


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0020

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	July 16, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Double Header Joist around Floor Opening
Keywords:	Header joist, floor opening
Building Code Reference(s):	9.23.9.5.(1)
Question:	<p>If the header joist at the side of an opening in a floor sits directly above a wood stud bearing wall, must the header joist be doubled if the opening is wider than 1.2 m?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>No.</p> <p>The load on a single header joist that sits directly on a bearing wall is supported by the bearing wall itself, so there is no need to double the header joist when the width of the opening is greater than 1.2 m as described in Sentence 9.23.9.5.(1).</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>	