

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0278

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	May 21, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Exiting from the second floor
Keywords:	Required Exit from second floor, Travel Distance
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.3.1.; 3.2.2.; 3.4.2.1.(2); 3.4.2.2.(2)

Question:

1. Does the exit stair, from a single suite on the second floor of a two-storey building that is constructed above a part of the ground floor and the area and travel distance does not exceed the limits stated in Tables 3.4.2.1.-A or 3.4.2.1.-B, require a full fire-rated enclosure separated from the ground floor.
2. Can the fire-rated enclosure of the stair be omitted on the second floor?

Interpretation:

1. yYes.

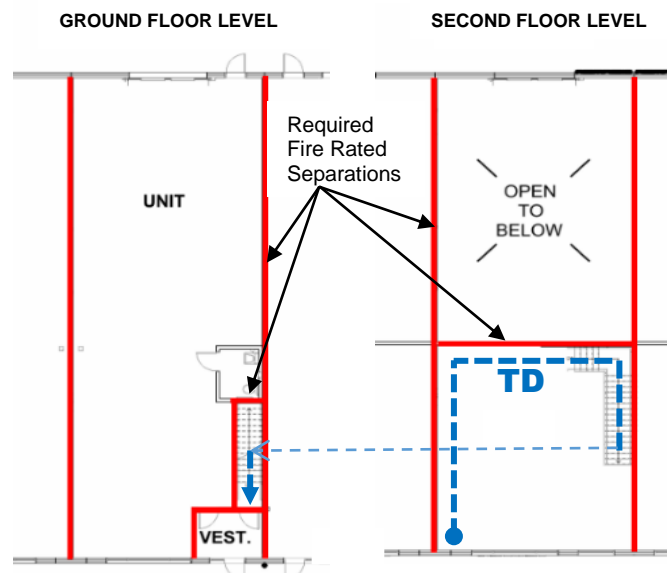
As per Sentence 3.4.2.1.(2), a floor area can be served with a single exit in the two-storey building providing that the occupant load is not more than 60, the area & travel distance are not more than that permitted in Tables 3.4.2.1.A. or B. Construction requirements to determine the required fire separation of the floor and walls separating this suite from the remainder of the building and other occupancies shall comply with Article 3.1.3.1. and Subsection 3.2.2.

2. Yes.

The second floor and the stair leading down to the vestibule must be fire separated from the occupancy on the ground floor as noted above. There is no requirement to separate the stair from the second floor as the stair is a means of egress that is part of the second floor. Note that calculation of the Travel Distance must begin at the furthest corner of the second floor, follow the incline of stair down to the stair door of the fire-rated vestibule.



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.