


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0105

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 2

Interpretation Date:	March 20, 2018
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Occupancy Classification
Keywords:	Occupancy Classification, Treatment Occupancy, Care Occupancy, Residential Occupancy, Business and Personal Services Occupancy
Building Code Reference(s):	Division A, 1.4.1.2, A-3.1.2.1.(1)
Question:	
	What is the occupancy classification of a sleep disorder clinic that provides supervised sleeping accommodation?
Interpretation:	
	Group D, with additional qualifications. For this interpretation, a sleep disorder clinic is understood to be a facility where clients are provided with sleeping accommodation to allow trained medical staff to observe and monitor the clients for the entire time they sleep. Clients do not receive any services or treatment that would render them incapable of self-preservation. This interpretation considers several occupancy classifications, using the Building Code definitions in Division A, Article 1.4.1.2. Group B, Division 2 Treatment occupancy means the occupancy or use of a building or part thereof for the provision of treatment, and where overnight accommodation is available to facilitate the treatment. Treatment means the provision of medical or other health-related intervention to persons, where the administration or lack of administration of these interventions may render them incapable of evacuating to a safe location without the assistance of another person.
	 R. J. Light, Committee Chair
<p>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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	
1107875 / 2018-03-19	

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 12-0105

INTERPRETATION

Page 2 of 2

Group B, Division 3

Care occupancy means the occupancy or use of a building or part thereof where care is provided to residents. Care means the provision of services other than treatment by or through care facility management to residents who require these services because of cognitive, physical or behavioural limitations.

Group C

Residential occupancy means the occupancy or use of a building or part thereof by persons for whom sleeping accommodation is provided but who are not harboured for the purpose of receiving care or treatment and are not involuntarily detained.


Group D

Business and personal services occupancy means the occupancy or use of a building or part thereof for the transaction of business or the rendering or receiving of professional or personal services.

It is understood that the type of services provided to clients of a sleep clinic does not meet the definitions of "treatment" or "care", so the occupancy classification is not Group B, Division 2 or 3.

Sleeping accommodation is provided, but it is not traditional residential style accommodation. The purpose of the sleeping accommodation is to allow clinical evaluation by medical staff. It is interpreted that this arrangement is not a Group C occupancy.

The sleep clinic clients receive services provided by medical staff, similar to services provided by other types of medical offices. Division B – Appendix A, A-3.1.2.1.(1) lists medical offices as one of the examples of a Group D occupancy. However, a typical medical office does not include clients who sleep overnight at the office. The closest occupancy classification for a sleep disorder clinic is Group D, but the clinic arrangement should be evaluated based on its specific circumstances. Additional features not normally required for a Group D occupancy may be appropriate, such as smoke alarms.



R. J. Light, 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.