentences 2.5.7.2.(2) and 2.5.8.4.(5)?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Sentences 2.5.7.2.(2) and 2.5.8.4.(5) do not contain an exception or exclusion for a building drain which connects to a private sewage disposal system and therefore at least one vent minimum 3" in size must be installed.</p> <p>See also POABC Interpretations #5101 and #5089 and BCIC Interpretation #06-0035 (attached to this Interpretation).</p>
	
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.



POABC INTERPRETATION

PLUMBING OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

Manual Reference Section: 5	2006 Code Reference:
Date: June 7, 2007	Subsection 7.5.8.4.(5)
Interpretation No.: 5089	Page #: 1 of 1
<p>Questions:</p> <p>Sentence 7.5.8.4.(5) states “<i>Every building drain shall be provided with at least one vent that is not less than 3 inches in size.</i>” Does this mean that all building drains, including those in single family dwellings require a 3 inch vent from the base of the stack through the roof?</p>	
<p>Interpretation:</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Rationale provided through the NRC Code Change Proposal process indicated that additional venting capacity was required for municipal sewer systems, therefore each building drain must be provided with at least one vent 3 inches in size.</p> <p>This sentence contains no exclusions, therefore, all buildings including single family dwellings must be provided with this minimum venting requirement. The location of the 3 inch vent however is left to the discretion of the installer and therefore could be in the form of another required vent (i.e., continuous vent, stack vent, etc.).</p> <p>It appears that this requirement was intended to address sanitary building drains as storm building drains are trapped either by a building sump or a storm system trap as required by Sentence 7.4.5.2.(3). A Code Change Proposal would be required to have this revision made to the Code.</p>	
Approved: VIPCC	May 10, 2007 - BH
LMPCC	June 7, 2007 - GJ




POABC INTERPRETATION

PLUMBING OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

Manual Reference Section: 5	2006 Code Reference:			
Date: March 10, 2008	Sentence 7.5.8.4.(5)			
Interpretation No.: 5101	Page #: 1 of 1			
Question: Does a sanitary building drain that connects to a private sewage disposal system still require one vent that is not less than 3 inches in size?				
Interpretation: Yes As previously discussed in POABC Interpretation Number 5089 this Sentence contains no exclusions. The possibility exists that the private sewage disposal system will be replaced by a municipal sewer system at some point during the life of the building. A Code Change Proposal would be required to be submitted to the NRC in order to have this Code sentence revised.				
Approved:	VIPCC	April 16, 2009 - BH	LMPCC	April 2, 2009 - JN

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 06-0035	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2008	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Building Drain Vent	
Keywords:	Building Drain , Vent size	
Building Code Reference(s):	7.5.8.4. (5)	
Question:		
<p>Sentence 7.5.8.4. (5) states " Every building drain shall be provided with at least one vent that is not less than 3 inches in size.</p> <p>Does this mean that all building drains, including those in single family dwellings require a 3 inch vent from the base of the stack through the roof?</p>		
Interpretation:		
<p>Yes</p> <p>Rationale provided through the NRC Code Change Proposal process indicated that additional venting capacity was required for municipal sewer systems, therefore each building drain must be provided with at least one vent that is minimum 3 inch size.</p> <p>Sentence 7.5.8.4. (5) has no exclusions therefore, all buildings including single family dwellings must be provided with this minimum venting requirement. The location of the 3 inch vent however, is left to the discretion of the installer and therefore could be in the form of another required vent serving other fixtures (i.e. continuous vent, stack vent, etc.).</p> <p>It appears that this requirement was intended to address sanitary building drains as storm building drains are trapped either by a building sump or a storm system trap as required by Sentence 7.4.5.2. (3). A Code Change Proposal would be required to have this revision made to the code.</p>		
 _____ R. J. Light, Committee Chair		
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