

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0106**

## INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 17, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Vehicle Guards for Garage Serving a Single Dwelling Unit
Keywords:	Vehicle, guard, garage, dwelling unit
Building Code Reference(s):	9.8.8.1.(1), 9.8.8.3.(1)&(3), 9.8.8.4.(1), 9.35

### Questions:

This project is a detached garage on a sloping site serving a single dwelling unit where the front and back sides of the garage are open. The front side has the vehicle entry where adjacent exterior ground is flush with the garage floor. The back side has a vertical drop of more than 600 mm from the garage floor to the adjacent exterior ground level.

1. Is a 1070 mm high guard required along the back side of the garage?
2. Is a continuous 140 mm high curb required along the back side of the garage?
3. Must the guard be designed for vehicle loads in accordance with Sentence 4.1.5.15.(1)?

### Interpretation:

1. Yes (with one exception regarding the height).

Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1) requires guards in all Part 9 buildings, including single dwelling units, at every surface to which access is provided when the different in elevation is more than 600 mm.

Sentence 9.8.8.3.(1) requires the height of the guard to be not less than 1070 mm, except as permitted by Sentences (2) & (3).

Sentence 9.8.8.3.(3) permits the height of the guard to be reduced to 900 mm if the walking surface served by the guard is not more than 1800 mm.

Sentence 9.8.8.4.(1) states that, except as provided by Section 9.35., if garage floors or ramps are more than 600 mm above the adjacent ground or floor level, every opening



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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through a garage floor and the perimeter of floor and ramps that have no exterior walls shall be provided with a 140 mm high continuous curb and a 1070 mm high guard.

Sentence 9.8.8.4.(1) does not apply to floors of garages referred to in Section 9.35.

Section 9.35. applies to garages and carports serving not more than one dwelling unit.

Since this project has a garage that serves a single dwelling units, the additional requirements for guards in garages in Sentence 9.8.8.4.(1) do not apply, but the general requirements of Sentences 9.8.8.1.(1) and 9.8.8.3.(3) do apply.

There are no additional requirements in Subsection 9.35. for guards in garages serving a single dwelling unit.

2. No.

The requirement of Clause 9.8.8.4.(1)(a) for a continuous 140 mm high curb does not apply to garages serving a single dwelling unit.

3. No.

The requirement of Sentence 9.8.8.4.(2) for the design of a vehicle guard to Sentence 4.1.5.15.(1) does not apply to garages serving a single dwelling unit.



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