

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0147**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: November 16, 2021

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Notes to the BCBC

Keywords: Notes, legal effect

Building Code Reference(s): 1.1.3.1. of Division A

## Question:

Do the Appendices and Notes in the building code have any legal effect?

## Interpretation:

No (with some exceptions)

Sentence 1.1.3.1.(1) of Division A clearly states that Appendices and Notes of this Code have no legal effect, except for the following:

- a) the following Notes:
  - i) A-Table 9.23.3.5.-B, and
  - ii) A-9.23.13., including Table A-9.23.13.,
- b) Appendix C of Division B, and
- c) Appendix D of Division B.

Sentence 1.1.3.1.(2) of Division A also states that

“References to the Appendices and Notes of this Code have no legal effect”.

The Notes and Appendices provide very useful information on the intent of the building code and methods for implementing the prescriptive requirements of the building code, but they are not legally binding in a court of law.



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.