


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0033

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	August 13, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Spatial Interpolation with LD < 1.2m
Keywords:	Spatial, limiting distance, exposing building face
Building Code Reference(s):	Table 3.2.3.1.-D, Table 3.2.3.7., 3.2.3.5.(1)
Question:	<p>For a Part 3 building where the limiting distance of an exposing building face (EBF) is more than 0m but less than 1.2m, is it acceptable to interpolate the allowable area of unprotected openings (UPO) with respect to the construction requirements of the exposing building face (i.e. combustible or noncombustible construction)?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>No.</p> <p>For sprinklered buildings with major occupancies of Groups A, B, C, D and F3, Table 3.2.3.1.-D permits the area of unprotected openings to be 14% to 16% when the limiting distance is 1.2m and 0% when the limiting distance is 0m.</p> <p>For major occupancies of Groups A, B, C, D and F3, Table 3.2.3.7. permits the exposing building face to be combustible construction when the allowable UPO is more than 10%.</p> <p>Sentence 3.2.3.5.(1) clearly states that when the limiting distance is less than 1.2m, no unprotected openings are permitted. This sentence is silent with respect to the type of construction of the exposing building face when the limiting distance is less than 1.2m.</p> <p>It should be noted that for Part 9 building, the wording of Table 9.10.14.4.-A is different than Table 3.2.3.1.-D.</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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The Part 9 Table clearly states that where the limiting distance is “**less than 1.2m**”, the allowable area of unprotected openings is 0%, which would require the construction of the exposing building face to be noncombustible construction.

Although the wording of Table 3.2.3.1.-D does not specifically say “**less than 1.2m**”, the same intent is provided by Sentence 3.2.3.5.(1) which mandates 0% area of unprotected openings when the limiting distance is less than 1.2m.

Hence the type of construction of the exposing building face must be noncombustible when the limiting distance is less than 1.2m.



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

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