
BULLETIN 2009-003-BU

Aug 10, 2009

STRUCTURAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR FABRIC COVERED RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the City's expectations with respect to the structural design of fabric covered retractable awnings. Due to the inherent nature of a fabric covered retractable awning, it is often difficult for designers to meet all of the structural requirements of Division B, Part 4 of the Building By-law.

As a result, all fabric covered retractable awnings are exempted from meeting wind, rain, snow and seismic design loads specified by the Building By-law when the awning is in the open position.

Considering the above noted exemption, it is expected that building owners retract awnings during inclement weather conditions. This condition will be placed on all building permits for retractable awnings.

It should be noted that a building permit is required to install a fixed or retractable awning as well as to replace the covering of an existing awning. Where the covering of an existing fixed or retractable awning is being replaced, the combustible textiles shall conform to CAN/ULC-S109, "Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films" and a registered professional is not required. In the case of installation of a fixed awning or a retractable awning to a building, or installation of a retractable awning to an existing fixed awning, structural drawings prepared by a registered professional together with appropriate Schedules B-1 and B-2 will be required.

(Original Signed)

W.M. Johnston, P.Eng.
DIRECTOR, LICENCES & INSPECTIONS
AND CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

(Original Signed)

J. Lau, P.Eng.
BUILDING POLICY ENGINEER