



BULLETIN RB06-006

(Updated 2015 Dec 10)

DISTINGUISHING “LOCALIZED DEPRESSIONS” FOR DETERMINATION OF GRADE

Reference: Div A, 1.4.1.2. “Defined Terms”

“Grade (as applying to the determination of building height) means the lowest of the average levels of finished ground adjoining each exterior wall of a building, except that localized depressions such as for vehicle or pedestrian entrances need not be considered in the determination of average levels of finished ground.” (See First storey)

“First storey means the uppermost storey having its floor level not more than 2m above grade”

Commentary / Relevant Facts:

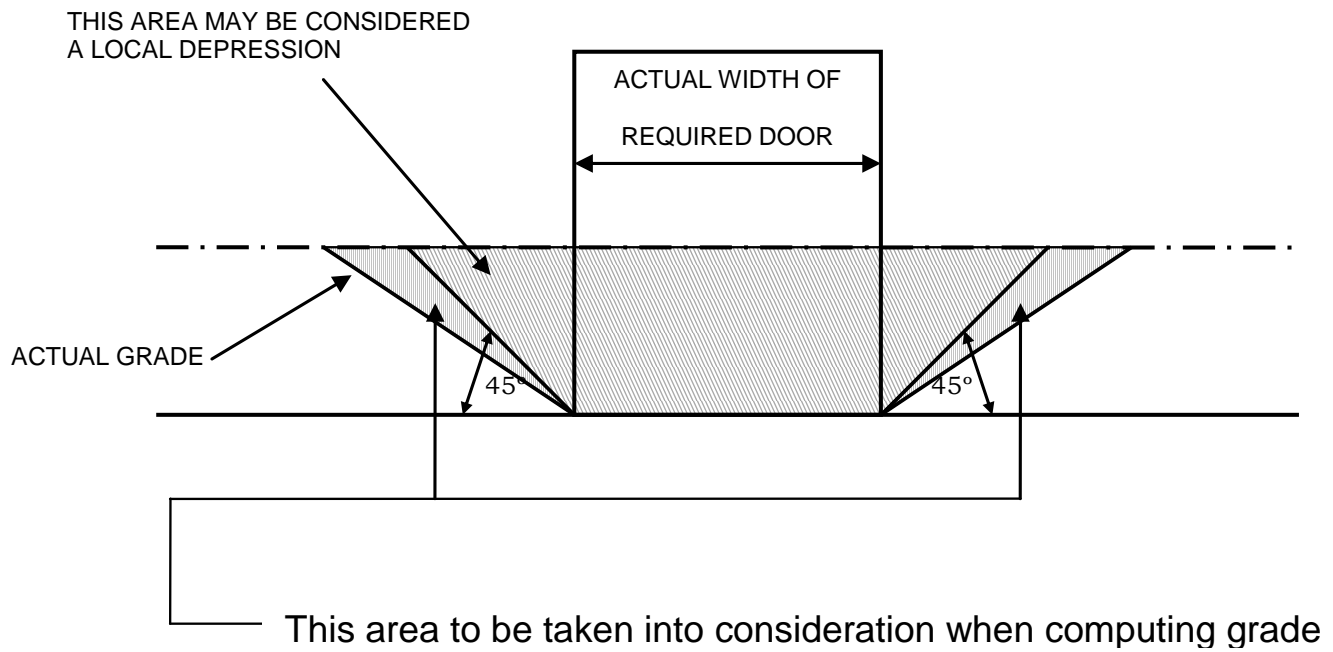
This Regulation Bulletin sets out the guidelines to distinguish the acceptable “localized depressions” when applying the above definition.

Only depressions in ground necessary for required exits, principal entrances and required vehicular passageways may be considered as “localized depressions” and ignored when computing grade of a building. The allowable width of such depressions should be limited to that of the actual opening. The ground may also be sloped at no less than 45o to the horizontal from this width.

Conclusion:

This Regulation Bulletin does not limit larger depressions in the ground at required exits, etc. However, any areas not falling within the above guidelines will not be considered as “localized depressions” and will be taken into account in computing grade. (see sketch page 2)

Any depressions in ground level to permit windows, patio doors and other design features not essential as required exits or vehicular passageways should be taken into consideration when computing “grade”.



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.