

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0081

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: April 15, 2025

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Wave Action Power Door Operator

Keywords: Power Door Operator, wave action

Building Code Reference(s): 3.8.3.6.(6)(a)(v)

Question:

If a single wave action operator is installed at a height between 900 mm and 1100 mm, is it still required to install another operator at 150 mm to 300 mm as per Subclause 3.8.3.6.(a)(v)?

Interpretation:

Yes.

Clause 3.8.3.6.(6)(a) states that there are two acceptable methods for operating Power Door Operator (PDO):

1. Automatically
2. Using controls

It is understood that automatic activation of the PDO is opening the door by using motion or temperature detection of a person approaching the door. Using this type of automatic device means that push buttons are not required.

Controls, such as push plates or wave sensors require the person to be at a close distance to trigger the activation of the door opener. These controls are required to be installed in two levels as per Subclause 3.8.3.6.(a)(v). The lower control is used by persons in wheelchair by moving the wheelchair leg support to touch control or wave in close proximity. The lower control is also used by specially trained guide dogs to open the door for visually impaired persons.



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

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