

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0202

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: October 18, 2022

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Spiral Stair for Basement Storage Unit

Keywords: Stair, Curved Flights, Tapered Treads

Building Code Reference(s): 9.8.3.1, 9.8.4.1, 9.8.4.2

Question:

Where a spiral stair is integrated with a basement wine storage unit (wine cellar) in a dwelling unit, is the stair required to comply with the Building Code?

Interpretation:

Yes.

This condition refers to a wine cellar consisting of stacked prefabricated ring-type units that form a circular shape, with a spiral stair in the centre that provides access to wine stored at different levels in the storage system, with standing space on the floor at the bottom of the stair.

The area at the bottom of the stair is defined by the BCBC as "floor area". The BCBC does not differentiate between stair requirements for storage areas or for other areas within a dwelling unit. Articles 9.8.4.1 and 9.8.4.2 waive the stair rise and run requirements for stairs that serve only areas used as service rooms or service spaces. There is no waiver for stairs serving storage areas within dwelling units.

Regardless of whether the area is inhabited on a regular basis, the stair serving the wine cellar is required to comply with BCBC requirements for stairs within dwelling units. Tapered treads and curved flights are permitted, subject to dimensional and other requirements in the 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.