


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0054

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	December 10, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Bathroom Exhaust Fans
Keywords:	Bathroom Exhaust; Fan; Ventilation
Building Code Reference(s):	9.32.3.6.(1)(b), Book II : Plumbing Systems - 2.1.3.1.(1)
Question(s):	<p>Is a fan providing the air-flow rate specified by Table 9.32.3.6. required to be installed in each room containing a bathtub/shower, water-closet, or both?</p>
	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The ventilation provision of Clause 9.32.3.6.(1)(b) is intended to remove air laden with moisture, vapour or pollutants, from any bathroom or water-closet room, regardless of whether they originate from a shower, bath, lavatory, water-closet, or other fixture generally intended for personal hygiene. The “OR” statement used in Clause (b) is used in the inclusive sense – meaning any bathrooms, water-closet rooms, or combination or rooms with fixtures for personal hygiene or grooming.</p> <p>The Code provides the following objective and functional statements associated with 9.32.3.6.(1):</p> <p>[F52,F62,F63-OH1.3] [F52,F62,F63,F80-OP2.3]</p> <p>These confirm the intent to limit the risk of harm or illness due to exposure to poor indoor air quality, or degradation of the building as result of the presence of excessive moisture.</p> <p>In addition, Book II: Plumbing Systems Sentence 2.1.3.1.(1) prohibits plumbing fixtures being installed in a room that is not lighted and ventilated in accordance with the BCBC.</p> <p></p> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</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 Authority Having Jurisdiction. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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Further to this, the intent statements of the National Building Code also indicate that these risks include airborne pollutants, or high relative humidity, which could lead to condensation, which could lead to the generation of pollutants from biological growth or from materials that become unstable on wetting.



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