

No. B07-07  
May 2007

## **Emergency Power for Firefighting Water Supply Clause 3.2.7.9.(1)(b) Division B**

It has been brought to our attention that Clause 3.2.7.9.(1)(b) of the British Columbia Building Code (BCBC) is being misapplied. This has negative impacts on public safety.

This Clause indicates: “An emergency power supply capable of operating under a full load for not less than 2 hours shall be provided by an emergency generator for water supply for firefighting in conformance with Article 3.2.5.7., if the supply is dependent on electrical power supplied to the building”.

When a sprinklered building incorporates an electric fire pump to provide the required water supply for the sprinkler system, an emergency generator must be provided to power the pump during outages of the normal power.

It is not acceptable to provide electric power to the pump from an adjacent normal supply, (i.e. a service separate from the building’s usual electrical supply) to be used for emergency purpose. During a local power outage, this would result in an inadequate water supply for the sprinkler system.

The Building Policy Branch will be proposing a wording amendment to this clause to prevent its misapplication, and in the interim, requests this clause be interpreted appropriately.

Building Policy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards  
Ministry of Forests & Range  
And Minister Responsible for Housing

*The contents of this Bulletin are not intended to be provided as legal advice and should not be relied upon as legal advice. For further information contact the Building Policy Branch.*