

Introduction

Intent statements are **new information** that is intended to help Code users understand the reasons for Code provisions. They are published in the User's Guide – NFC 2005, Application and Intent Statements (only available on CD-ROM).

What is an Intent Statement?

Intent statements explain, in plain language, the basic thinking behind each Code provision in Division B. In other words, they explain what might happen if the Code provision is not satisfied. Each intent statement is unique to a specific provision.

Wording of Intent Statements

Intent statements use standard phrases that are repeated for every requirement. The most common phrases are “*to limit the probability that/of*” and “*which could lead to.*”

Format of Intent Statements

Sentence 2.6.1.4.(1) of Division B is used here as an example to illustrate the format of an intent statement.

Text of provision: Every chimney, flue and flue pipe shall be inspected to identify any dangerous condition

- a) at intervals not greater than 12 months,
- b) at the time of addition of any appliance, and
- c) after any chimney fire.

One of the intent statements for Sentence 2.6.1.4.(1) is reprinted here:

Intent Statement: To limit the probability that the accumulation of combustible deposits in a chimney, flue or flue pipe will go unnoticed, which could lead to a fire in the chimney, flue or flue pipe, which could lead to the spread of fire to other parts of the building, which could lead to harm to persons.

(Note: There are additional intent statements for this provision.)

An intent statement typically starts with the standard phrase “*To limit the probability that/of*” followed by a description of an **initial consequence**, i.e. what might happen if the provision is not implemented as stated.

In the example, if a chimney is not inspected, the initial consequence is:

- **that the accumulation of combustible deposits in a chimney, flue or flue pipe will go unnoticed**

The initial consequence is followed by the standard phrase “*which could lead to*” followed by a ***chain of consequences*** resulting from the initial consequence. For example:

→ To limit the probability that the accumulation of combustible deposits in a chimney, flue or flue pipe will go unnoticed, which could lead to:

- **a fire in a chimney**, which could lead to
- **the spread of fire to other parts of the building**, which could lead to...

The description of the chain of consequences is completed by the ***negative outcome*** the Code attempts to prevent.

The NFC provisions aim to prevent two possible negative outcomes:

- **harm to persons** (illness or injury), or
- **damage to buildings or facilities** (damage to adjacent buildings or facilities).

Multiple Intent Statements

A provision may have more than one intent statement if:

- there is more than one initial consequence,
- there is more than one negative outcome, and/or
- the provision is linked to more than one objective.

Recall the Code’s three top-level objectives: OS Safety, OH Health, and OP Fire Protection of Buildings and Facilities. If a provision satisfies more than one objective, its intent statements will be grouped according to the related second-level objectives (e.g. OS1, OS2, OS3). In the electronic version of the Code and in the User’s Guide, each second-level objective has a separate tabbed “window,” as shown below.

OS1

OP1

[F02-OS1.2]

Intent 1: To limit the probability that the protective capacity of existing fire protection systems will be inadequate in a fire, which could lead to the growth and spread of fire, which could lead to harm to persons.

OS1

OP1

[F02-OP1.2]

Intent 1: To limit the probability that the protective capacity of existing fire protection systems will be inadequate in a fire, which could lead to the growth and spread of fire, which could lead to damage to the building.

Summary

The key points of this Module are:

- Intent statements explain the **reason(s)** for each Division B provision.
- The **standard phrases** used in the intent statements for a requirement are:
 - “To limit the probability that” and
 - “which could lead to”
- An intent statement describes three types of reasons for the existence of a particular requirement:
 - an **initial consequence** the Code aims to limit,
 - a **chain of consequences** that could follow, and
 - a final **negative outcome** that is to be avoided.
- A Code provision may have **more than one intent statement**. Intents are grouped by second-level objective in separate tabbed “windows” on the CD-ROM. It is important to review all intent statements related to a provision.
- Code users should read intent statements to verify the reasons for Code provisions. This will help achieve a common understanding and consistent application of the Code.
- Intent statements are not a legally binding part of the Code. Like the Appendices, they provide additional information.
- **Two products**, available at www.nrc.gc.ca/virtualstore/, **contain the intent statements**:
 - The National Fire Code of Canada 2005 on CD-ROM includes the User’s Guide – NFC 2005, Application and Intent Statements, with links between the Code provisions and their intent statements and objectives.
 - The User’s Guide – NFC 2005, Application and Intent Statements CD-ROM includes the intent statements and objectives attributed to the provisions in Division B but does not contain any Code provision text.