


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0086

INTERPRETATION

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| Interpretation Date: | April 15, 2025 |
| Building Code Edition: | BC Building Code 2024 |
| Subject: | Location of Principal Exhaust Fan in Single Family Dwelling Unit |
| Keywords: | Principal Exhaust Fan |
| Building Code Reference(s): | 9.32.3.3.(1)(ii), 9.32.3.5., 9.32.3.6.(1)(b), Table 9.32.3.6., Note A-9.32.3. |
| Question: | <p>In a multi-storey single- family dwelling that has a forced-air system and using a bathroom fan as the principal exhaust fan, must the principal exhaust fan be located on the uppermost level?</p> |
| Interpretation: | <p>No.</p> <p>Clause 9.32.3.3.(1)(ii) requires that a principal ventilation system includes an exhaust fan that conforms with Article 9.32.3.5. In addition to the principal exhaust fan, 9.32.3.6.(1)(b) requires every bathroom to have an exhaust fan that provides at least the air flow rate specified in Table 9.32.3.6. A bathroom fan can also be used as the principal exhaust fan.</p> <p>Note A-9.32.3. indicates that “while a bathroom fan may be used to satisfy both the requirements for the principal ventilation exhaust fan and the requirements for a bathroom fan, the requirements for each must be met.</p> <p>There is no requirement in Article 9.32.3.5. regarding the location of the principal exhaust fan; therefore, it is not required that the principal exhaust fan be located at the uppermost level.</p>  <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p> |

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