

## Section 1.4. Terms and Abbreviations

### 1.4.1. Definitions of Words and Phrases

#### 1.4.1.1. Non-defined Terms

- 1) Words and phrases used in this Code that are not included in the list of definitions in Article 1.4.1.2. shall have the meanings that are commonly assigned to them in the context in which they are used, taking into account the specialized use of terms by the various trades and professions to which the terminology applies.
- 2) Where objectives and functional statements are referred to in this Code, they shall be the objectives and functional statements described in Parts 2 and 3.
- 3) Where acceptable solutions are referred to in this Code, they shall be the provisions stated in Parts 3 to 9 of Division B.
- 4) Where alternative solutions are referred to in this Code, they shall be the alternative solutions mentioned in Clause 1.2.1.1.(1)(b).

#### 1.4.1.2. Defined Terms

- 1) The words and terms in italics in this Code shall have the following meanings:

*Access or Accessible* means [an area and its facilities, or both, as required by this Code, which is easy to approach, enter, exit, operate, participate in, pass to and from, and use safely and independently by persons with disabilities.](#) (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

*Access to exit* means that part of a *means of egress* within a *floor area* that provides access to an *exit* serving the *floor area*.

*Adaptable dwelling unit* means a *dwelling unit* designed and constructed to facilitate future modification to provide *access*.

*Adfreezing* means the adhesion of *soil* to a *foundation unit* resulting from the freezing of *soil* water. (Also referred to as “frost grip.”)

*Air barrier system* means the assembly installed to provide a continuous barrier to the movement of air.

*Air-supported structure* means a structure consisting of a pliable membrane which achieves and maintains its shape and support by internal air pressure.

*Alarm signal* means an audible signal transmitted throughout a zone or zones or throughout a *building* to advise occupants that a fire emergency exists.

*Alert signal* means an audible signal to advise designated persons of a fire emergency.

*Alteration* means a change or extension to any matter or thing or to any *occupancy* regulated by this Code.

*Apparent sound transmission class (ASTC)* means a single number rating of the airborne sound attenuation of *building* assemblies separating two adjoining spaces, taking into account both the direct and flanking sound transmission paths. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).) (See also Note A-9.11. of Division B.)

*Appliance* means a device to convert fuel into energy and includes all components, controls, wiring and piping required to be part of the device by the applicable standard referred to in this Code.

*Artesian groundwater* means a confined body of water under pressure in the ground.

*Assembly occupancy* means the *occupancy* or the use of a *building*, or part thereof, by a gathering of persons for civic, political, travel, religious, social, educational, recreational or like purposes, or for the consumption of food or drink.

*Attic or roof space* means the space between the roof and the ceiling of the top *storey* or between a dwarf wall and a sloping roof.

*Authority having jurisdiction* means the governmental body responsible for the enforcement of any part of this Code or the official or agency designated by that body to exercise such a function. Notwithstanding this definition, the Chief Inspector of Mines has the sole responsibility for administration and enforcement in respect to all buildings, structures and site services used at a mine, as defined in the Mines Act.

*Basement* means a *storey* or *storeys* of a *building* located below the *first storey*.

*Bearing surface* means the contact surface between a *foundation unit* and the *soil* or *rock* upon which it bears.

