

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0100

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: June 17, 2025

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Direct passage in combination rooms

Keywords: Combination rooms, ventilation, natural light

Building Code Reference(s): 9.5.1.2.; A-9.5.1.2.

Question:

Can the openings required between combination rooms have closures?

Interpretation:

No.

As per Article 9.5.1.2. and Notes A-9.5.1.2. combination rooms are when two areas are linked together with the opening minimum 3 sq.m. or 40% of the dividing wall, whichever is larger.

This opening cannot be obstructed, to allow exchange of the ventilation and natural light between the 2 rooms.



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.