



BULLETIN RB06-008

(Updated 2015 Dec 10)

LIMITING DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CARPORTS

Reference: Sentence 9.10.14.2.(1), Sentence 9.10.15.2.(1), Article 9.35.1.2. and Article 9.35.1.2.

Sentence 9.10.14.2.(1) "The area of an exposing building face shall be

- a) taken as the exterior wall area facing in one direction on any side of a building, and
- b) calculated as

- i) the total area measured from the finished ground level to the upper most ceiling, or
 - ii) the area for each fire compartment, where a building is divided into fire compartments by fire separations with fire-resistance ratings not less than 45 min."

Sentence 9.10.15.2.(1) text is identical to **Sentence 9.10.14.2.(1)**

Article 9.35.1.2. "Construction Requirements"

Article 9.35.2.1. "Carport Considered to be Garage"

Question:

Should carports for residential buildings comply with the above requirements?

Commentary / Relevant Facts:

A carport typically consists of a roof supported by columns with completely open sides except where it is attached to the main building. The term "exposing building face" as stated in Sentence 9.10.14.2.(1) has no relevance to these open sides. If some of the sides of the carport (excluding those common with the main building) are partially or wholly covered so there are short walls on the sides, then the carport may be treated as an attached garage for the purpose of Sentence 9.10.14.2.(1) and 9.10.15.2.(1) and the applicable requirements will have to be enforced.

Conclusion:

The requirements of Sentence 9.10.14.2.(1). and Sentence 9.10.15.2.(1) are not applicable to completely open carports. Structural columns supporting only the carport structure should be ignored for this purpose.

However, where a roofed enclosure used for the storage or parking of motor vehicles has more than 60% of the total perimeter (including the perimeter common with the main building) enclosed by walls, doors or windows, then the enclosure shall be considered a garage and all the requirements of Sentences 9.10.14.2.(1) and 9.10.15.2.(1) would be applicable.

Chief Building Inspector

Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006 (ABC 2006). Regulation Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2006 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. Regulation Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. Regulation Bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.