

**British Columbia Building Code 2018
Proposed Code Changes to the Lighting Outlets Provisions
for Rooms Used to Store Combustible Refuse**

PROPOSED CHANGE: Lighting Outlets Provisions for Rooms Used to Store Combustible Refuse

CHANGE NUMBER: BCBC2018-R203-LOP

CODE REFERENCE: British Columbia Building Code 2018 – Part 9 of Division B

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

To revise Table 9.34.2.7. Lighting for Public Areas so that the same provisions for service rooms and laundry areas apply to rooms used for the storage of combustible refuse.

PROBLEM/BACKGROUND/RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Waste reduction efforts have become increasingly important as British Columbia's population continues to grow, and landfills approach capacity. Zero waste is an important aspect of provincial and local government greenhouse gas reduction targets. The lack of storage space for recycling materials and poor access to this space by building occupants and collection crews has been identified as one of the biggest barriers to increased waste diversion. In support of reducing the amount of waste going to landfills, many local authorities are using land use bylaws to require new developments to include rooms dedicated to the storage of recyclable materials.

Increasingly, buildings are designed with common rooms where recyclable materials are stored. The activities and hazards in these rooms are different from other storage rooms. Slips, trips, and falls caused by spillage or poorly stored materials are a risk to the users of these rooms. Adequate lighting is required to identify and avoid hazards and provide an acceptable level of safety for all users.

Table 9.34.2.7. Lighting in Public Areas specifies the lighting provisions for storage rooms and includes rooms where recyclable materials are stored. While adequate for most types of storage rooms, these lighting provisions do not provide a sufficient level of safety for the users of recycling rooms.

This change is proposed as a mid-cycle revision to the British Columbia Building Code 2018 (BCBC). Comments submitted should focus on the changes noted. Changes from the BCBC 2018 to the National Building Code 2015 (NBC) are not identified.

JUSTIFICATION/EXPLANATION:

The proposed changes rely on current provisions in the BCBC and the NBC. It is proposed to add a row to Table 9.34.2.7. for lighting provisions specific to rooms where combustible refuse is stored. The same lighting provisions used in Table 9.34.2.7. for service rooms and laundry areas would be relied for rooms where combustible refuse is stored.

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

References to the BCBC are to the 2018 edition including Revision 1. Only the content required for context of the proposed changes is reproduced in this document.

9.34.2.7. Public and Service Areas

- 1) Every public or service area in *buildings* shall be provided with lighting outlets with fixtures controlled by a wall switch or panel to illuminate every portion of such areas.
- 2) When provided by incandescent lighting, illumination required in Sentence (1) shall conform to Table 9.34.2.7. (See Article 9.9.12.2. for lighting in *means of egress*.)
- 3) When other types of lighting are used, illumination equivalent to that shown in Table 9.34.2.7. shall be provided.

Table 9.34.2.7.
Lighting for Public Areas
Forming Part of Sentences 9.34.2.7. (2) and (3)

Room or Space	Minimum Illumination, lx	Minimum Lighting Power Density, W/m ² of floor area (incandescent lighting)
Storage Rooms	50	5
Service rooms and laundry areas	200	20
Rooms for storage of combustible refuse	200	20
Garages	50	5
Public water closets	100	10
Service hallways and stairways	50	5
Recreation rooms	100	10