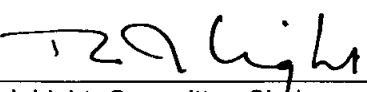


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>INTERPRETATION</b>		
Interpretation Date:	July. 17, 2002	File No.:  <b>98-0046</b>
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Abrupt Changes in Floors	
Keywords:	Abrupt, Level, Floor Finish	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.8.3.6.(1), 3.8.3.3., 3.8.3.2.(1)(a); 9.5.2.1.(1)	Page No.: 1 of 1
<b>Question:</b>		
At what point does an abrupt change in floor levels invoke the requirement for ramps?		
<b>Interpretation:</b>		
<p>In <i>buildings</i> governed by Section 3.8 or Sentence 9.5.2.1.(1), the literal interpretation of Sentence 3.8.3.6.(1) would indicate that an abrupt change of not more than 13mm would be acceptable. This change is limited to interior passageways, which would include any part of an area travelled to do business within a <i>floor area</i>, for all <i>buildings</i> or part thereof required to be accessible as per Subsection 3.8.2. Clause 3.8.3.2.(1)(a) states that walks to at least one main entry and all ancillary areas be provided by a means of a continuous plane not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level.</p> <p>As the code does not define an abrupt change, we will consider any change greater than 13mm between different or similar flooring materials should be via a transition as per the requirements of Article 3.8.3.3.. This is reinforced by Sentence 3.3.1.12.(11) regarding thresholds.</p>		
 <hr/> R.J. Light, Committee Chair		
<p>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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>		