

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0007

INTERPRETATION

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| Interpretation Date: | March 19, 2024 |
| Building Code Edition: | BC Building Code 2024 |
| Subject: | Cooling System in a Dwelling Unit |
| Keywords: | Dwelling Unit, Cooling |
| Building Code Reference(s): | 9.33.2.1.(2), 9.33.3.1.(2) |

Question:

Can required cooling facilities for a dwelling unit be roughed-in for future installation, instead of being installed as a completed system when the unit is constructed?

Interpretation:

No.

The BCBC 2024 contains new requirements for cooling of dwelling units. Sentence 9.33.2.1.(2) states:

2) Except where determination according to Article 9.33.5.1. or good engineering practice according to Article 6.2.1.1. can show it to be unnecessary, *dwelling units* intended for use in the summer months on a continuing basis shall be equipped with cooling facilities conforming to this Section. (See Note A-9.33.2.1.(2).)

Article 9.33.5.1, referenced above, states the method of determining the design capacity of heating and cooling appliances, except that the design temperatures shall conform to Subsection 9.33.3. In that Subsection, Sentence 9.33.3.1.(2) states:

2) At the outside summer design temperature, required cooling facilities shall be capable of maintaining an indoor air temperature of not more than 26°C in at least one living space in each *dwelling unit*.



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.

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The term “shall be capable” is not intended to mean that cooling equipment can be roughed-in for future installation. Before the dwelling unit is completed and occupied, the required cooling facilities must be installed and functional.

Note that in some circumstances it may be possible to use solutions in addition to air conditioning as part of a system to achieve the required indoor air temperature. The BCBC Notes include the following:

A-9.33.2.1.(2) Cooling. Passive cooling designs can also be used to help reduce cooling loads to achieve the indoor design temperature specified in Sentence 9.33.3.1.(2).

In areas of B.C. where the outdoor summer design temperature is sufficiently below 26°C, it may be possible to use outdoor air as part of the required cooling. Appendix C of Division B provides climatic data for numerous locations in B.C.



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