

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**  
**AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

**File No: 06-0055**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:

January 19, 2010

Building Code Edition:

BC Building Code 2006

Subject:

Fire separation of public corridors

Keywords:

Public corridors, residential suites,  
residential amenity rooms

Building Code Reference(s):

3.3.1.4., 3.3.4.2.(1)

**Question:**

In a sprinklered residential building, is a fire separation required between a residential amenity room and a public corridor on a floor area where the public corridor serves both residential suites as well as the residential amenity room?

**Interpretation:**

No, provided the travel distance from any part of the floor area, including from within the residential suites, to the nearest exit is less than 45 meters.

Sentence 3.3.1.4.(1) requires that a public corridor be separated from the remainder of the storey with a fire separation, except as permitted by Sentence 3.3.1.4.(4).

Clause 3.3.1.4.(4)(a) waives the requirement for a fire separation between a room, other than a residential suite as described in Sentence 3.3.4.2.(1), and a public corridor provided that the travel distance from any part of the floor area to the nearest exit is less than 45 meters.

Sentence 3.3.4.2.(1) requires that a residential suite be separated from a public corridor with a fire separation with a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 hour [or  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour as described in Sentence 3.3.4.2.(2)].

Sentence 3.3.4.2.(1) does not require any fire separation between a public corridor and a residential amenity room.

See attached drawing on Page 2.

  
R. J. Light, Committee Chair

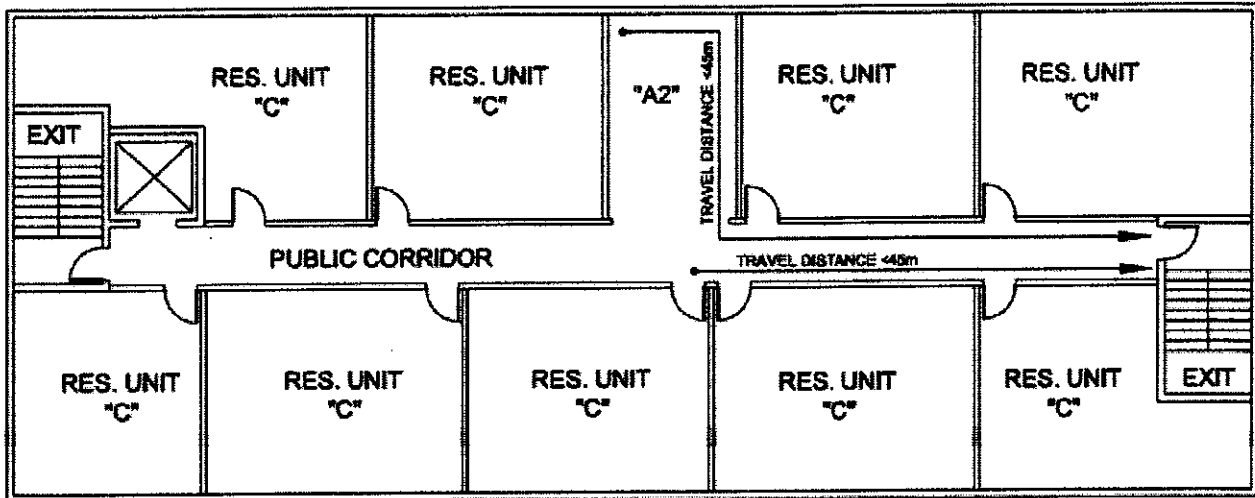
The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as 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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