


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0032**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	July 16, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Tactile Walking Surface Indicators
Keywords:	Tactile, warning, indicators
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.19.(1)(a), CSA B651 - 4.3.5.3.2., 5.4.3.1.
<b>Question:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Are tactile walking surface indicators required at intermediate landings in an open stair?</li><li>2. Are tactile walking surface indicators required to be setback 1 stair tread from the top stair riser?</li></ol>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Yes.</li></ol> <p>Clause 3.3.1.19.(1)(a) requires that tactile walking surface indicators be located at the top of flights of stairs that are unenclosed.</p> <p>Flight is defined in Division A - Article 1.4.1.2. as follows:</p> <p><i>Flight means a series of steps between landings.</i></p> <p>When a stair contains more than one flight, the top of each flight requires a tactile walking surface indicator.</p> <p>The term “top of flights of stairs” means the top of each flight of stairs.</p> <p>When a visually challenged person is descending several flights of stairs, they are not aware when they have reached the bottom of the stairs. Therefore, it is important to identify the top of each flight of stairs to warn the user of the start on a subsequent flight of stairs.</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>	

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2. Yes.

BCBC Sentence 3.3.1.19.(1) requires that tactile walking surface indicators be designed to Clauses 4.3.5.3.1.(Configuration), 4.3.5.3.3. (Installation) and 4.3.5.3.4. (Luminance) of CSA B651.

Note that Clause 4.3.5.3.2. (Location) of CSA B651, is not referenced in BCBC Sentence 3.3.1.19.(1) because the location of the indicators is described in BCBC Article 3.3.1.19.

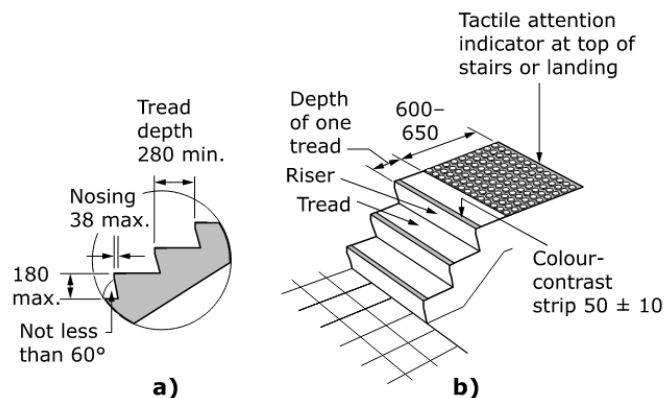
CSA B651 Sub-clause 4.3.5.3.3.(b) (Installation) states that one side of the indicator be against the edge of the hazard, ***unless otherwise indicated in this Standard.***

CSA B651 Article 5.4.3. specifically deals with Tactile attention indicator surfaces at stairs which is referenced by Sub-clause 4.3.5.3.3.(b).

CSA B651 Sub-clause 5.4.3.1.(d) requires the indicator to commence one tread depth back from the edge of the stair as shown in Figure 27 below.

Although there is no direct reference in BCBC to CSA B651 Sub-clause 5.4.3.1.(d), the indirect reference through CSA B651 Sub-clause 4.3.5.3.3.(b) does make it applicable in BC.

**Figure 27**  
**Stair detail**  
(See Clauses 5.4.1 – 5.4.3.)



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