

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0021

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	May 21, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Adaptable Bedrooms
Keywords:	Adaptable, bedroom, bed size, clearances
Building Code Reference(s):	A-3.8.5.6.(1), 3.8.5.6.(1)(b), 3.8.5.9.
Question:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is it mandatory to design adaptable bedrooms to accommodate 2 people?2. Is it mandatory to provided 850 mm clearance on both sides of the bed and on the foot of the bed.3. Can the size of an adaptable suite be based on a single bed that is tight to the wall on one side?
Interpretation:	<p>1. No.</p> <p>Refer to the Building and Safety Standards Branch Bulletin B24-09-R.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/construction-industry/building-codes-standards/bc-codes/technical-bulletins</p> <p>2. No (with conditions).</p> <p>Clause 3.8.5.6.(1)(b) requires a pathway clearance in an adaptable bedroom of 850 mm wide. This 850 mm wide pathway applies from the bedroom entry door to the transfer space on one side of the bed as required in Clause 3.8.5.6.(1)(a).</p> <p>This 850 mm wide pathway also applies from the adaptable bedroom entry door to any operable window, door and dwelling unit controls, switches and outlets that are intended</p> <p></p> <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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for frequent operation as described in Article 3.8.5.9.

Refer to the Building and Safety Standards Branch Bulletin B24-09-R.

3. Yes (with conditions).

For demonstration of compliance to Clause 3.8.5.6.(1)(b), a single bed can be tight to the wall on one side provided it does not interfere with access to any operable window, door and dwelling unit controls, switches and outlets that are intended for frequent operation as described in Article 3.8.5.9.

Refer to Building and Safety Standards Branch Bulletin 24-09-R.

Note that adaptable requirements are temporary unrestricted matters with time limitations in the Building Act.

Local governments can adopt bylaws to require additional adaptable design features that are more than the building code requirements. Their bylaws cannot include less restrictive requirements than are required by the building code.

Check with the AHJ to determine if they have additional adaptable requirements within their community.



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

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