

No. B10-01
DATE January 18, 2010

British Columbia Building Code Amendments Related to Seismic Slope Stability and Technical Guidance

Effective February 1, 2010, the BC Building Code is amended with the new additions of Sentence 4.1.8.16.(8) and Sentence 9.4.4.4.(2).

With the new changes,

- 1) the consideration of potential for slope instability and its consequences at a building site becomes an explicit requirement in designs of structures and their foundations, and
- 2) the seismic hazard probability level to be used in the consideration, particularly in assessment of seismic slope stability, will be as referenced in Subsection 1.1.3 of Division B of the BC Building Code, namely a 2%-in-50 year probability of exceedance.

As a result, the Geotechnical Slope Stability (Seismic) Regulation, B.C. Reg. 358/2006 is repealed. The companion Commentary on Geotechnical Slope Stability (Seismic) Regulation issued by the Building and Safety Policy Branch in January 2007 is also withdrawn. As originally intended, the repealed B.C. Reg. 358/2006 served as an interim provision for specifying a seismic hazard probability level to be used for slope assessments for building sites. That level was a 10%-in-50 year probability of exceedance.

Copies of the Minister's Orders amending the BC Building Code and repealing the Geotechnical Slope Stability (Seismic) Regulation are available online at <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/regs/codes/index.html>--see Revision 7.

Technical guidance on seismic slope assessment to the 2%-in-50 year seismic hazard probability level can be found in the document *Guidelines for Legislated Landslide Assessments for Proposed Residential Development in British Columbia*, published by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC. These guidelines provide a risk-based approach for professionals to assess and mitigate building sites and to design structures at the sites. Authorities may also find the guide helpful in defining criteria for and evaluating results from professional geotechnical reports. The document is available online at <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/pppractice/documents/ppguidelines/guidelineslegislatedlandslide1.pdf>