

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0103

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 2

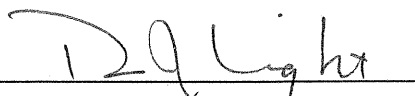
Interpretation Date:	November 22, 2011
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Guard requirements at top horizontal walking surface of escalator, and at interface with adjacent landing guards
Keywords:	Guard, escalator, landing
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.1.18.(1), 3.5.2.1.(1)

## Question:

1. Sentence 3.3.1.18 (1) requires that the guard height be not less than 1070 mm at walking surface locations where the difference in level change is more than 600mm.

The top portion of an escalator typically extends horizontally to allow the steps to flatten before sliding under the comb floor plates at the top landing. The balustrades and moving handrails extend beyond the floor plates and are typically designed to a handrail/guard height of at least 920mm. Is this height acceptable even for the horizontal portion of the moving escalator?

2. Sentence 3.3.1.18.(1) sets out guard requirements at landings. Sentences 3.3.1.18.(2) and (3) have restrictions on openings and climbability within such a guard. Does this apply also to the gap between the 1070 mm high guard at a landing adjacent with the escalator, and the escalator guard supporting the moving handrail?



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing 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.

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0103

INTERPRETATION

Page 2 of 2

## Interpretation:

Yes.

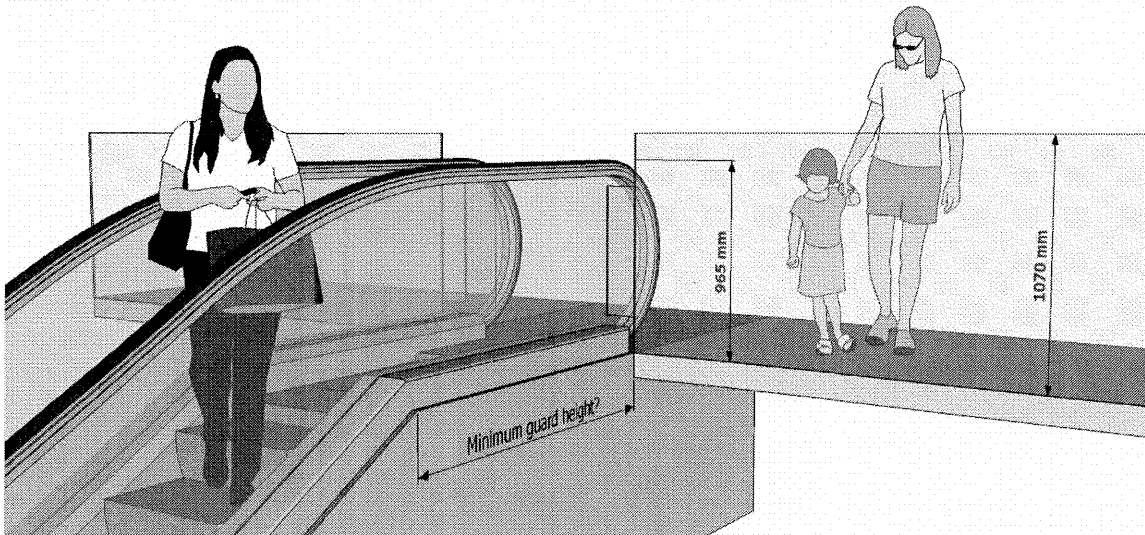
It is interpreted that this horizontal portion of an escalator is considered to be a functional part of the escalator and not the same as a typical fixed landing for stairs. As such, it is to conform to the standards set out by the BC Safety Authority governing elevating devices and is exempt from 1070 mm guard height requirement in the BC Building Code.

Refer to the illustration at the end of this interpretation.

Yes.

Sentence 3.3.1.18.(1) sets out guard requirements at landings. Sentences 3.3.1.18.(2) and (3) have restrictions on openings and climbability within such a guard. This applies also to the gap between the 1070 mm high guard at a landing adjacent with the escalator, and the escalator guard supporting the moving handrail.

Refer to the following illustration.



  
R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing 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.