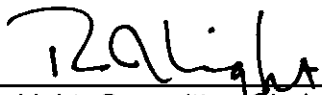


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**  
**AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>File No: 06-0023</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>Page 1 of 1</b>
Interpretation Date:	April 15, 2008	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Elevator lobby used as a vestibule from storage garage	
Keywords:	Elevator Lobby, Vestibule, Storage Garage	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.5.4.(1), 3.3.5.7.	
<b>Question:</b>		
Can an elevator lobby in a storage garage be used as a vestibule as required by Article 3.3.5.7.?		
<b>Interpretation:</b>		
Yes.		
Sentence 3.3.5.4.(1) requires a vestibule between a storage garage and a stair tower or elevator serving occupancies above the level of the storage garage per 3.3.5.7.(3).		
Sentence 3.3.5.7.(1) states that if access is provided through a fire separation from a storage garage to a Group A Division 1 or Group B occupancy, such access must be through a vestibule per 3.3.5.7.(3).		
Sentence 3.3.5.7.(2) states that, in a building more than 3 storeys in building height, if access is provided through a fire separation from a storage garage to a Group A Division 2, 3 or 4 or Group C occupancy, such access must be through a vestibule per 3.3.5.7.(3).		
In all cases noted above, an elevator lobby can be used as the vestibule to isolate the storage garage from the other uses. The elevator lobby itself is not considered to be an "occupancy" and does not require a separate vestibule to isolate it from the storage garage.		
The elevator lobby would have to comply with the provisions of Clause 3.3.5.7.(3)(c) (e.g. not less than 1.8 m long, ventilated and self closing doors with no hold open devices).		
The elevator doors under normal operation would also require self closing operation and no hold open devices.		
 _____ R. J. Light, Committee Chair		
<small>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.</small>		