- Boiler** means an *appliance* intended to supply hot water or steam for space heating, processing or power purposes.
- Braced wall band** means an imaginary continuous straight band extending vertically and horizontally through the *building* or part of the *building*, within which *braced wall panels* are constructed.
- Braced wall panel** means a portion of a wood-frame wall where bracing, sheathing, cladding or interior finish is designed and installed to provide the required resistance to lateral loads due to wind or earthquake.
- Breeching** means a *flue pipe* or chamber for receiving *flue* gases from one or more *flue* connections and for discharging these gases through a single *flue* connection.
- Building** means any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or *occupancy*.
- Building area** means the greatest horizontal area of a *building* above *grade* within the outside surface of exterior walls or within the outside surface of exterior walls and the centre line of *firewalls*.
- Building height** (in *storeys*) means the number of *storeys* contained between the roof and the floor of the *first storey*.
- Business and personal services occupancy** means the *occupancy* or use of a *building* or part thereof for the transaction of business or the rendering or receiving of professional or personal services.
- Caisson** (see *Pile*).
- Care** means the provision of services other than *treatment* by or through care facility management to residents who require these services because of cognitive, physical or behavioural limitations.
- Care occupancy** means the *occupancy* or use of a *building* or part thereof where *care* is provided to residents.  
(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)
- Cavity wall** means a construction of masonry units laid with a cavity between the wythes. The wythes are tied together with metal ties or bonding units, and are relied on to act together in resisting lateral loads.
- Chimney** means a primarily vertical shaft enclosing at least one *flue* for conducting *flue* gases to the outdoors.
- Chimney liner** means a conduit containing a *chimney flue* used as a lining of a *masonry or concrete chimney*.
- Closure** means a device or assembly for closing an opening through a *fire separation* or an exterior wall, such as a door, a [shutter, a damper, wired glass or glass block, and includes all components such as hardware, closing devices, frames and anchors.](#)
- Combustible** means that a material fails to meet the acceptance criteria of CAN/ULC-S114, “Test for Determination of Non-Combustibility in Building Materials.”
- Combustible construction** means that type of construction that does not meet the requirements for *noncombustible construction* [or encapsulated mass timber construction.](#)
- Combustible dusts** means dusts and particles that are ignitable and liable to produce an explosion.
- Combustible fibres** means finely divided, combustible vegetable or animal fibres and thin sheets or flakes of such materials which, in a loose, unbaled condition, present a flash fire hazard, including cotton, wool, hemp, sisal, jute, kapok, paper and cloth.
- Combustible liquid** means a liquid having a *flash point* at or above 37.8°C and below 93.3°C.
- Conditioned space** means any space within a *building* the temperature of which is controlled to limit variation in response to the exterior ambient temperature by the provision, either directly or indirectly, of heating or cooling over substantial portions of the year.
- Constructor** means a person who contracts with an owner or their authorized agent to undertake a project, and includes an [owner](#) who contracts with more than one person for the work on a project or undertakes the work on a project or any part thereof.
- Contained use area** means a supervised area containing one or more rooms in which occupant movement is restricted to a single room by security measures not under the control of the occupant.
- Cooktop** means a cooking surface having one or more burners or heating elements.
- Coordinating registered professional** means a *registered professional* retained under Clause 2.2.7.2.(1)(a) of Division C to coordinate all design work and *field reviews* of the *registered professionals* who are required for a project.

**Dangerous goods** means products, materials or substances that are

- (a) regulated by TC SOR/2008-34, “Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDGR)” (see Table 3.2.7.1. of Division B of the British Columbia Fire Code), or
- (b) classified as controlled products under HC SOR/2015-17, “Hazardous Products Regulations” (see Note A-Table 3.2.7.1. of Division B of the British Columbia Fire Code).

(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Dead load** means the weight of all permanent structural and non-structural components of a *building*.

**Deep foundation** means a *foundation unit* that provides support for a *building* by transferring loads either by end-bearing to *soil* or *rock* at considerable depth below the *building*, or by adhesion or friction, or both, in the *soil* or *rock* in which it is placed. *Piles* are the most common type of *deep foundation*.

**Designer** means the person responsible for the design.

**Detention occupancy** means the *occupancy* by persons who are restrained from or are incapable of evacuating to a safe location without the assistance of another person because of security measures not under their control.

**Distillery** means a *process plant* where *distilled beverage alcohols* are produced, concentrated or otherwise processed, and includes facilities on the same site where the concentrated products may be blended, mixed, stored or packaged.

**Distilled beverage alcohol** means a beverage that is produced by fermentation and contains more than 20% by volume of water-miscible alcohol.

**Direct-vented** (as applying to a fuel-fired space- or water-heating *appliance*) means an *appliance* and its venting system in which all the combustion air is supplied directly from the outdoors and the products of combustion are vented directly to the outdoors via independent, totally enclosed passageways connected directly to the *appliance*.

