

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0011

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	October 15, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Part 9 guards for windows
Keywords:	Guard loads, glazing, window, dwelling unit
Building Code Reference(s):	9.8.8.1.(1), (6), (7); 9.8.8.2.; 9.8.8.3.(2); 9.8.8.3.(6), (7)

Question:

In a Part 9 building, are all glazing including those in exterior walls within a dwelling unit required to resist guard loads when the glazing is installed below 900 mm above finished floor where the difference in elevation is more than 600 mm between the finished floor and the adjacent surface below?

Interpretation:

Yes.

Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1) requires that a guard be provided wherever the difference in floor elevation exceeds 600 mm.

Note A-9.8.8.1. states that “a wall along the edge of the higher surface will obviously prevent such a fall, provided the wall is sufficiently strong that a person cannot fall through it. Where there is no wall, a guard must be installed.”

If glazing or window is located within a wall that is acting as a guard, they are considered part of the wall and shall be able to resist the guard loads specified in Article 9.8.8.2.

Sentence 9.8.8.3.(6) and (7) provide additional requirements for glazing installed over stairs, ramps and landings.

Sentence 9.8.8.3.(1) requires all guards shall be not less than 1070 mm high. Sentence (2) relaxes the height to 900 mm within dwelling units. Sentence (3) also relaxes the height of exterior guards serving not more than one dwelling unit to 900 mm provided the walking surface served by the guard is not more than 1800 mm above the finished ground level.



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

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