

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

File No: 98-0098

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: May 16, 2006

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: handrail encroachments in stairs' and ramps' width

Keywords: handrails, stair & ramp width, encroachment

Building Code Reference(s): 3.4.3.5.(4)

Question:

Sentence 3.4.3.5.(4) permits both the handrail and any construction beneath the handrail to encroach 100 mm on both sides into the required width of a means of egress.

Does this mean that the walking surface of a stair tread, in a stair that is required to be 1100 mm wide, can be reduced to 900 mm wide in order to accommodate guards that are mounted on the exterior face of the stair stringers?

Interpretation:

Yes

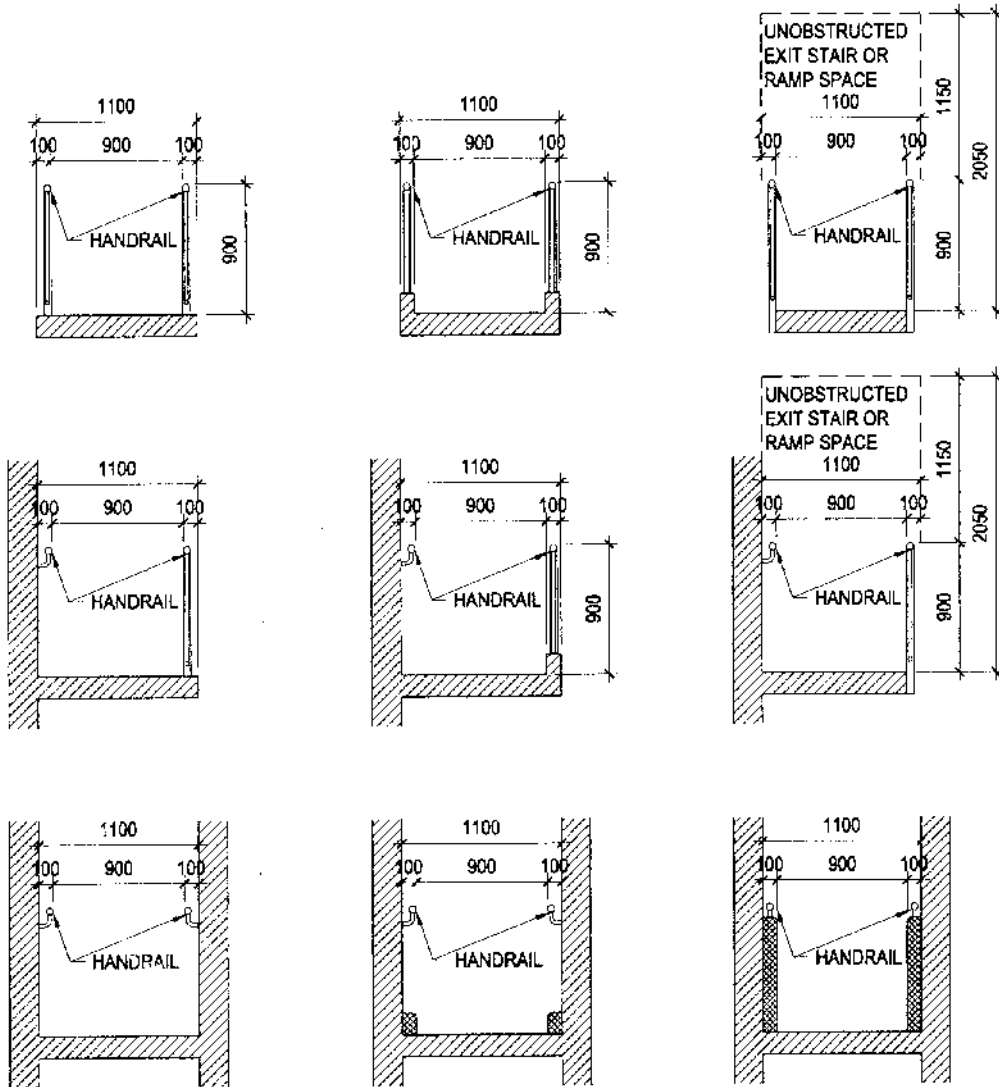
As shown on the attached drawing, as long as 900 mm clearance is maintained in a means of egress for the portion below the handrail height (i.e. 965 mm above the floor level), and 1100 mm clear width is maintained above the handrail height, the width of the means of egress can be considered to be 1100 mm for the purpose of calculation exit capacities.


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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STAIR AND RAMP HANDRAILS 3.4.3.5.(4)


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