

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0084

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: April 15, 2025

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Power Door Operator Exemptions

Keywords: Power, door, operator, hold-open

Building Code Reference(s): 3.8.2.7.(1)

Question:

If a door that is required by Article 3.8.2.7. to have a power door operator, can this power door operator be eliminated if the door is equipped with a manual hold-open device such as an elephant foot?

Interpretation:

No.

Sentence 3.8.2.7.(1) waives the requirement for power door operators on doors with self-closing devices when the door is equipped with a hold-open device.

The intent of Sentence 3.8.2.7.(1) is that the waiver of power door operators only applies when electromagnetic hold-open devices are installed in accordance with Article 3.1.8.14. The elephant foot is not considered as a proper hold-open device because it can be released by anyone without knowing the reason behind its existence.

If such doors do not have floor area clearances as described in Sentences 3.8.3.6.(11) & (15) when the doors are in the closed position, power door operators must be installed to avoid persons with mobility challenges from being trapped behind the door.



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

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