


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0245

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	May 23, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Braced wall panels for covered deck
Keywords:	Braced wall panel, covered deck, egress route
Building Code Reference(s):	9.23.13.5.(1) & (3)
Question:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If a roof deck on the 2nd floor on a single dwelling unit has a roof covering that is 4m wide (parallel to the exterior wall of the house) and 4m deep (perpendicular to the exterior wall of the house) and is open on 3 sides, are braced wall panels required for the outside edge of the roof covering?2. If the roof deck forms part of a means of egress from the 2nd floor to the ground level via an exterior egress stair, does this affect the requirement for wall bracing of the roof covering?
Interpretation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yes (if the structural design of the dwelling unit is based on the prescriptive requirements of Part 9). Sentence 9.23.13.5.(1) requires braced wall panels for covered roofs that are open on 3 sides, except as permitted by Sentence 9.23.13.5.(3). Sentence 9.10.23.5.(3) waives the requirements for braced wall panels at the outside edge of a roof covering when the roof covering projects less than 3.5m from the face of the exterior wall. Since this roof covering projects 4m from the face of the exterior wall, braced wall panels are required at the outside of the roof covering. If braced wall panels are not provided, the roof assembly would have to be designed to Part 4 by a registered professional. Refer also to Interpretations 18-0070 and 18-0226.  <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>
<p>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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	

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2. No.

The requirement for braced wall panels is solely determined by structural requirements per Article 9.23.13.5. The use of the roof deck as a means of egress has no effect on the requirement for braced wall panels.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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