

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 18-0272**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 1 of 2**

Interpretation Date: September 22, 2023

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2018

Subject: Fire Department Access to Cut-off Portions of a Building

Keywords: Fire Department Access

Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.5.5.(1), 3.2.5.5.(2), 3.2.5.5.(4)

## Question:

Where a cut-off portion of a building is required to be within 45 m of a Fire Department vehicle, can this distance be measured from any point on the vehicle access route?

## Interpretation:

Yes.

Sentence 3.2.5.5.(1) requires an access route for Fire Department vehicles to be located so that the principal entrance is between 3 m and 15 m from the access route, measured horizontally from the face of the building.

Sentence 3.2.5.5.(2) states that where a building has a Fire Department connection, the access routes must be provided so that a pumper vehicle can be located adjacent to a hydrant, and a maximum travel path of 45 m is permitted from the vehicle to the building.

Sentence 3.2.5.5.(4) requires that, where a portion of a building is cut off from the remainder of the building so that there is no access to the remainder of the building, the access routes required by Sentence 3.2.5.5.(2) are required to be located so that the unobstructed path of travel from the vehicle to one entrance of each portion of the building is not more than 45 m.

Sentence 3.2.5.5.(4) refers to the access route, not to the specific location of the pumper vehicle, or the hydrant, or the principal response point. The maximum 45 m distance required by Sentence 3.2.5.5.(4) can be measured from any point on a code-conforming Fire Department vehicle access route.



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.

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 18-0272**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 2 of 2**

This is consistent with Building Code Appeal Board Decision #1742 (although this subject was not the focus of that decision).



---

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.