

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0199

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: September 27, 2022

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Structural Design of Guards in Part 9 Buildings

Keywords: Structural design, guards

Building Code Reference(s): 9.4.1.1., 9.8.8.2.(1) & (4)

Question:

1. Sentence 9.8.8.2.(1) states that "Except as provided in Sentences (2) and (4), guards shall be designed to resist the specified loads prescribed in Table 9.8.8.2." Does the term "designed" mean to meet the requirements of Article 9.4.1.1.?
2. Article 9.4.1.1. only applies to "structural members". Are guards considered to be "structural members" for the purposes of Article 9.4.1.1.
3. Article 9.8.8.2. does not specifically say that the structural design of guards must include the load factors described in Part 4. Is it the intent that the load factors in Part 4 be applied to guards in Part 9 building?

Interpretation:

1. Yes (with some exceptions)

Sentences 9.8.8.2.(2) and (4) waive the requirement for structural design of interior guards within dwelling units and exterior guards serving not more than 2 dwelling units. Refer to the previous Interpretation 18-0081 for further discussion on this matter.

2. Yes

Guards are "secondary structural members". Except as permitted in Sentences 9.8.8.2.(2) and (4), guards in Part 9 buildings are a critical safety component of a building and must be designed to Article 9.4.1.1.

3. Yes (in some instances)

Article 9.8.8.2. only provides the Part 9 loads used for the design of guards in Part 9 buildings.



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.

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Article 9.4.1.1. provides 3 options for the method of applying the structural design in a Part 9 building:

- (1)(a) – prescriptive requirements of Part 9,
- (1)(b) – good engineering practice such as CWC 2014, or
- (1)(c) – design to Part 4 using the loads from either Part 9 or Part 4.

If the structural designer elects to use 9.4.1.1.(1)(c) then the Part 4 load factors would apply.

Again, the exceptions in Sentences 9.8.8.2.(2) and (4) would apply.

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