


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0151**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	March 10, 2026
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Visual Signal in Bathrooms of Residential Suites
Keywords:	Visual, signal, bathrooms, residential suites
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.4.19.(1)(g), 3.2.4.19.(1)(h)(i), 3.2.4.19.(4)(e), 3.2.4.19.(7)(c), 3.2.4.20.(7) & (8)
<b>Questions:</b>	Are visual signal devices (strobe lights) required in washrooms of residential suites?
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>No (with some exceptions).</p> <p>Subclause 3.2.4.19.(1)(h)(i) waives the requirement for visual signal devices in washrooms in suites of residential occupancy.</p> <p>The following exceptions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clause 3.2.4.19.(1)(g) requires visual signals to be installed in not less than 10% of suites of residential occupancy in a hotel or motel. This includes washrooms in such suites.</li><li>• Clause 3.2.4.19.(4)(e) only applies to rooms or spaces required by Article 3.2.4.20. &amp; Section 3.8. Sentences 3.2.4.20.(7) &amp; (8) only apply to 10% of hotel or motel rooms.</li><li>• Clause 3.2.4.19.(7)(c) requires special outlet boxes for future strobe lights in adaptable dwelling units located as described in Clause 3.2.4.19.(4)(e), including bathrooms.</li></ul> <p>In summary, visual signal devices are only required in 10% of hotel or motel rooms (including their washrooms), and special outlet boxes for future strobe lights are required in adaptable dwelling units (including bathrooms).</p> <p>Refer also to Interpretations 18-0288 and 24-0012.</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>

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