

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 12-0081

INTERPRETATION

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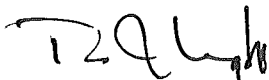
Interpretation Date:	October 18, 2016
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Safety glass in tub and shower enclosure
Keywords:	Safety glass, Glass enclosure
Building Code Reference(s):	9.5.3.1., 9.6.1.2.(1)(a)&(g), 9.6.1.4.(6)

Question:

1. What is the extent of a shower or bathtub enclosure in Sentence 9.6.1.4.(6)?
2. Does the exterior window that forms part of a shower enclosure have to be glazed with safety glass?
3. How high must the sill of the exterior window be to avoid the requirement of safety glass?

Interpretation:

1. The shower enclosure includes all of the walls and screens surrounding the bathtub or shower. If the entire bathroom incorporates a shower without partitions, the perimeter walls of the bathroom are considered to be the shower enclosure.
2. Yes. The inner pane of an exterior window that forms part of the shower enclosure are subject to Sentence 9.6.1.4.(6) and require safety glass as described in Clauses 9.6.1.2.(1)(a) or (g).
3. The Building Code does not provide any exemptions for safety glass in exterior windows that form part of the shower enclosure. Although it may be reasonable to permit non-safety glass where the window sill is above the minimum headroom clearance of 2.1 m as per Table 9.5.3.1.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. 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.