

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

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INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: May 17, 2005

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Closures in Exterior Walls

Keywords: Closure, limiting distance, fire-protection rating, unprotected openings

Building Code Reference(s): 3.2.3.5.(1); 3.1.8.4; 3.1.8.15; Table 3.1.8.4; 9.10.14.5.(1); 9.10.13.1.(1); Table 9.10.13.1.

Question:

A Part 3 or Part 9 building has an exterior wall with an unprotected opening at a limiting distance less than 1.2m.

Is the fire-protection rating for the closure required to be the same as the fire-resistance rating of the exterior wall?

Interpretation:

No.

For Part 3 buildings, Sentence 3.2.3.5.(1) requires the closure have a fire-protection rating in conformance with the fire-resistance rating of the exterior wall. It is interpreted that Sentence 3.1.8.4.(2) and Table 3.1.8.4. are applicable to closures in the exterior wall using the fire-resistance rating of the exterior wall as point of reference in the Table. For example, where the exterior wall requires a 1-hour fire-resistance rating, openings in the exterior wall that have a limiting distance less than 1.2 m are required to be protected by a closure having a 45 minute fire-protection rating. The fire-protection rating for the closure is determined in conformance with Sentence 3.1.8.4.(1). Note that the additional temperature rise limits of Article 3.1.8.15. do not apply to closures within the scope of Sentence 3.2.3.5.(1).

For Part 9 buildings, Sentence 9.10.14.5.(1) requires the closure have a fire-protection rating in conformance with the fire-resistance rating of the exterior wall. It is interpreted that Sentence 9.10.13.1.(1) and Table 9.10.13.1. are applicable to closures in the exterior wall. Direct reference is made from Sentence 9.10.14.5.(1) to Table 9.10.13.1. to use fire-resistance rating as a point of reference in determining fire-protection ratings for closures. For example, where the exterior wall requires a 1-hour fire-resistance rating, openings in the exterior wall that have a limiting distance less than 1.2 m are required to be protected by a closure having a 45 minute fire-protection rating. The fire-protection rating for the closure is determined in conformance with Sentence 9.10.3.1. (which includes a cross-reference to Sentence 3.1.8.4.(1)). Note that Part 9 does not require closures to meet additional temperature rise criteria.


R. J. Light, Committee Chair