

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0145

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date: September 21, 2021

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Alternative solutions

Keywords: Alternative solutions, compliance options

Building Code Reference(s): Division A: 1.2.1.1.(1)

Question:

Can an alternative solution be submitted and approved where there is a viable compliance option that directly complies with the solutions in Division B?

Interpretation:

Yes

The BCBC provides two options for code compliance: using the applicable solutions in Division B (direct compliance), or by using alternative solutions that achieve at least the minimum level of performance of Division B.

The acceptable solutions are neither better than an alternative solution nor is it a requirement to directly comply with the code when it is possible. The notes to 1.2.1.1.(1) states that an alternative solution must perform "as well as" the acceptable solution. The two means of compliance are equal.



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.