


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0013

INTERPRETATION

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7 Interpretation Date:	June 18, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Accessible ramp, landing and walkway curb protection
Keywords:	Ramps, curb, edge protection
Building Code Reference(s):	3.8.3.1., Table 3.8.3.1., 3.8.3.2.(3)(a) and (b), 3.8.3.5.(5)
Question: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is the edge protection required by 3.8.3.5.(5) for a ramp and landings permitted to be horizontally offset from the edge of the ramp outwards, so there is a gap between the edge of ramp/ landing and the edge protection?2. For an elevated walkway that has side mounted guardrails, is there any requirement for edge protection and if so, does the edge protection need to align with the edge of the walkway as Question 1?	
Interpretation: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No. Sentence 3.8.3.5.(5) has a requirement of edge protection. Table 3.8.3.1. also permits the use of CSA B651-2018 section 5.3. and 5.5. as an alternative. The above sentence (5) mentions either a raised curb or barrier above the ramp or landing surface, neither of these two options permit a horizontal gap between the edge of ramp and the edge protection. B651-2018 figure 34 has useful diagrams which are useful illustrative guidance of the CSA standard.  <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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2. Yes.

While Section 3.3. and 3.4 guardrail requirements are trying to address a fall hazard, BCBC Clauses 3.8.3.2.(3)(a) and (b) address requirements for interior and exterior accessible walking surfaces.

3.8.3.2.(3)(a) notes no openings in the walking surface are to permit the passage of a sphere more than 13mm in diameter and Clause 3.8.3.2.(3)(b). The elongated opening is not intended to apply to the gap between the walking surface and the inside face of the guard because the gap is not a part of the walking surface.

Both Clauses 3.8.3.2.(3)(a) and (b) share the same functional statements and objectives of that of Sentence 3.8.3.5.(5) being F30-OS3.1 which intend to limit the probability a person in or adjacent the building will be exposed to an unacceptable risk of injury caused by tripping, slipping, falling, contact, drowning or collision.

The designer must exercise professional judgment to limit the above probability of such an unacceptable risk of injury from occurring. The provisions of 3.8.3.5.(5) do provide guidance of a suitable method of protection, and are further reinforced by Figure 34 of the B651-2018 standard.



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

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