

## BARRIER-FREE ACCESS TO STAGES

### PURPOSE

This interpretation was developed to provide clarification concerning the application of Article 3.8.2.3. of the National Building Code-2019 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)) to stages.

### DISCUSSION

Sentence 3.8.2.3.(1) of the NBC(AE) specifies that a barrier-free path of travel needs to be provided throughout all normally occupied floor areas.

Sentence 3.8.2.3.(2) specifies certain areas of a building that would not need to be provided with barrier-free access, either due to the intended use of the particular space or due to the lack of amenities for persons with physical disabilities. Stages are not included in this list, as persons with physical disabilities could require access to the stage area for theatrical performances, lectures, graduations, presentations, etc. It is expected that persons with physical disabilities would be provided with access to the stage area the same as the rest of the building.

### CODE REFERENCES

Sentences 3.8.2.3.(1) and (2) states:

#### **3.8.2.3. Areas Requiring a Barrier-Free Path of Travel**

(See Note A-3.8.2.3.)

- 1) Except as permitted by Sentences (2), (4) and (5), a *barrier-free* path of travel from the entrances required by Sentences 3.8.2.2.(1) and (2) shall be provided throughout all normally occupied *floor areas*. (See Article 3.3.1.7. for additional requirements regarding *floor areas* above or below the *first storey* to which a *barrier-free* path of travel is required.)
- 2) A *barrier-free* path of travel for persons using wheelchairs is not required
  - a) to *service rooms*,
  - b) to elevator machine rooms,
  - c) to janitors' rooms,
  - d) to *service spaces*,
  - e) to crawl spaces,
  - f) to *attic or roof spaces*,
  - g) to *mezzanines* not served by a passenger elevator, a platform-equipped passenger-elevating device, an escalator, or an inclined moving walk,

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the National Building Code-2019 Alberta Edition

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by  
the Provincial Building Administrator

[Original Signed]  
Paul Chang

The logo for the Province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font with a small blue square at the end of the word.

- h) to *high-hazard industrial occupancies*,
- i) within portions of a *floor area* with fixed seats in an *assembly occupancy* where those portions are not part of the *barrier-free* path of travel to spaces designated for use by persons using wheelchairs,
- j) within floor levels of a *suite* of *residential occupancy* that are not at the same level as the entry level to the *suite*,
- k) within a *suite* of *residential occupancy* that has not been required by other provisions of this Code to be *barrier-free*, or
- l) within those parts of a *floor area* that are not at the same level as the entry level, provided amenities and uses provided on any raised or sunken level are accessible on the entry level by means of a *barrier-free* path of travel.

### INTERPRETATION

Stages are considered part of a normally occupied floor area of a building and are required to be accessible by means of a barrier-free path of travel. The requirements of Sentence 3.8.2.3.(1) apply to all stages in a building including ones located in schools, churches or other types of facilities, unless they are located on a floor level that is not required to have a barrier-free path of travel.

This INTERPRETATION is applicable throughout the province of Alberta.