**Dwelling unit** means a *suite* operated as a housekeeping unit, used or intended to be used by one or more persons and usually containing cooking, eating, living, sleeping and sanitary facilities.

**Encapsulated mass timber construction** means that type of construction in which a degree of fire safety is attained by the use of encapsulated mass timber elements with an *encapsulation rating* and minimum dimensions for structural members and other *building assemblies*.

**Encapsulation rating** means the time in minutes that a material or assembly of materials will delay the ignition and combustion of encapsulated mass timber elements when it is exposed to fire under specified conditions of test and performance criteria, or as otherwise prescribed by this Code.

**Excavation** means the space created by the removal of *soil*, *rock* or *fill* for the purposes of construction.

**Exhaust duct** means a duct through which air is conveyed from a room or space to the outdoors.

**Exit** means that part of a *means of egress*, including doorways, that leads from the *floor area* it serves to a separate *building*, an open public thoroughfare, or an exterior open space protected from fire exposure from the *building* and having access to an open public thoroughfare. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Exit level** means the level of an *exit* stairway at which an exterior *exit* door or *exit* passageway leads to the exterior.

**Exit storey** (as applying to Subsection 3.2.6. of Division B) means a *storey* having an exterior *exit* door.

**Exposing building face** means that part of the exterior wall of a *building* that faces one direction and is located between ground level and the ceiling of its top *storey* or, where a *building* is divided into *fire compartments*, the exterior wall of a *fire compartment* that faces one direction.

**Factory-built chimney** means a *chimney* consisting entirely of factory-made parts, each designed to be assembled with the other without requiring fabrication on site.

**Farm building** means a *building* or part thereof that does not contain a *residential occupancy* and that is associated with and located on land devoted to the practice of farming, and used essentially for the housing of equipment or livestock, or the production, storage or processing of agricultural and horticultural produce or feeds. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Field review** means a review of the work

- at a *building* site, and
- where applicable, at locations where *building* components are fabricated for use at the *building* site

that a *registered professional* in his or her professional discretion considers necessary to ascertain whether the work substantially complies in all material respects with the plans and supporting documents prepared by a *registered professional*.

**Fill** means *soil*, *rock*, rubble, industrial waste such as slag, organic material or a combination of these that is transported and placed on the natural surface of *soil* or *rock* or organic terrain. It may or may not be compacted.

**Fire block** means a material, component or system that restricts the spread of fire within a concealed space or from a concealed space to an adjacent space.

**Fire compartment** means an enclosed space in a *building* that is separated from all other parts of the *building* by enclosing construction providing a *fire separation* having a required *fire-resistance rating*.

**Fire damper** means a *closure* consisting of a damper that is installed in an air distribution system or a wall or floor assembly and that is normally held open but designed to close automatically in the event of a fire in order to maintain the integrity of the *fire separation*.

**Fire detector** means a device that detects a fire condition and automatically initiates an electrical signal to actuate an *alert signal* or *alarm signal* and includes *heat detectors* and *smoke detectors*.

**Fire load** (as applying to an *occupancy*) means the *combustible* contents of a room or *floor area* expressed in terms of the average weight of *combustible* materials per unit area, from which the potential heat liberation may be calculated based on the calorific value of the materials, and includes the furnishings, finished floor, wall and ceiling finishes, trim and temporary and movable *partitions*.

**Fire-protection rating** means the time in minutes or hours that a *closure* will withstand the passage of flame when exposed to fire under specified conditions of test and performance criteria, or as otherwise prescribed in this Code.

**Fire-resistance rating** means the time in minutes or hours that a material or assembly of materials will withstand the passage of flame and the transmission of heat when exposed to fire under specified conditions of test and performance criteria, or as determined by extension or interpretation of information derived therefrom as prescribed in this Code. (See D-1.2.1.(2) in Appendix D of Division B.)

**Fire-retardant-treated wood** means wood or a wood product that has had its surface-burning characteristics, such as flame spread, rate of fuel contribution and density of smoke developed, reduced by impregnation with fire-retardant chemicals.

**Fire separation** means a construction assembly that acts as a barrier against the spread of fire. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Fire stop** means a system consisting of a material, component and means of support used to fill gaps between *fire separations* or between *fire separations* and other assemblies, or used around items that wholly or partially penetrate a *fire separation*.

