


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0167**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	May 19, 2026
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Exit exposure for a principal entrance
Keywords:	Exit, exit exposure, principal entrance
Building Code Reference(s):	Div. A - 1.4.1.2.(1); Div. B - 3.2.3.13.(3), 3.2.4.16.(1)(a), 3.4.2.6.(1)
Question:	<p>Does protection of exit facilities as required by Sentence 3.2.3.13.(3) apply to the principal entrance door of a building, when the principal entrance is not a required exit based on occupant load or travel distance?</p>
Interpretation:	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>Sentence 3.4.2.6.(1) requires every principal entrance to have at least one door designed as an exit for the purposes of Section 3.4.</p> <p>Clause 3.2.4.16.(1)(a) requires every principal entrance to be provided with manual pull stations where a fire alarm system is provided.</p> <p>Sentence 3.2.3.13.(3) applies to all exits as defined in Division A, Article 1.4.1.2., not just required exits.</p> <p>The principal entrance door as required by Sentence 3.4.2.6.(1) must be protected as required by Sentence 3.2.3.13.(3) if there is an opening in a separate fire compartment that is within 3 m horizontally and at an angle of less than 135° from the door.</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>

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.