

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0061

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: December 10, 2024

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Seismic Restraint, Friction Forces and Playground Equipment

Keywords: Seismic, Restaint, Playground Equipment

Building Code Reference(s): 4.1.8.18.

Question:

Is playground equipment on a roof deck subject to seismic restraint?

Interpretation:

Yes (in some instances).

Except as provided in Sentences 2, 7 & 16, Article 4.1.8.18. requires elements of structures, non-structural components and equipment as described in Table 4.1.8.18. and their connections to the structure be designed for seismic restraint.

Sentence 4.1.8.18.(2) waives seismic restraint in low seismic zones SC1 and SC2,

Clause 4.1.8.18.(7)(a) does not permit friction due to gravity loads be considered to provide resistance to earthquake forces.

Sentence 4.1.8.18.(16) permits reduced seismic loads on nonstructural elements where the base building structure is provided with supplemental energy dissipation such as base isolation systems.

Furniture on roof decks is not listed in Table 4.1.8.18., so small play equipment components may be classified as furniture which would not be subject to seismic restraint. Waiver of seismic restraint of furniture-like small play equipment should be reviewed with the AHJ.



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

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