**Fire stop flap** means a device intended for use in horizontal assemblies required to have a *fire-resistance rating* and incorporating protective ceiling membranes, which operates to close off a duct opening through the membrane in the event of a fire.

**Firewall** means a type of *fire separation* of *noncombustible construction* that subdivides a *building* or separates adjoining *buildings* to resist the spread of fire and that has a *fire-resistance rating* as prescribed in this Code and has structural stability to remain intact under fire conditions for the required fire-rated time.

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

**Flame-spread rating** means an index or classification indicating the extent of spread-of-flame on the surface of a material or an assembly of materials as determined in a standard fire test as prescribed in this Code.

**Flammable liquid** means a liquid having a *flash point* below 37.8°C and having a vapour pressure not more than 275.8 kPa (absolute) at 37.8°C as determined by ASTM D 323, “Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method).”

**Flash point** means the minimum temperature at which a liquid within a container gives off vapour in sufficient concentration to form an ignitable mixture with air near the surface of the liquid.

**Flight** means a series of steps between landings. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Floor area** means the space on any *storey* of a *building* between exterior walls and required *firewalls*, including the space occupied by interior walls and *partitions*, but not including *exits*, *vertical service spaces*, and their enclosing assemblies.

**Flue** means an enclosed passageway for conveying *flue* gases.

**Flue collar** means the portion of a fuel-fired *appliance* designed for the attachment of the *flue pipe* or *breeching*.

**Flue pipe** means the pipe connecting the *flue collar* of an *appliance* to a *chimney*.

**Forced-air furnace** means a *furnace* equipped with a fan that provides the primary means for the circulation of air.

**Foundation** means a system or arrangement of *foundation units* through which the loads from a *building* are transferred to supporting *soil* or *rock*.

**Foundation unit** means one of the structural members of the *foundation* of a *building* such as a footing, raft or *pile*.

**Frost action** means the phenomenon that occurs when water in *soil* is subjected to freezing which, because of the water/ice phase change or ice lens growth, results in a total volume increase or the build-up of expansive forces under confined conditions or both, and the subsequent thawing that leads to loss of *soil* strength and increased compressibility.

**Furnace** means a *space-heating appliance* using warm air as the heating medium and usually having provision for the attachment of ducts.

**Gas vent** means that portion of a venting system designed to convey vent gases to the outdoors from the *vent connector* of a gas-fired *appliance* or directly from the *appliance* when a *vent connector* is not used.

**Grade** means the lowest of the average levels of finished ground adjoining each exterior wall of a *building*, except that localized depressions need not be considered in the determination of average levels of finished ground.  
(See *First storey* and Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Groundwater** means a free standing body of water in the ground.

**Groundwater level** (groundwater table) means the top surface of a free standing body of water in the ground.

**Guard** means a protective barrier around openings in floors or at the open sides of stairs, landings, balconies, *mezzanines*, galleries, raised *walkways* or other locations to prevent accidental falls from one level to another. Such a barrier may or may not have openings through it.

**Heat detector** means a *fire detector* designed to operate at a predetermined temperature or rate of temperature rise.

**Heavy timber construction** means that type of *combustible construction* in which a degree of fire safety is attained by placing limitations on the sizes of wood structural members and on the thickness and composition of wood floors and roofs and by the avoidance of concealed spaces under floors and roofs.

**Heritage building** is a *building* which is legally protected or officially recognized as a heritage property by the Provincial government or a local government. (See Note A-1.1.1.1.(5).)

**High-hazard industrial occupancy** (Group F, Division 1) means an *industrial occupancy* containing sufficient quantities of highly *combustible* and flammable or explosive materials which, because of their inherent characteristics, constitute a special fire hazard.

**Horizontal exit** means an *exit* from one *building* to another by means of a doorway, vestibule, *walkway*, bridge or balcony.

**Horizontal service space** means a space such as an attic, duct, ceiling, roof or crawl space oriented essentially in a horizontal plane, concealed and generally inaccessible, through which *building* service facilities such as pipes, ducts and wiring may pass.

