

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0143

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	October 19, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Passive Venting for Buildings Designed to the Energy Step Code
Keywords:	Passive venting, Step Code
Building Code Reference(s):	9.32.3.4., 9.36.6.

Question:

If a Part 9 building is required to be designed to the Energy Step Code, is it permissible to provide passive venting as the principal ventilation system?

Interpretation:

No (with one exception)

Except as permitted by Sentence 9.32.3.4.(6), Sentence 9.32.3.4.(1) requires the principal ventilation system to mechanically provide supply air in accordance with Sentences 2 to 5.

Sentence 9.32.3.4.(6) permits the use of passive ventilation in certain circumstances.

Clause 9.32.3.4.(6)(a)(iv) does not permit the use of passive ventilation in Part 9 buildings that are required to be designed to the Energy Step Code per 9.36.6. except for secondary suites.

So only secondary suites are permitted to be provided with passive venting as the principal ventilation system in a Part 9 building that is required to be designed to the Energy Step Code.



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.