

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 2 to 7 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 to exit* means that part of a *means of egress* within a *floor area* that provides access to an *exit* serving the *floor area*.
- Air-supported structure* means a structure consisting of a pliable membrane that achieves and maintains its shape and support by internal air pressure.
- 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.
- Assembly occupancy* (Group A) 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.
- Atmospheric storage tank* means a *storage tank* designed to operate at pressures from atmospheric to 3.5 kPa (gauge).
- 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.
- Basement* means a *storey* or *storeys* of a *building* located below the *first storey*.
- 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*.
- Business and personal services occupancy* (Group D) 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.
- 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* (Group B, Division 3) 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).)
- Chimney* means a primarily vertical shaft enclosing at least one *flue* for conducting *flue* gases to the outdoors.
- Class B fire* means a fire involving a *flammable liquid* or *combustible liquid*, fat or grease.
- Closed container* means a container sealed by means of a lid or other device such that neither liquid nor vapour will escape from it at ordinary temperatures.
- Closure* means a device or assembly for closing an opening through a *fire separation* or an exterior wall, such as a door, a shutter, wired glass or glass block, and includes all components such as hardware, closing devices, frames and anchors.
- 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. (See Subsection 4.1.2. of Division B.)

Community care facilities means community care facilities as defined in the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*.

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), 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).

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

Detention occupancy (Group B, Division 1) 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.

Dispenser sump means a liquid-tight container intended for installation under a dispensing unit for the collection of any internal leakage of *flammable liquid* and *combustible liquid* from the dispensing unit.

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

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.

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.

Electrical equipment vault means an isolated enclosure, either above or below ground, with fire-resisting walls, ceilings and floors, for housing transformers and other electrical equipment.

Electrical service room means a room or space provided in a *building* to accommodate *building* electrical service equipment and constructed in accordance with the British Columbia Building Code.

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.

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).)

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-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 the British Columbia Building 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 the British Columbia Building Code. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

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 flap** means a device intended for use in horizontal assemblies required to have a *fire-resistance rating* and incorporating protective ceiling membranes that 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 the British Columbia Building 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).” (See Subsection 4.1.2. of Division B.)
- 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. (See Subsection 4.1.3. of Division B.)
- 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*.
- Fuel-dispensing station** means any premises or part thereof at which *flammable liquids* or *combustible liquids* are dispensed from fixed equipment into the fuel tanks of motor vehicles, watercraft or floatplanes.
- 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).)
- 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.
- Individual storage area** means the area occupied by piles, bin boxes, *racks* or shelves, including subsidiary aisles providing access to the stored products, and separated from adjacent storage by aisles not less than 2.4 m in width. (See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)
- Industrial occupancy** (Group F) 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*.
- Low-hazard industrial occupancy** (Group F, Division 3) means an *industrial occupancy* in which the combustible content is not more than 50 kg/m² or 1 200 MJ/m² of *floor area*.
- Low pressure storage tank** means a *storage tank* designed to operate at pressures greater than 3.5 kPa (gauge) and up to 100 kPa (gauge).
- Lower explosive limit** means the minimum concentration of vapour in air at which the propagation of flame occurs on contact with a source of ignition.

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*

Marine fuel-dispensing station means a *fuel-dispensing station* at which *flammable liquids* or *combustible liquids* are dispensed into the fuel tanks of watercraft or floatplanes.

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*.

Medium-hazard industrial occupancy (Group F, Division 2) means an *industrial occupancy* in which the combustible content is more than 50 kg/m² or 1 200 MJ/m² of *floor area* and not classified as a *high-hazard industrial occupancy*.

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

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.

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

Pressure vessel means a *storage tank* designed to operate at pressures greater than 100 kPa (gauge).

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.)

Rack means any combination of vertical, horizontal or diagonal members that support stored materials on solid or open shelves, including both fixed and portable units.

Refinery means any *process plant* in which *flammable liquids* or *combustible liquids* are produced from crude petroleum, including areas on the same site where the resulting products are blended, packaged or stored on a commercial scale.

Residential occupancy (Group C) 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.

Self-service outlet means a *fuel-dispensing station* other than a *marine fuel-dispensing station* where the public handles the dispenser.

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.

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*.

- Spill containment sump** means a liquid-tight container intended to catch, retain and provide for the evacuation of any product at the time of filling.
- Sprinklered** (as applying to a *building* or part thereof) means that the *building* or part thereof is equipped with a system of automatic sprinklers.
- Storage tank** means a vessel for *flammable liquids* or *combustible liquids* having a capacity of more than 230 L, and designed to be installed in a fixed location.
- Storey** means that portion of a *building* 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.
- 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.
- 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).)
- Supervisory staff** means those occupants of a *building* who have some delegated responsibility for the fire safety of other occupants under the fire safety plan.
- Tank vehicle** means any vehicle, other than railroad tank cars and boats, with a cargo tank having a capacity of more than 450 L, mounted or built as an integral part of the vehicle and used for the transportation of *flammable liquids* or *combustible liquids* and including tank trucks, trailers and semi-trailers.
- Transition sump** means an underground liquid-tight container intended for installation where mechanical connection or transition takes place for the collection of any internal leakage of *flammable liquid* and *combustible liquid*.
- 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** (Group B, Division 2) 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).)
- Turbine sump** means a container designed to provide access to equipment and to contain minor leakage, and installed to prevent water ingress.
- 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 subject to impact.
- 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.

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.

cm.....	centimetre(s)
cSt.....	centistoke(s)
°C.....	degree(s) Celsius
h.....	hour(s)
kg.....	kilogram(s)
kPa.....	kilopascal(s)
L.....	litre(s)
m.....	metre(s)
max.	maximum
min.	minimum
min.....	minute(s)
MJ.....	megajoule(s)
mm.....	millimetre(s)
n/a.....	not applicable
No.....	number(s)
pS/m.....	pico Siemens per metre
s.....	second(s)
St.....	stoke(s)
>.....	greater than
≤.....	less than or equal to
%.....	per cent