**Impeded egress zone** means a supervised area in which occupants have free movement but require the release, by security personnel, of security doors at the boundary before they are able to leave the area, but does not include a *contained use area*.

**Indirect service water heater** means a *service water heater* that derives its heat from a heating medium such as warm air, steam or hot water.

**Industrial occupancy** means the *occupancy* or use of a *building* or part thereof for the assembling, fabricating, manufacturing, processing, repairing or storing of goods and materials.

**Interconnected floor space** means superimposed *floor areas* or parts of *floor areas* in which floor assemblies that are required to be *fire separations* are penetrated by openings that are not provided with *closures*.

**Limiting distance** means the distance from an *exposing building face* to a property line, the centre line of a *street*, lane or public thoroughfare, or to an imaginary line between 2 *buildings* or *fire compartments* on the same property, measured at right angles to the *exposing building face*.

**Live load** means a variable load due to the intended use and *occupancy* that is to be assumed in the design of the structural members of a *building*. It includes loads due to cranes and the pressure of liquids in containers.

**Loadbearing** (as applying to a *building* element) means subjected to or designed to carry loads in addition to its own *dead load*, excepting a wall element subjected only to wind or earthquake loads in addition to its own *dead load*.

**Low-hazard industrial occupancy** (Group F, Division 3) means an *industrial occupancy* in which the *combustible* content is not more than 50 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or 1 200 MJ/m<sup>2</sup> of *floor area*.

**Major occupancy** means the principal *occupancy* for which a *building* or part thereof is used or intended to be used, and shall be deemed to include the subsidiary *occupancies* that are an integral part of the principal *occupancy*. The *major occupancy* classifications used in this Code are as follows:

A1 – *Assembly occupancies* intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts

A2 – *Assembly occupancies* not elsewhere classified in Group A

A3 – *Assembly occupancies* of the arena type

A4 – *Assembly occupancies* in which the occupants are gathered in the open air

B1 – *Detention occupancies* in which persons are under restraint or are incapable of self-preservation because of security measures not under their control

B2 – *Treatment occupancies*

B3 – *Care occupancies*

C – *Residential occupancies*

D – *Business and personal services occupancies*

E – *Mercantile occupancies*

F1 – *High-hazard industrial occupancies*

F2 – *Medium-hazard industrial occupancies*

F3 – *Low-hazard industrial occupancies*

**Masonry or concrete chimney** means a *chimney* of brick, stone, concrete or masonry units constructed on site.

**Means of egress** means a continuous path of travel provided for the escape of persons from any point in a *building* or contained open space to a separate *building*, an open public thoroughfare, or an exterior open space protected from fire exposure from the *building* and having access to an open public thoroughfare. *Means of egress* includes *exits* and *access to exits*.

**Mechanically vented** (as applying to a fuel-fired space- or water-heating *appliance*) means an *appliance* and its combustion venting system in which the products of combustion are entirely exhausted to the outdoors by a mechanical device, such as a fan, blower or aspirator, upstream or downstream from the combustion zone of the *appliance*, and the portion of the combustion venting system that is downstream of the fan, blower or aspirator is sealed and does not include draft hoods or draft control devices. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Medium-hazard industrial occupancy** (Group F, Division 2) means an *industrial occupancy* in which the *combustible* content is more than 50 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or 1 200 MJ/m<sup>2</sup> of *floor area* and not classified as a *high-hazard industrial occupancy*.

**Mercantile occupancy** means the *occupancy* or use of a *building* or part thereof for the displaying or selling of retail goods, wares or merchandise.

**Mezzanine** means an intermediate floor assembly between the floor and ceiling of any room or *storey* and includes an interior balcony.

**Noncombustible** means that a material meets the acceptance criteria of CAN/ULC-S114, “Test for Determination of Non-Combustibility in Building Materials.”

**Noncombustible construction** means that type of construction in which a degree of fire safety is attained by the use of *noncombustible* materials for structural members and other *building* assemblies.

**Occupancy** means the use or intended use of a *building* or part thereof for the shelter or support of persons, animals or property.

