

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0152

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	November 16, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Opening Mechanism for Egress Windows
Keywords:	Opening mechanism, egress window, specialized knowledge
Building Code Reference(s):	9.9.10.1.(1)

Question:

The subject building is an unsprinklered Part 9 residential building.

If a window is required as an egress from a bedroom as described in Article 9.9.10.1., can the window opening mechanism be a “crank style” opener?

Interpretation:

Yes

Sentence 9.9.10.1.(1) permits the use of an outside window as a means of egress from a bedroom provided the window conforms with the following:

- a) The unobstructed opening is not less than 0.35 m² in area with no dimension less than 380 mm,
- b) The window will remain open during an emergency without the need of additional support,
- c) The window can be opened from the inside without the use of keys, tools or specialized knowledge, and
- d) The windows can be opened without the removal of sashes or hardware.

Provided there are no sashes on the window a crank-type opening mechanism meets all the criteria listed above. It is interpreted that “specialized knowledge” is not required to open the window because it is commonly used on a daily basis by the building occupants for natural ventilation, and it is highly visible from the interior of the bedroom.



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

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