

RB14-028

DOORS OPENING TO FUTURE ELEVATED DECKS

Reference: Alberta Building Code 2014 Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1) and Sentence 9.6.4.1.(1)

Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1) "Except as permitted in Sentences (2) and (3), every surface to which access is provided for other than maintenance purposes, including but not limited to flights of stairs and ramps, exterior landings, porches, balconies, mezzanines, galleries and raised walkways, shall be protected by a guard on each side that is not protected by a wall for the length where

- a) there is a difference in elevation of more than 600mm between the walking surface and the adjacent surface, or
- b) the adjacent surface within 1.2 m of the walking surface has a slope of more than 1 in 2."

Sentence 9.8.8.1.(4) "Doors in *buildings of residential occupancy*, where the finished floor on one side of the door is more than 600 mm above the floor or other constructed surface or ground level on the other side of the door, shall be protected by

- a) a *guard*, in accordance with Subsection 9.8.8., or
- b) a mechanism capable of controlling the free swinging or sliding of the door so as to limit any clear unobstructed opening to not more than 100 mm."

Question:

Quite often small residential buildings (mostly single family) are sold to the new owners with provision being made for a future suspended deck, with a door leading to that deck, often a sliding door.

As these decks are often over 600 mm from the adjacent ground, the door will create a hazard to be dealt with under Sentence 9.8.8.1.(1).

Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Regulation 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. 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.

Commentary | Relevant Facts | Conclusion:

One or more of the following steps shall be taken to secure the door opening on to a future deck when the height above the adjacent ground level exceeds 600 mm:

- a) installing a guard to fully complying with Articles 9.8.8.2 to 9.8.8.7
- b) limiting the opening of the door to a maximum of 100 mm ,or
- c) disabling the door hardware.

Chief Building Inspector