**Occupant load** means the number of persons for which a *building* or part thereof is designed.

**Open-air storey** means a *storey* in which at least 25% of the total area of its perimeter walls is open to the outdoors in a manner that will provide cross-ventilation to the entire *storey*.

**Partition** means an interior wall 1 *storey* or part-*storey* in height that is not *loadbearing*.

**Party wall** means a wall jointly owned and jointly used by 2 parties under easement agreement or by right in law, and erected at or upon a line separating 2 parcels of land each of which is, or is capable of being, a separate real-estate entity.

**Perched groundwater** means a free standing body of water in the ground extending to a limited depth.

**Persons with disabilities** means [persons who have a permanent or temporary physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.](#) (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Pile** means a slender *deep foundation unit* made of materials such as wood, steel or concrete or a combination thereof, that is either premanufactured and placed by driving, jacking, jetting or screwing, or cast-in-place in a hole formed by driving, excavating or boring. (Cast-in-place bored *piles* are often referred to as *caissons* in Canada.)

**Plenum** means a chamber forming part of an air duct system.

**Plumbing system** means a drainage system, a venting system and a water system or parts thereof.

**Post-disaster building** means a *building* that is essential to the provision of services in the event of a disaster, and includes

- hospitals, emergency treatment facilities and blood banks,
- telephone exchanges,
- power generating stations and electrical substations,
- control centres for air, land and marine transportation,
- public water treatment and storage facilities, and pumping stations,
- sewage treatment facilities,
- *buildings* having critical national defence functions, and
- *buildings* of the following types, except *buildings* exempted from this designation by the *authority having jurisdiction*:
  - emergency response facilities,
  - fire, rescue and police stations and housing for vehicles, aircraft or boats used for such purposes, and
  - communications facilities, including radio and television stations.

(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Private sewage disposal system** means a privately owned plant for the treatment and disposal of sewage (such as a septic tank with an absorption field).

**Process plant** means an *industrial occupancy* where materials, including *flammable liquids*, *combustible liquids*, or gases, are produced or used in a process. (See Table 3.2.7.1. of Division B of the British Columbia Fire Code.)

**Protected floor space** means that part of a *floor area* protected from the effects of fire and used as part of a *means of egress* from an *interconnected floor space*.

**Public corridor** means a corridor that provides *access to exit* from more than one *suite*. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Public way** means a sidewalk, *street*, highway, square or other open space to which the public has access, as of right or by invitation, expressed or implied.

**Registered professional** means

- a person who is registered or licensed to practise as an architect under the Architects Act, or
- a person who is registered or licensed to practise as a professional engineer under the Engineers and Geoscientists Act.

**Registered professional of record** means a *registered professional* retained to undertake design work and *field reviews* in accordance with Subsection 2.2.7. of Division C.

**Repair garage** means a *building* or part thereof where facilities are provided for the repair or servicing of motor vehicles.

**Residential occupancy** means the *occupancy* or use of a *building* or part thereof by persons for whom sleeping accommodation is provided but who are not harboured for the purpose of receiving *care* or *treatment* and are not involuntarily detained.

**Return duct** means a duct for conveying air from a space being heated, ventilated or air-conditioned back to the heating, ventilating or air-conditioning *appliance*.

**Rim joist** means the outermost member in floor framing, other than blocking, be it parallel, perpendicular or on an angle to the floor joists. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Rock** means that portion of the earth's crust that is consolidated, coherent and relatively hard and is a naturally formed, solidly bonded, mass of mineral matter that cannot readily be broken by hand.

**Run** means the horizontal distance between two adjacent tread nosings on a stair. (See Figure A-9.8.4.-B in Note A-9.8.4. of Division B.)

**Sanitary drainage system** means a drainage system that conducts sewage.

**Secondary suite** means a self-contained dwelling unit located within a building or portion of a building

- completely separated from other parts of the building by a vertical fire separation that has a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 h and extends from the ground or lowermost assembly continuously through or adjacent to all storeys and spaces including service spaces of the separated portions.
- of only residential occupancy that contains only one other dwelling unit and common spaces, and
- where both dwelling units constitute a single real estate entity.

