

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

**File No: 98-0141**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: September 20, 2005

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Separation of suites

Keywords: Fire separation, suites, business and personal services occupancy

Building Code Reference(s): 3.1.3.1.(1), 3.3.1.1.(1)

**Question:**

Is a smoke barrier required between suites of business and personal services?

**Interpretation:**

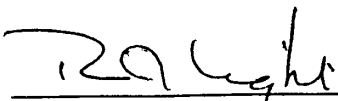
No smoke barrier is required between suites of business and personal services occupancy.

Requirements for fire separations between different major occupancies are basically regulated by Sentence 3.1.3.1, "Multiple Occupancy Requirements" and those between suites are regulated by Sentence 3.3.1.1., "Separation of Suites".

According to Table 3.1.3.1. no fire separation is required between Group D major occupancies.

Sentence 3.3.1.1. (1) exempts business and personal services occupancies from the requirement of fire separations between suites.

It can be concluded that neither a smoke barrier nor a physical barrier is required between suites of business and personal services occupancies.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair