

PROPOSED CHANGE: Use of Elevators in Emergency

CHANGE NUMBER: 2018-BCFC-04-Use of Elevators in Emergency

CODE REFERENCE: 2015 National Fire Code - Division B - Article 2.8.2.7.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

It is proposed to delete the requirement to post a sign that a building's elevator is not to be used in an emergency.

PROBLEM/BACKGROUND:

The British Columbia Fire Code (BCFC) is based substantially on the model National Fire Code of Canada (NFC). The NFC is updated about every five years and British Columbia adopts most of the NFC requirements into the next edition of the BCFC. The 2018 BCFC will be based on the 2015 NFC with some changes specific to British Columbia.

Posting a sign that a building's elevator is not to be used in an emergency may delay evacuation for persons requiring an elevator due to sensory or physical limitations.

The code language shown below is the proposed final code language that will appear in the 2018 BCFC. Comments submitted should focus on the changes noted. Changes from the 2012 BCFC to the 2018 NFC are not identified. This proposal is to delete the noted content, which is unique to the BCFC and is not based on the model NFC.

2018 PROPOSED BRITISH COLUMBIA CODE LANGUAGE (~~Deleted text~~ / Added text):

2.8.2.7. Posting of Fire Emergency Procedures

- 1) At least one copy of the fire emergency procedures shall be prominently posted on each *floor area*.
- 2) In every hotel and motel bedroom, the fire safety rules for occupants shall be posted showing the locations of *exits* and the paths of travel to *exits*.
- 3) Where a fire alarm system has been installed with no provisions to transmit a signal to the fire department, a sign shall be posted at each manually actuated signalling box requesting that the fire department be notified, and including the telephone number of that department.
- ~~4) All buildings served by one or more elevators shall have, at each elevator entrance on each floor level, a permanently mounted fire safety sign or symbol indicating that the elevator is not to be used in case of fire.~~
- ~~5) The sign or symbol required by Sentence (4) shall be at least 100 mm in height and width and shall be designed in accordance with NFPA 170, "Standard for Fire Safety and Emergency Symbols."~~

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Posting a sign that a building's elevator is not to be used in an emergency may delay evacuation for persons requiring an elevator due to sensory or physical limitations.

JUSTIFICATION/EXPLANATION:

The required Fire Safety Plan is the appropriate mechanism to coordinate safe egress for all occupants. In some cases, where identified in the Fire Safety Plan, use of an elevator to evacuate a building may be appropriate. For persons with sensory or physical limitations the elevator may be the most practical and quickest way to evacuate a building.

This proposed change aligns the requirements of the BCFC with those of the NFC to enable greater consistency amongst provincial jurisdictions.

If the requirement for the sign is deleted from Sentence (4), the sign requirements in Sentence (5) will no longer be applicable.