

# CODE UPDATE

B.C. Building Code 1998 Edition NFPA 101 Building Access Handbook

Volume 1, Issue 1 Editor Robert Wright JCL North Island Locks LTD

## LEVER HANDLES REQUIRED

“The B.C. Fire Code is essentially a set of minimum requirements respecting fire safety in existing buildings and within the community at large. Its primary purpose is the promotion of public safety through the application of uniform fire safety standards throughout British Columbia.”

APPENDIX A “A-5-2.1.5.3- The operating devices should be capable of being operated with one hand and should not require tight grasping, tight pinching or twisting of the wrist.”

FIRE CODE 101-29: 5-2.1.5.3 Latch or other fastening device on a door shall be provided with a lever knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device having an obvious method of operation under all lighting conditions. The releasing mechanism for any latch shall be located not more than 48”. (122cm) above the finished floor. Doors shall be operable with no more than one releasing operation.

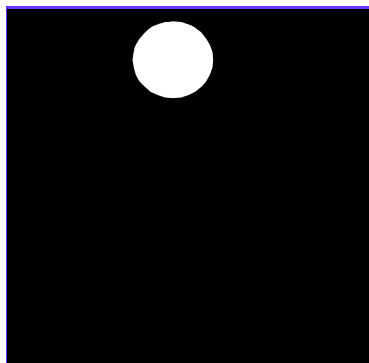
B.C. BUILDING CODE REVISIONS 1995 3.3.1.12.3C

“be operated by devices which do not require tight grasping, or twisting of the wrist, as the only means of operation.”

### BUILDING ACCESS HANDBOOK

3.7.24 Door Hardware picture shows that the LEVER HANDLE is the only device that is permitted. Page 34 also states Door Handles: “(c) be operable by device which do not require tight grasping, or twisting of the wrist, as the only means of operation.”

Handicap Codes that you need to know now.



“Any alteration or any installation of new equipment shall be accomplished as nearly as practicable with the requirements for new construction. Existing life safety features that do not meet the requirements for new building but exceed the requirements for existing buildings shall not be diminished further. In no case shall the resulting life safety features be less than those required for existing buildings”

## FIRE CODE IS RETROACTIVE

BC Building Code is not retroactive but the building must comply with code that was in effect at the time building was built. *FIRE CODE IS RETROACTIVE*. A change of use (ie) warehouse to night club must comply with code in effect at time of change. If unable to comply, intended use may not be allowed..

When alterations are being done (rekeying), code in effect at time of change will take effect (ie) *NFPA 101 1-4.6 on Renovation*: Any alteration shall meet requirements for new construction. This information is intended for understanding the codes as required . The interperation of the codes is for understanding the use of lever handles.

