

**BULLETIN RB06-056**

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

**DOOR VIEWERS**

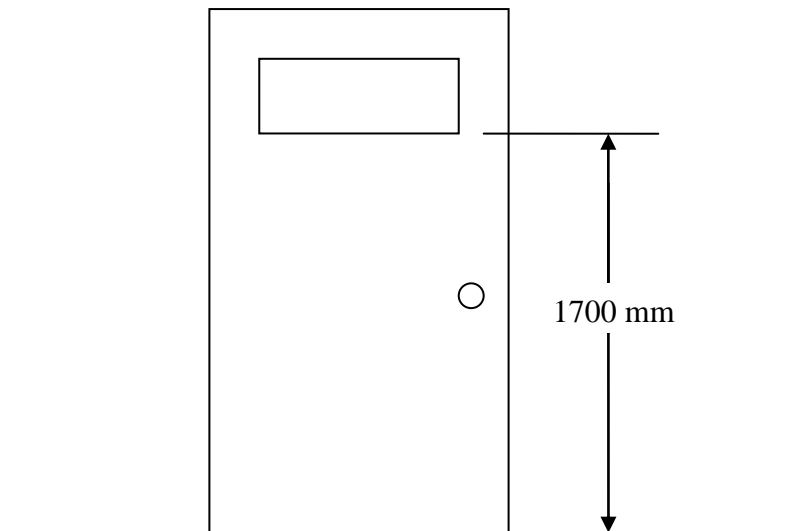
**Reference: Sentence 9.6.8.8.(1)**

**Sentence 9.6.8.8.(1)**” Main entrance doors to dwelling units shall be provided with

- a) a door viewer or transparent glazing in the door, or
- b) a sidelight.”

**Question:**

It has been queried whether the following glazing arrangement meets the intent of the Code.



**Commentary / Relevant Facts:**

The Article clearly allows transparent glazing where a viewer is not provided.

A viewer is essentially a small lens that bends incoming light rays to identify the face of a person who is at the door. It allows the occupant to view a large enough portion of the person standing at the door and to identify that person.

As a flat pane of glass does not have the properties of a lens, it is reasonable to say that a pane of glass used in lieu of a viewer must allow an occupant to have at least the same view of the person outside as a (lens) viewer would provide. Otherwise its purpose will only be that of a transom which will only allow light without having visual access.

**Conclusion:**

A glass panel must serve its intended purpose which is to facilitate observing and identifying a visitor at the door. Therefore, the glazing arrangement shown in the sketch is not acceptable.

The height to the bottom of the glazing should not exceed 1500 mm.

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.