

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0159**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	March 10, 2026
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Minimum Construction Requirements of Exposing Building Faces
Keywords:	Exposing Building face, Construction requirements
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.14.4.(1); 9.10.14.4.(7); 9.10.14.5.(1); Table 9.10.14.5-A

## Question:

If a building is sprinklered, can the increased unprotected opening allowance permitted by Sentence 9.10.14.4.(7) be used when applying Table 9.10.14.5.-A?

## Interpretation:

Yes.

Sentence 9.10.14.4.(7) permits the maximum aggregate area of unprotected openings to be increased to twice that permitted by Sentence 9.10.14.4.(1), where the building is sprinklered and all rooms adjacent to the exposing building face and containing unprotected openings are sprinklered, notwithstanding any exemptions in the sprinkler standards referenced in Article 3.2.5.12.

Sentence 9.10.14.4.(7) does not restrict the application of the above-mentioned increased allowance and does not exclude its use when determining the minimum construction requirements for exposing building faces using Table 9.10.14.5.-A.

Where the conditions of Sentence 9.10.14.4.(7) are met, the increased maximum aggregate area of unprotected openings [up to twice that permitted by Sentence 9.10.14.4.(1)] may be used to determine the applicable exposing building face construction requirements in Table 9.10.14.5.-A.



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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Table 9.10.14.5.-A relies on the percentage of unprotected openings in an exposing building face as a determining factor for required fire-resistance ratings and required type of construction. Where the code permits an increased percentage of unprotected openings, that permitted percentage forms the appropriate basis for applying the requirements of the table.

The requirement that all rooms adjacent to the exposing building face containing unprotected openings be sprinklered indicates an intent to provide an equivalent or enhanced level of fire safety that supports the increased unprotected opening allowance and less restrictive type of construction of the exposing building face.



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