



Legislated Code Official Scopes of Practice

The Building Officials' Association of B.C. (Association) is providing qualified code officials and local authorities with the following information as a general reminder about legislated requirements that govern compliance decisions [under the Building Act](#).

Compliance Decisions

Under the Act, only qualified building officials or exempt building professionals may decide whether a matter conforms to building regulations on behalf of a local authority (i.e. make a 'compliance decision'). Section 10(3) of the Act reads as follows:

10(3) A person must not decide on behalf of a local authority whether a matter conforms to a building regulation, unless

- (a) the person is a qualified building official, and the matter is within the person's current scope of practice as listed in the register, or*
- (b) the person is an exempt building professional.*

Further, local authorities cannot allow or require a person to make compliance decisions on their behalf if that person is not an appropriately qualified building official or exempt building professional. Section 10(2) of the Act states:

10(2) A local authority must not allow or require a person to decide on behalf of the local authority whether a matter conforms to a building regulation, unless

- (a) the person is a qualified building official, and the matter is within the person's current scope of practice as listed in the register, or*
- (b) the person is an exempt building professional.*

Code official qualification requirements are established under section 11 of the Act.

Examples of common code official activities that constitute compliance decisions can be found in the [Building Act Guide](#) that is published by the Province of B.C.

Code Official Scopes of Practice

In addition to being qualified, building and plumbing officials must only make compliance decisions that are within their specific scope(s) of practice which are set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the [Building Act General Regulation](#). Adherence to these scopes of practice is mandatory for all code officials.

Further information about scopes of practice for qualified code officials can be found in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the [Building Act Guide](#).



Administrative Penalties

Persons and local authorities that contravene section 10 of the Act may be subject to administrative penalties pursuant to section 23 of the Act. Section 24 of the Act enables the Registrar to impose the following administrative penalties:

- suspend an individual's building official qualifications
- remove an individual from the [register of qualified officials on the Association website](#);
- permanently ban an individual from being entered into [the register of qualified officials](#); and
- impose a fine of not more than \$10,000 on an individual or a local authority.

Upcoming Information Sessions

The Association is developing presentations that will be delivered online in early fall 2025 to provide more information about legislated requirements that apply to compliance decisions and the scopes of practice for qualified building and plumbing officials. Discussions will also be held during zone meetings that are scheduled for fall 2025.

Please contact the Association at info@boabc.org if you have any questions or require additional information.