

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0145

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	December 16, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Labelling of Exit Stairs per BCBC and CSA
Keywords:	Labelling, signage, numbers, letters, exit stairs, floors
Building Code Reference(s):	BCBC 3.4.6.19.(2), CSA B651 4.5.1 to 4.5.4., 4.5.6.2., 4.5.6.3.

Question:

1. Must exit stair shafts be labelled with signage using letters rather than numbers (i.e. "Stair A" rather than "Stair 1") ?
2. Must exit stairs also meet the signage requirements of CSA B651-18?

Interpretation:

1. Yes.

Sentence 3.4.6.19.(2) states that "**Upper case letters** indicating the designation assigned to each exit stair shaft in both visual and tactile forms in accordance with Subsection 3.8.3. shall be mounted permanently on the wall on the stair side and on the floor side at the latch of doors to exit stair shafts".

2. Yes.

Sentence 3.4.6.19.(2) requires that the design of the signage for exit stair shafts must comply with Subsection 3.8.3.

Sentence 3.8.3.9.(1) requires visual information signs required by Subsections 3.4.5. and 3.4.6. and Article 3.8.2.10. shall comply with Clauses 4.5.1., 4.5.2., 4.5.3., and 4.5.4. of CSA B651-18.

Sentence 3.8.3.9.(2) requires tactile information signs required by Subsections 3.4.5. and 3.4.6. shall have Braille and tactile characters in accordance with Clauses 4.5.6.2. and 4.5.6.3. of CSA B651-18.



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.