

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0242**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	June 27, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Mechanical Pressurization of Carbon Monoxide Vestibule
Keywords:	Pressurization, vestibule, storage garage
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.5.7.(4)(b)(ii), 3.2.6.2.(4), 3.2.6.3.(1), A-3.2.6.4.(1)(c), A-3.2.6.3.(1)-(2)(b)

## Question:

1. If mechanical ventilation is provided to a vestibule that is required to limit the movement of carbon monoxide (CO) between a storage garage and other parts of a building, is the rate of mechanical pressurization based solely on Subclause 3.3.5.7.(4)(b)(ii)?
2. Are there any other types of vestibules that require a higher pressurization rate?

## Interpretation:

1. Yes.

CO vestibules require mechanical pressurization at a rate of 14 m<sup>3</sup>/h for each square meter of vestibule surface area.

2. Yes.

For high buildings, Sentence 3.2.6.3.(1) requires that if a high building is connected to any other building, measures be taken to limit movement of smoke from one building to the other.

Notes to Part 3 – A-3.2.6.3.(1) states that a mechanically pressurized vestibule between the connected buildings is one method to limit smoke movement between buildings.

As per A-3.2.6.3.(1) – (2)(b) states that the pressurization rate of this vestibule must maintain a pressure differential of 12 Pascals to the adjacent floor area when the vestibule doors are in a closed position.



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

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