


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0075**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	January 21, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Area of Glazed Openings
Keywords:	Glazed openings, Window, Spatial separation, dwelling units (with no dwelling above)
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.15.4.
<b>Question:</b> <p>Tale 9.10.15.4. limits the area of glazed openings based on the area of exposing building face and limiting distance. Are the window frames excluded from the calculation of the area of glazed openings?</p>	
<b>Interpretation:</b> <p>No.</p> <p>Prior to 2006 BCBC, Section 9.10.14. regulated the area of unprotected openings based on the area of exposing building face and limiting distance. Unprotected opening was defined as opening that did not have the required fire-resistance rating; therefore, the window frames were considered as part of the unprotected openings.</p> <p>In 2006 BCBC, Section 9.10.15 was added to regulate the area of glazed openings of dwelling units with no other dwelling unit above. Glazed opening was not defined. Interpretation 06-0072 interpreted that the window frames were excluded in the calculation of the area of glazed openings based on the Appendix Note A-9.10.15.4. which stated that the opaque portion of doors did not have to be counted as glazed openings.</p> <p>On Page 176 of the Illustrated User's Guide – NBC 2020: Part 9 Housing and Small Buildings, it clarified that “the area of glazed opening is measured to the rough opening of the window or door, not just to the edge of the glazing”. The window frames are part of the glazed openings.</p> <p>Please note that for a solid door with window insert, the opaque portion of the door still would not be counted as glazed opening.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <hr/></div> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>	
<small>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.</small>	