

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0107

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	February 21, 2012
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Guard climbability
Keywords:	Guards, climbability, fall hazard, walking surface
Building Code Reference(s):	9.8.8.6.

## Question:

The Building Code Subsection 9.8.8. generally requires a guard 1070mm high where there is a risk of falling at changes in elevation over 600mm. Article 9.8.8.6. requires that except where the location and size of openings do not present a hazard, the design must not have any member, attachment or opening in the range of 140 to 900mm above the floor or walking surface protected by the guard, that will facilitate climbing. Sentence 9.8.8.6.(2) sets out the acceptable design criteria to discourage climbability of required guards.

A concrete curb less than 140mm high above is provided at the bottom of the guard, and the guard is mounted on the outside face of this curb (away from the walking surface).

1. Can this 140mm high curb be considered part of the guard and therefore permitted?
2. Under what circumstance would this curb be considered a walking surface such that the guard needs to be raised by an additional 140mm over the minimum 1070mm?

## Interpretation:

1. Yes.  
A typical curb used to mount a guard is usually sufficiently narrow in thickness that it cannot readily be used as a walking surface. Therefore provided the curb is less than 140mm high, it can constitute the bottom member of the guard that is exempt from the climbability provisions of Article 9.8.8.6.
2. A suitable criterion would be to consider whether the curb width exceeds that for a minimum step dimension (210mm). A curb thickness more than 210mm would then be considered a walking surface, and the guard would have to be raised an additional 140mm.

Refer to attached illustration.

  
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.

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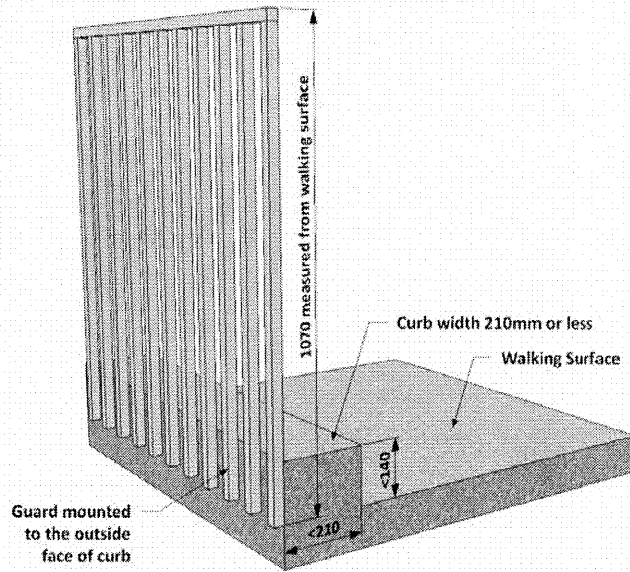


Figure 1

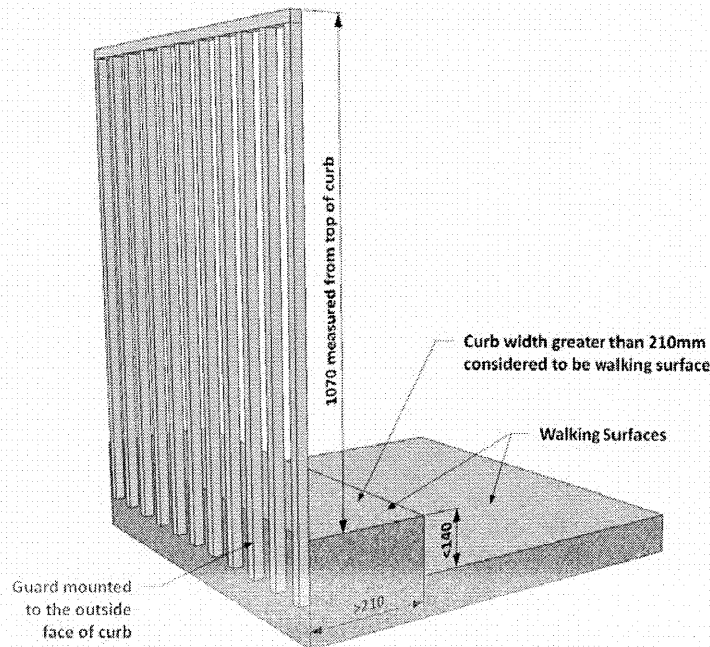
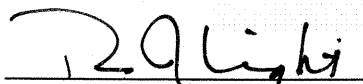


Figure 2

  
R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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