


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

<b>File No: 06-0030</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
Interpretation Date:	May 20, 2008	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Orientation of Mezzanines	
Keywords:	Mezzanine, horizontal plane	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.1.1.(3)(a) & (b), 3.2.1.1.(7)	
<b>Question:</b>	<p>Does a mezzanine that is centrally located within a room and open to the floor below on both the front and back comply with the intent of Clause 3.2.1.1.(3)(a)? (see attached drawing)</p>	
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Clause 3.2.1.1.(3)(a) states that a mezzanine need not be considered a storey in building height when not less than 60% of the horizontal plane separating the mezzanine from the room or floor space is open.</p> <p>The 60% opening is the aggregate area of opening at the horizontal plane and can occur anywhere within the horizontal plane.</p> <p>The 60% opening relates to the area of the opening and does not relate to a dimensional measurement.</p> <p>It should be noted that Sentence 3.2.1.1.(7) permits partition walls on a mezzanine to enclose up to 10% of the horizontal plane, provided that such partition walls do not obstruct the visual communication between the mezzanine and the floor below. If a mezzanine is centrally located within a room, it is unlikely that any partition walls could be constructed on the mezzanine since they would likely obstruct the visual communication.</p>	
 _____ 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>		

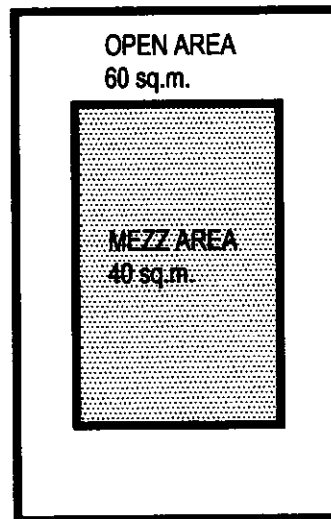
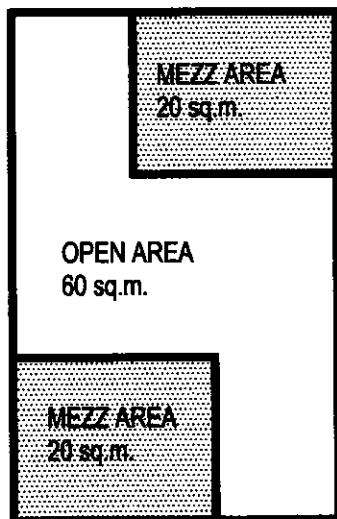
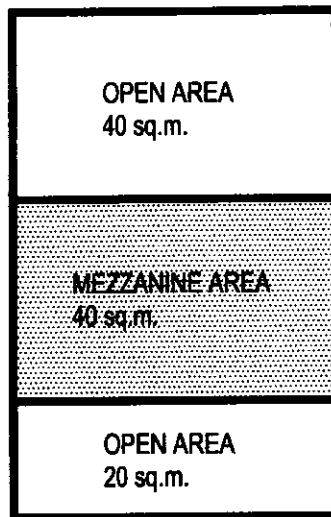
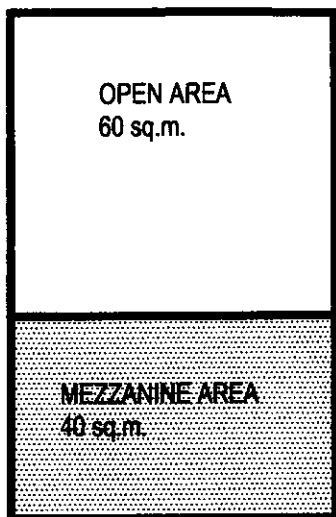
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*R. J. Light*

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