

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0051

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: October 15, 2024

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Small Residential Care Home

Keywords: Care Facility

Building Code Reference(s): 9.10.2.2.(6)

Question:

If a residential care facility in a Part 9 building is small enough that it does not require provincial licencing, is it required to comply with the BCBC requirements of Sentence 9.10.2.2.(6) for residential care facilities?

Interpretation:

No.

Sentence 9.10.2.2.(6) states “A care facility accepted for residential use pursuant to provincial legislation is permitted to be classified as a residential occupancy...”. Such a facility is limited to sleeping accommodation for no more than 10 persons who must live in a single housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit. The unit must have smoke alarms and emergency lighting, and the building must be sprinklered throughout.

The Province of BC website includes the following statement, for residential care facilities:

Residential care facilities provide accommodation, meals and care and supervision based on the person’s needs. Facilities that provide care and supervision to three or more persons must have a licence, whether they receive funding (subsidized) from a health authority or another agency, or whether a person pays privately.

Based on this information, if a residential care facility provides care and supervision to only one or two persons, it does not require a licence. In that case, Sentence 9.10.2.2.(6) is not applicable. It is interpreted that if the facility provides care and supervision to fewer than 3 persons, it can be classified as a residential occupancy.



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.

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Note that the Provincial licencing requirements for residential care facilities may be revised from time to time, with no coordination with the BCBC requirements. Any persons referencing this Interpretation should check the current Provincial requirements at the time of application to their project.



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