


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 24-0030**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 1 of 2**

Interpretation Date:	July 16, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024, Book I: General
Subject:	Illumination of Exterior Path of Travel
Keywords:	Lighting; Accessibility; Accessible Path of Travel
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.7.1.(1); 3.8.2.2.(1); 3.8.2.5.(1); 3.8.3.2.(3) & (7)
<b>Question(s):</b>	Do the minimum lighting levels required by Sentence 3.2.7.1.(1) apply to exterior accessible paths of travel?
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The minimum lighting requirements under normal power for a building is regulated by Sentence 3.2.7.1.(1) and specifically identifies several locations requiring illumination. Accessible paths of travel required by Section 3.8. are specifically identified by this requirement, which is a notable change from previous code edition.</p> <p>Article 3.8.2.5., Sentences 3.8.2.2.(1), 3.8.3.2.(3), 3.8.3.3.(1) and 3.8.3.4.(1) include both interior and exterior accessible paths of travel.</p> <p>Sentence 3.8.3.2.(7) requires illumination of interior and exterior paths of travel in accordance with Sentences 3.2.7.1.(1) and (2).</p> <p>Explanatory material provided in Note A-3.8.2.5.(1) and (2) state that it is the intent of Sentences 3.8.2.5.(1) and (2) to provide means of access so that “persons of all abilities can move to and from a building with minimal effort”. Providing illumination supports this intent, by providing additional illumination to assist those with reduced visual acuity, who might otherwise have difficulty navigating during periods of reduced visibility.</p> <p></p> <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.

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 24-0030**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 2 of 2**

The requirements of Article 3.2.7.1. identify various minimum and average lighting levels for the purposes of an accessible path. The Code does not address the potential interactions between the lighting needs for accessibility and the potential impact on adjacent properties and exterior spaces, including adjacent vehicular roadways or the potential for nuisance lighting. To minimize potential adverse impacts on the surrounding spaces, designers may consider various strategies to reduce glare, uplighting, and backlighting.



---

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.