



BULLETIN RB06-001

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

EXIT DOORS OPENING ON TO STEPS

Reference: Sentence 3.4.6.10.(2), Sentence 9.9.6.6.(2) and NBCC 2005 Intent Statements

Sentence 3.4.6.10.(2) “No exit door shall open directly onto a step except that, where there is danger of blockage from ice or snow, an exit door may open onto not more than 1 step which shall be not more than 150 mm high”.

Sentence 9.9.6.6.(2) “Where there is a danger of blockage from ice or snow, an exit door may open onto not more than one step provided the riser of such does not exceed 150 mm”.

Question:

Is it permitted to have a curb under the exit door to prevent blockage from ice or snow?

Commentary / Relevant Facts:

Intent Statements for 3.4.6.10. (2):

“To limit the probability that a person will step through the door down onto a step, which could lead to the person falling, which could lead to harm to the person.”

“To limit the probability that a person will step through the door down onto a step in an emergency situation, which could lead to the person falling or obstructing other persons using the exit, which could lead to delays in the evacuation or movement of persons to a safe place, which could lead to harm to persons.”

Intent Statements for 9.9.6.6.(2):

“To supersede the requirements in **Sentence 9.9.6.6.(1)**, which prohibits exit doors to open directly onto a step, on the basis that a step of limited height will minimize the danger of door blockage from ice or snow without creating an undue risk of injury or delay.

“This is to limit the probability that the accumulation of ice or snow outside the door will block the door, which could lead to persons being unable to leave the building in an emergency situation, which could lead to delays in the evacuation or movement of persons to a safe place, which could lead to harm to persons.”

Conclusion:

No, you may not have a curb under the exit door as shown in figure #1.

An acceptable alternative is to provide a curb on the exterior of the building and a sloped landing on the interior which is at a reasonable gradient, 1:6 - 1:8. (See figure #2)

The best alternative design is to have the stair risers and landings properly designed so no slope is required for the interior landing. (See figure #3)

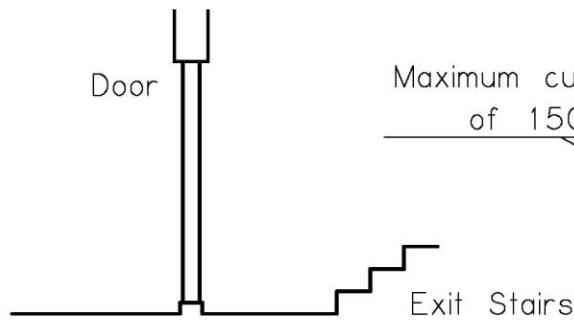


Figure #1

Not Acceptable

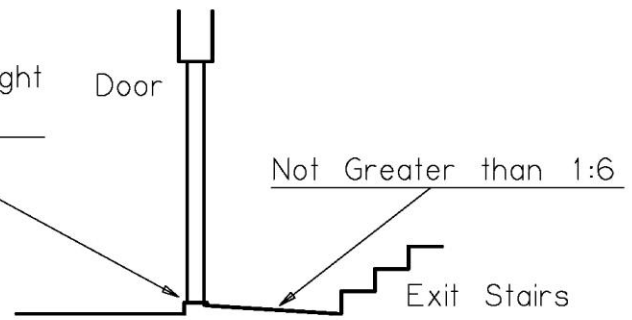


Figure #2

Acceptable

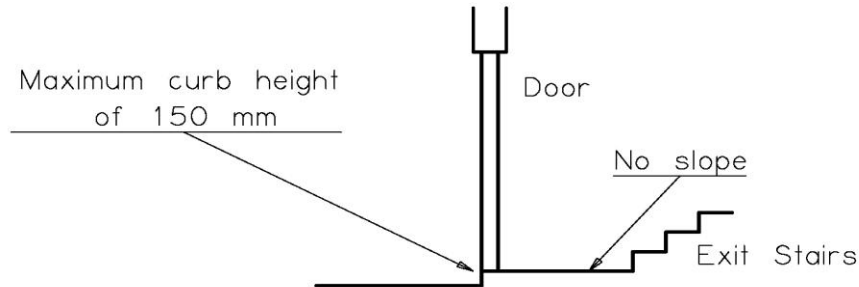


Figure #3

Best Acceptable

Chief Building Inspector

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Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. These bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.