(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1) of Division B.)

**Service room** means a room provided in a *building* to contain equipment associated with *building* services.

(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Service space** means space provided in a *building* to facilitate or conceal the installation of *building* service facilities such as chutes, ducts, pipes, shafts or wires.

**Service water heater** means a device for heating water for plumbing services.

**Shallow foundation** means a *foundation unit* that derives its support from *soil* or *rock* located close to the lowest part of the *building* that it supports.

**Smoke alarm** means a combined *smoke detector* and audible alarm device designed to sound an alarm within the room or *suite* in which it is located upon the detection of smoke within that room or *suite*.

**Smoke detector** means a *fire detector* designed to operate when the concentration of airborne combustion products exceeds a predetermined level.

**Soil** means that portion of the earth's crust that is fragmentary, or such that some individual particles of a dried sample may be readily separated by agitation in water; it includes boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, silt, clay and organic matter.

**Solid masonry** means a single wythe or multi-wythe construction made of *solid masonry units* or semi-solid, cored, or hollow masonry units, the cells of which may or may not be filled with mortar or grout. In multi-wythe masonry construction, the space between the wythes consists of a mortar-filled collar joint or grout-filled space and the wythes may or may not be constructed of the same masonry materials.

**Solid masonry unit** means a concrete block or brick unit, a clay brick unit, or calcium silicate brick unit whose net solid area is at least 75% of its gross area. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

**Sound transmission class (STC)** means a single number rating of the airborne sound attenuation of a *building* assembly separating two adjoining spaces, taking into account the direct sound transmission path. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).) (See also Note A-9.11. of Division B.)

**Space heater** means a *space-heating appliance* for heating the room or space within which it is located, without the use of ducts.

**Space-heating appliance** means an *appliance* intended for the supplying of heat to a room or space directly, such as a *space heater*, fireplace or *unit heater*, or to rooms or spaces of a *building* through a heating system such as a central furnace or boiler.

**Sprinklered** (as applying to a *building* or part thereof) means that the *building* or part thereof is equipped with a system of automatic sprinklers.

**Stage** means a space that is designed primarily for theatrical performances with provision for quick change scenery and overhead lighting, including environmental control for a wide range of lighting and sound effects and that is traditionally, but not necessarily, separated from the audience by a proscenium wall and curtain opening.

**Storage garage** means a *building* or part thereof intended primarily for the storage or parking of motor vehicles and containing no provision for the repair or servicing of such vehicles. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)



- Storage-type service water heater** means a *service water heater* with an integral hot water storage tank.
- Storey** means that portion of a *building* that is situated between the top of any floor and the top of the floor next above it, and if there is no floor above it, that portion between the top of such floor and the ceiling above it.
- Stove** means an *appliance* intended for cooking and space heating.
- Street** means any highway, road, boulevard, square or other improved thoroughfare 9 m or more in width, that has been dedicated or deeded for public use and is accessible to fire department vehicles and equipment.
- Subsurface investigation** means the appraisal of the general subsurface conditions at a *building* site by analysis of information gained by such methods as geological surveys, in situ testing, sampling, visual inspection, laboratory testing of samples of the subsurface materials and *groundwater* observations and measurements.
- Suite** means a single room or series of rooms of complementary use, operated under a single tenancy, and includes *dwelling units*, individual guest rooms in motels, hotels, boarding houses, rooming houses and dormitories as well as individual stores and individual or complementary rooms for *business and personal services occupancies*.  
(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)
- Supply duct** means a duct for conveying air from a heating, ventilating or air-conditioning *appliance* to a space to be heated, ventilated or air-conditioned.
- Tapered tread** means a tread with non-parallel edges that increases or decreases its *run* uniformly over its width. ([See Note A-1.4.1.2.\(1\).](#))
- Theatre** means a place of public assembly intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts or the screening and viewing of motion pictures, and consisting of an auditorium with permanently fixed seats intended solely for a viewing audience.
- Treatment** means the provision of medical or other health-related intervention to persons, where the administration or lack of administration of these interventions may render them incapable of evacuating to a safe location without the assistance of another person. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)
- Treatment occupancy** means the *occupancy* or use of a *building* or part thereof for the provision of *treatment*, and where overnight accommodation is available to facilitate the *treatment*. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)
- Unit heater** means a suspended *space heater* with an integral air-circulating fan.
- Unprotected opening** (as applying to *exposing building face*) means a doorway, window or opening other than one equipped with a *closure* having the required *fire-protection rating*, or any part of a wall forming part of the *exposing building face* that has a *fire-resistance rating* less than that required for the *exposing building face*.
- Unsafe condition** means any condition that could cause undue hazard to the life, limb or health of any person authorized or expected to be on or about the premises.
- Unstable liquid** means a liquid, including *flammable liquids* and *combustible liquids*, that is chemically reactive to the extent that it will vigorously react or decompose at or near normal temperature and pressure conditions or that is chemically unstable when subjected to impact.
- Vapour barrier** means the elements installed to control the diffusion of water vapour.
- Vent connector** (as applying to heating or cooling systems) means the part of a venting system that conducts the *flue* gases or vent gases from the *flue collar* of a gas *appliance* to the *chimney* or *gas vent*, and may include a draft control device.
- Vertical service space** means a shaft oriented essentially vertically that is provided in a *building* to facilitate the installation of *building* services including mechanical, electrical and plumbing installations and facilities such as elevators, refuse chutes and linen chutes.
- Walkway** means a covered or roofed pedestrian thoroughfare used to connect 2 or more *buildings*.

