

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

**INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation Date:	November 21, 2001	File No.: 98-0030
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	<i>Service Room Separation</i>	
Keywords:	Separation, <i>service room</i>	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.10.4.(2)	Page 1 of 2 <i>TAL</i>

**Question:**

Does Sentence 9.10.10.4.(2) exempt the requirements for a *fire separation* with a *fire-resistance rating* for a *service room* containing *space-heating appliances*, space cooling appliances and *service water heaters* that serve more than one *suite* in a *building* not more than 400sq. m in *building area* and a *building height* of not more than 2 *storeys*?

**Interpretation:**

Yes, Part 9, Sentence 9.10.10.4.(2)

The *service room* is not required to be separated from the remainder of the *building* where the equipment serves:

- a room or *suite* (see definition of *suite*) in a *building* of any area or any height constructed under Part 9 or
- a *building* that is not more than 400sq.m in *building area* with a *building height* of not more than 2 *storeys*  
the *building* must meet both the height and area criteria to waive the requirements for a *fire separation* for a *service room*.

**Commentary regarding differences in Part 3 and Part 9**

**Part 9-- 9.10.10.4.(1)(2)**

In Sentence (1) the requirement refer to a "fuel-fired *appliance*" with only the word *appliance* defined. Sentence (2) refers to "fuel-fired *space heating appliances*" with the words "space heating appliances" defined.

Both could be interpreted as meaning a central heating *appliance* supplying heat directly or indirectly to a room, *suite* or *building* through a heating system. (see definitions)

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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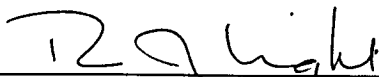
**Part 3, 3.6.2.1.(1)**

Part 3 is worded differently, a room containing a *fuel-fired appliance* shall be separated from the remainder of the *building* by a *fire separation* with a 1 hour *fire-resistance rating* if the *building* is more than 2 *storeys* in *building height* or more than 400sq. m in *building area*. The "or" in this sentence is read in the context of "either/or" which would require a *building* over 2 *storeys* in *building height* regardless of the *building area* or a *building* more than 400 sq. m in *building area* regardless of the *building height* to have a *service room* separated from the remainder of the *building*. Therefore a *building* not more than 2 *storeys* in *building height* with an area of not more than 400 sq. m would not require a *service room* separated from the remainder of the *building*.

Sentence 3.6.2.2.(3) exempt the requirements of 3.6.2.1.(2) if the *fuel-fired appliance* serves only one room or *suite*, this would apply to a *building* more than 2 *storeys* of any area or any height constructed under Part 3.

Sentence 3.6.2.1.(5) are *service rooms* other than those containing a *fuel-fired appliance*.

Sentence 3.6.2.2.(4) exempts the requirement for a *fire separation* in Sentence 3.6.2.1.(5), when the *floor area* is sprinklered, but does not exempt the requirement for a *fire separation* for a *service room* for fuel-fired *appliances* under 3.6.2.1.(1)(2)(3).



R.J. Light, Committee Chair

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