

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0263

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: June 27, 2023

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Panic Hardware

Keywords: Panic Hardware

Building Code Reference(s): 3.4.6.16.(2)

Question:

Clauses (a), (b) and (c) of Sentence 3.4.6.16.(2) refer to different door locations where a device is required that will release the latch and allow the door to swing wide open when a force of not more than 90 N is applied to the device in the direction of travel (eg. "panic hardware"). Clauses (b) and (c) are connected by "and" at the end of Clause (b). Does this mean that panic hardware is required only at doors that satisfy all of the criteria of Clauses (a), (b) and (c)?

Interpretation:

No.

The Preface to the BCBC contains an explanation of the meaning of the words "and" and "or" between the Clauses and Subclauses of a Sentence. The appearance of the word "and" at the end of the second last Clause or Subclause means that all of the applicable Clauses of the Sentence, or the Subclauses of the Clause, are connected to each other with the word "and". A similar linking between Clauses or Subclauses occurs if the word "or" is used. The Preface explanation also notes that a Clause or Subclause must always be read in conjunction with its introductory text at the beginning of the Sentence.

Sentence 3.4.6.16.(2) refers to 3 locations where doors with panic hardware are required, which are:

- (a) every exit door from a floor area containing an assembly occupancy having an occupant load more than 100,



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

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- (b) every door leading to an exit lobby from an exit stair shaft, and every exterior door leading from an exit stair shaft in a building having and occupancy load more than 100, and
- (c) every exit door from a floor area containing a high-hazard industrial occupancy.

These are different locations of doors. The introductory text at the beginning of the Sentence must be read in conjunction with the Clauses. The “and” between Clauses (b) and (c) means that the requirement of Sentence 3.4.6.16.(2) applies to each of the locations described in the Clauses, not that panic hardware is required only at doors that meet all of the criteria stated in the 3 Clauses. (It is unlikely that such a door would exist.)



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