


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0041**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	October 15, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Handrail Projections
Keywords:	Handrail, Projections, Minimum required width
Building Code Reference(s):	9.8.7.6.(1), 3.4.3.3.(4)
<b>Question:</b>	<p>If a stair within a dwelling unit is wider than the minimum required width, is the handrail allowed to project into the stair more than the 100 mm as specified in Sentence 9.8.7.6.(1)?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Sentence 9.8.7.6.(1) permits handrails and construction below handrails, including handrail supports and stair stringers, to project not more than 100 mm into the required width of a stair or ramp but there is no mention if it is allowed on both sides. Similar provisions are provided in Sentence 3.4.3.3.(4) for the projections into the required width of a means of egress.</p> <p>Sentence 3.4.3.3.(4) of 2012 BCBC specified that the projections was allowed “on each side” of the required width. Such a phrase was removed in 2018 BCBC in order to harmonize with Part 9 where such phrase was never there, however, the intent has not changed.</p> <p>A sketch (shown on the next page) in the User’s Guide to Part 3 of NBC 1995 show the 100 mm projections on both sides of a stair. Similar sketch in the User’s Gude to Part 9 of NBC 2015 show detail of the 100 mm projection of the handrail from the wall.</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>	

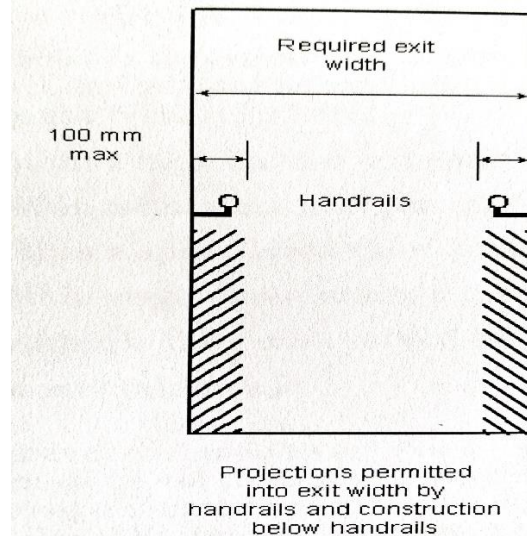
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It is interpreted that handrails can project not more than 100 mm into each side of the required width of a stair.

If a stair is wider than the required minimum width, handrails can project more than 100 mm into each side provided the width of the stair between handrails as shown above is not less than the required exit width less 200 mm.

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

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