## 1.4.2. Symbols and Other Abbreviations

### 1.4.2.1. Symbols and Other Abbreviations

1) The symbols and other abbreviations in this Code shall have the meanings assigned to them in this Article and Article 1.3.2.1. of Division B.

|         |       |   |
|---------|-------|---|
| 1 in 2  | ..... | slope of 1 vertical to 2 horizontal       |
| cm      | ..... | centimetre(s)                             |
| °       | ..... | degree(s)                                 |
| °C      | ..... | degree(s) Celsius                         |
| dB(A)   | ..... | A-weighted sound level                    |
| diam    | ..... | diameter                                  |
| g       | ..... | gram(s)                                   |
| h       | ..... | hour(s)                                   |
| HDD     | ..... | heating degree-day(s)                     |
| HVAC    | ..... | heating, ventilating and air-conditioning |
| Hz      | ..... | hertz                                     |
| J       | ..... | joule(s)                                  |
| K       | ..... | degree(s) Kelvin                          |
| kg      | ..... | kilogram(s)                               |
| kN      | ..... | kilonewton(s)                             |
| kPa     | ..... | kilopascal(s)                             |
| kW      | ..... | kilowatt(s)                               |
| kWh     | ..... | kilowatt hour(s)                          |
| L       | ..... | litre(s)                                  |
| lx      | ..... | lux                                       |
| m       | ..... | metre(s)                                  |
| M       | ..... | metric nomenclature for reinforcing bars  |
| max.    | ..... | maximum                                   |
| mg      | ..... | milligram(s)                              |
| min.    | ..... | minimum                                   |
| min     | ..... | minute(s)                                 |
| MJ      | ..... | megajoule(s)                              |
| mm      | ..... | millimetre(s)                             |
| MPa     | ..... | megapascal(s)                             |
| N       | ..... | newton                                    |
| n/a     | ..... | not applicable                            |
| ng      | ..... | nanogram(s)                               |
| No.     | ..... | number(s)                                 |
| o.c.    | ..... | on centre                                 |
| OSB     | ..... | oriented strandboard                      |
| PM      | ..... | particulate matter                        |
| ppb     | ..... | part(s) per billion                       |
| ppm     | ..... | part(s) per million                       |
| R       | ..... | thermal resistance value (imperial unit)  |
| RSI     | ..... | thermal resistance value (metric unit)    |
| s       | ..... | second(s)                                 |
| W       | ..... | watt(s)                                   |
| %       | ..... | percent                                   |
| µg      | ..... | microgram(s)                              |
| µm      | ..... | micrometre(s)                             |
| U-value | ..... | overall thermal transmittance             |