


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0005

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 18, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Encroachment of clear transfer space for the change room accessible bench
Keywords:	Accessible Shower, Accessible Washroom, Clear Transfer Space
Building Code Reference(s):	3.8.3.6.(11), Figure A-3.8.3.6.(11), 3.8.3.6.(14), 3.8.3.6.(15), 3.8.3.6.(16), Figure A-3.8.3.6.(14) to (16), 3.8.3.17.(2)
Question:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In universal dressing and shower room is it acceptable for the lavatory to impinge on the clear transfer space at one end of the required long bench?2. In universal dressing and shower room or washroom is it acceptable to impinge the clear space required for the door opening on the clear transfer spaces required for other uses?
Interpretation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No. Clause 3.8.3.17.(2)(e) requires a bench to be 1 830mm long and 760mm wide and 480 – 520mm high in a universal dressing and shower room. This bench must have a clear 900mm wide transfer space adjacent to the long side of the bench as required by Clause 3.8.3.17.(2)(f). This clear space must not be impeded by the lavatory as it is allowed at the entrance of the shower in Clause 3.8.3.17.(1)(b) because the lavatory may restrict the persons who need to make a lateral transfer from the wheelchair onto the bench.2. Yes, with limitations. The spaces required for the door operation are used by the wheelchair person to open or close the door, therefore as per Figure A-3.8.3.6.(11) the wheelchair must be positioned facing the door latch. The spaces required in Articles 3.8.3.6.(11), 3.8.3.6.(14), 3.8.3.6.(15)  <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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& 3.8.3.6.(16) may overlap the open transfer spaces required for the bench, shower or access to the bathtub, but in the space for lavatory use, only the portion of this space outside of the rim of the lavatory or counter may be considered acceptable for the overlapping with the door opening area.

Figure A-3.8.3.6.(14) to (16) provides the graphic representation of the areas required for the door operation depending on the used type of door and its swing, and as noted in Article 3.8.3.6.(11) the space must be free of obstacles for the full door height.



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