



BULLETIN RB06-003

(Updated 2015 Dec 3)

EXITS OPENING INTO ENCLOSED YARDS WITHOUT GATES

Reference: Article 1.4.1.2., Subsection 3.2.3. and Subsections 9.10.14 and 9.10.15.

Article 1.4.1.2. "Exit means that part of a means of egress, including doorways, that leads from the floor area it serves to a separate building, an open public thoroughfare, or an exterior open space protected from fire exposure from the building and having access to an open public thoroughfare."

Article 1.4.1.2."Means of egress means a continuous path of travel for the escape of persons from any point in a building or contained open space to a separate building, an open public thoroughfare, or an exterior open space protected from fire exposure from the building and having access to an open public thoroughfare. Means of egress includes exits and access to exits."

Subsection 3.2.3."Spatial Separation and Exposure Protection"

Subsection 9.10.14."Spatial Separation Between Buildings"

Subsection 9.10.15."Spatial Separation Between Houses"

Question:

Should enclosed yards without gates be considered as "an exterior open space protected from fire exposure from the building and having access to an open public thoroughfare"?

Commentary / Relevant Facts / Conclusion:

Although an "exterior open space" usually refers to an area from which a public thoroughfare could be reached, there are instances when a completely enclosed yard without a gate is reasonably large enough for the safe evacuation of occupants in a building.

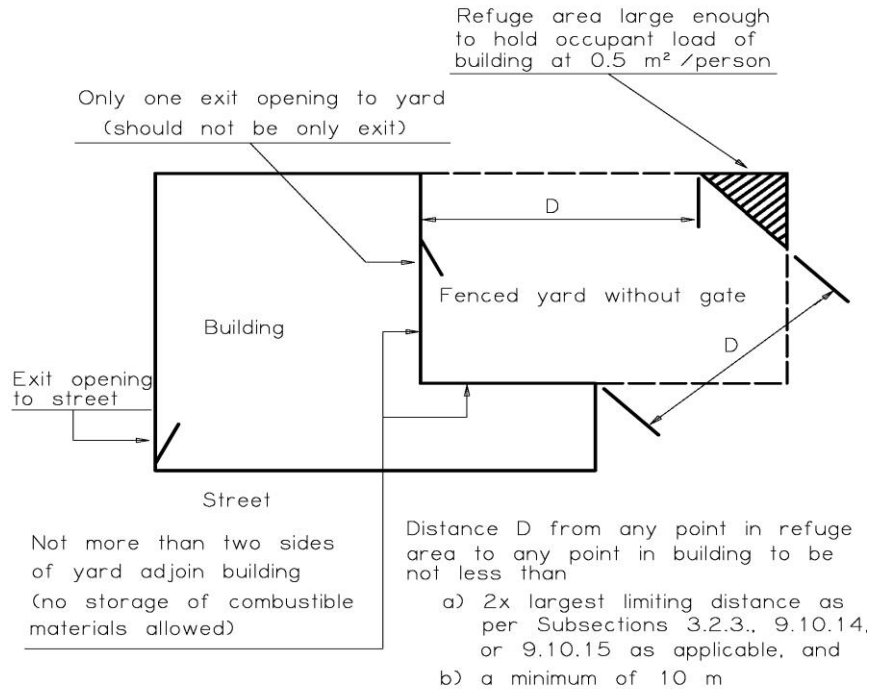
An enclosed yard without a gate can be considered an acceptable open space for exiting from a building provided:

a) it is possible to locate within the yard a refuge area for all occupants in the building (allowing 0.5 m² per person), any point of which is not closer than both of the following from any point in the building:

- i) twice the limiting distance of the exposing building face satisfying all requirements of Subsection 3.2.3. or Subsections 9.10.14 and 9.10.15. as applicable (where an exposing building face is divided into smaller areas by fire compartments complying with Article 3.2.3.2. and Articles 9.10.14.2. and 9.10.15.2., the limiting distance referred to above should be the largest one corresponding to such individual areas), and

- ii) a minimum distance of 10 m.
- b) there shall be no combustible storage or other combustible material within the yard at any time,
- c) not more than two sides of the yard adjoin the building, and
- d) not more than one building exit (which shall not be the only exit) opens to such yard.

An example of an enclosed yard satisfying these conditions is shown below.



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.