

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0078

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	April 21, 2026
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Definition of Street
Keywords:	Street, width, private roadway, yard
Building Code Reference(s):	Div A - 1.4.1.2.(1), Div B – 3.2.2.10.(2), 3.2.5.6.(1)(a)

Question:

In the definition of “*Street*” in Division A Sentence 1.4.1.2.(1), does the “9m or more in width” apply to any highway, road, boulevard, square or other improved thoroughfare?

Interpretation:

Yes.

Street is defined in Division A Sentence 1.4.1.2.(1) as follows:

Street means any highway, road, boulevard, square or other improved thoroughfare 9 m or more in width, that has been dedicated or deeded for public use and is accessible to fire department vehicles and equipment.

Although it may be more grammatically correct to have a comma after “thoroughfare”, it is the intent that the “9m or more in width” applies to each item described as any highway, road, boulevard, square or other improved thoroughfare.

Sentence 3.2.2.10.(2) allows a fire truck access route conforming to Subsection 3.2.5. to be considered as a street. Clause 3.2.5.6.(1)(a) requires a fire truck access to have a clear width not less than 6 m.

It should be noted that fire truck access is an unrestricted matter in the Building Act, so it is up to individual AHJ (and fire department) to determine the requirements of fire truck access (including streets, private roads and yards).



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.