

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0072**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: March 18, 2025

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Width of Accessible Exterior Walk

Keywords: Width, Accessible, Walk

Building Code Reference(s): 3.8.3.2.(1), 3.8.3.3.(1), 3.8.3.6, CSA B651

## Questions:

What is the minimum required width of an accessible exterior walk?

## Interpretation:

1600 mm, with minor exceptions as described below.

Sentence 3.8.3.2.(1) requires a minimum 1000 mm width for an accessible path of travel, with exceptions including “as otherwise required in this Part.” Sentence 3.8.3.3.(1) requires that exterior walks forming part of an accessible travel path must be not less than 1600 mm wide.

The BCBC permits doorways to reduce the required width of an accessible path of travel as regulated in Article 3.8.3.6, but doors are not common on exterior walks.

Clause 3.8.3.3.(1)(d) states that exterior walks must be designed in accordance with Clause 8.2.1 of CSA B651 “Accessible design for the built environment”. Clause 8.2.1 requires an accessible exterior pedestrian route to comply with the following Clauses of CSA B651:

- 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.4 and 4.4,
- 4.3.5, where the pedestrian route is adjacent to a vehicular route,
- 8.3.9, if bollards are used to prevent vehicles from entering the pedestrian route, and
- 8.3, where traversing a vehicular area.



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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Most of these clauses relate to design criteria for exterior pedestrian routes, but there are some circumstances where different width requirements are applicable, including:

- A curb ramp requires a minimum width of at least 1500 mm, excluding flared sides.
- A minimum 1200 mm width is required between bollards or curbs.
- A crosswalk, where a pedestrian route crosses a vehicular route, requires a minimum width of 1800 mm.
- If an accessible pedestrian route is required to traverse a vehicular area that has speed bumps, a clear level space at least 1200 mm wide is required between the speed bump and the edge of the roadway.



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