



## **BULLETIN RB06-061**

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

### **HOSE STATIONS AND CABINETS IN THE ABC 2006**

**Reference: Article 3.2.5.11.** Hose Stations and Cabinets

**Sentence:**

- 8) Hose cabinets with 38 mm diameter hose are to be installed in a building that
  - a) is not required by **Article 3.2.1.7.** to have an automatic fire suppression system, or
  - b) is required by **Article 3.2.1.7.** to have an automatic fire suppression system and the system does not comply with
    - i. **NFPA 13**, "Installation of Sprinkler Systems," and
    - ii. **Sentences 3.2.4.9.(2) and (3).**
- 9) Where hose cabinets with 38 mm diameter hose are not required by **Sentence (8)** in a building required to have an automatic fire suppression system,
  - a) the standpipe system shall be equipped with hose stations having both 65 mm and 38 mm diameter hose connections and valves, and
  - b) hose stations shall be located so that all parts of the building are within 9 m of a hose nozzle when attached to not more than 30 m of connected hose.

**Questions:**

#1. How are **Sentences 3.2.5.11.(8) and (9)** applied in buildings that are sprinklered?

**Commentary / Relevant Facts / Conclusions:**

The requirements for hose connections are found in **Article 3.2.5.10.** Hose connections must be provided in exits in accordance with **NFPA 14.** This article specifically states that hose connections are not required in a floor area. The requirements for hose stations and hose cabinets are found in **Articles 3.2.5.11.** of the 2006 Alberta Building Code. **Sentence 1)** requires that a hose station be provided for a standpipe system when the building is not sprinklered.

It should be noted that the instances where a standpipe system is required in a building (see **Article 3.2.5.8.**) and a sprinkler system is not required are very few. **Sentences 2), 3) and 4)** indicate where the hose stations required by **Sentence 1)** are to be located. **Sentences 5) to 7)** provide the requirements for a hose cabinet in terms of door operation, glass panel and identification. **Sentence 10)** indicates that fittings and inlets for firefighting are to comply with the Alberta Fire Code 2006.

**Sentences 8) and 9)** have been open to interpretation and require further analysis to explain the requirements for hose cabinets in buildings. **Sentence 8)** indicates two scenarios where a building must be provided with hose cabinets.

If one of these scenarios exist then the building must have hose cabinets:

1. When the building is not required to be sprinklered which is indicated in **Article 3.2.1.7**.
2. When the building is sprinklered but not to **NFPA 13** and is not electronically supervised.

By the requirements of **Sentence 8)** therefore, a building that is sprinklered to **NFPA 13R** would require hose cabinets.

**Sentence 9)** indicates that where the building is sprinklered to **NFPA 13**, hose cabinets are not required but hose stations are required. Those hose stations have to be located so that all parts of the building are within 9m of a hose nozzle when attached to not more than 30m of connected hose. The way that this is interpreted is that if there is anywhere in a building that is sprinklered to **NFPA 13** that is further than 39m from the hose connection in an exit then a hose station is required in the floor area to meet the distance requirement.

It has been argued that since hose connections are already required in exits and that the location of exits is dictated by another section of the **Code (3.2.4.)** that the issue of fire department connections to the standpipe system is adequately dealt with already. Further to that the connection is provided in the safety of an exit rather than within the floor area where the fire is most likely to occur. Hose cabinets are also not relied upon by the fire department in their fire attack strategies. These are some of the reasons that these requirements are not in the 2010 edition of the National Building Code. At the January 9, 2013 meeting of the Building Technical Sub-council (BTC) of the Safety Codes Council, the BTC agreed to a proposed code change to remove **Sentences 6) to 9)**. The reasoning for the change is so that the ABC aligns with the requirements of the National Building **Code 2010** which does not contain these sentences. Therefore in the next edition of the ABC these sentences will not appear. For that reason an alternative solution to not provide the hose cabinets and hose stations as currently required by **Sentences 3.2.5.11.(8) and (9)** will be entertained should a consultant or owner wish to apply for the alternative solution on this basis.

#### **Conclusions:**

1. Currently **Sentences 3.2.5.11.(8) and (9)** require hose cabinets in some instances in buildings in addition to the hose connections required within exits.
2. The interpretation of the City of Calgary is that a 4 storey multifamily building that is sprinklered to **NFPA 13R** is one of the instances where hose cabinets are required in addition to the hose connections in the exits.
3. These sentences have been accepted to be removed from the code at the next publication.
4. An alternative solution to not have the hose cabinets will be entertained based on the code removal argument.

Chief Building Official

#### **This bulletin is issued by The City of Calgary Inspections & Permit Services.**

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.