


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0276

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 22, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Sign affixed to a Building
Keywords:	Sign, building
Building Code Reference(s):	Division A, 1.1.1.1.(2)(b), Division B, 3.1.16.1.,4.1.8.18., 5.2.2.1, 5.2.2.2., 9.4.1.1.(c)
Question:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does a sign that is affixed to a building fall under the BCBC?2. If so, does it fall under Part 4 and would the design and construction require the involvement of a professional engineer?
Interpretation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yes, but with limited requirements. <p>Signs that are affixed to the exterior of a building generally is not regulated by the BCBC except the way they are attached to the building. This is similar to how the code applies to communication aerials and towers that are attached to buildings as per Clause 1.1.1.1.(2)(b) in Division A.</p><p>Signs come in different sizes, weights and materials and there are different ways to attach them to the building. They should be treated as architectural components that are attached to the building. The following requirements may apply:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• structural attachment to the building to account for the wind load and seismic load• dead load of the sign applied to the building• penetration of the building envelope2. Yes. <p>If the sign is attached to a Part 9 building, then Part 9 would apply. However, there is no prescriptive requirements to design the attachment of the sign to the building in Part 9.</p><p></p><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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According to Clause 9.4.1.1.(1)(c) it shall be designed according to Part 4.

If the sign is attached to a Part 3 building, then Part 4 would apply.

Article 3.1.16.1. may apply to fabric awning and canopy signs. Article 4.1.8.18. may apply to the design of seismic restraint of the sign as exterior ornamentations and appendages.

Articles 5.2.2.1.and 5.2.2.2. may apply to the environmental loads for the design of the signs.

Depending on size, weight and material the structural design and construction may require the involvement of a professional engineer.

It is recommended that you discuss the requirements for signs with the appropriate AHJ since each jurisdiction may have a sign bylaw that regulates design and construction of signs.



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

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