

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 12-0137

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	December 9, 2018
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Wired glass and glass block in exposing building face of houses
Keywords:	Wired glass, glass block, closure, exposing building face
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.13.5., 9.10.13.7., 9.10.14.4.(2), 9.10.15.

Question:

In buildings that only contain dwelling units and have no dwelling unit above another dwelling unit, can wired glass assemblies per Article 9.10.13.5. and glass block per Article 9.10.13.7. be considered as "closures" in an exposing building face when the limiting distance is less than 1.2 m ?

Interpretation:

Yes

Spatial separation requirements for Part 9 buildings, other than houses, is described in Subsection 9.10.14.

Article 9.10.14.4.(2) clearly states that wired glass and glass block cannot be considered as closures in an exposing building face when the limiting distance is less than 1.2 m.

Spatial separation requirements for houses (i.e. non-stacked dwelling units) is described in Subsection 9.10.15.

Subsection 9.10.15. does not have any restrictions on the use of wired glass or glass block in an exposing building face of a house when the limiting distance is less than 1.2m.

Note that the wording of 2018 BCBC Subsection 9.10.15. has not changed with respect to the use of wired glass or glass block, so this interpretation would also apply to the 2018 BCBC.



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.