



Requirements of the Alberta Fire Code 2006 Section 2.16 Secondary Suites:

1. 2.16.2.1. Height of Rooms and Spaces
 - 1) Unless acceptable to the *authority having jurisdiction*, the height of rooms or spaces in a *secondary suite* over the required minimum area in accordance with Table 9.5.3.1. of Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006 shall be not less than 1.95 m.
2. 16.2.2. Bedroom Windows
 - 1) Except as permitted in Sentence 9.7.1.2.(1) of Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006, each bedroom within a *secondary suite* shall have at least one outside window that meets the requirements of Articles 9.7.1.2. and 9.7.1.3. of Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006.
3. 16.2.3. Exit Stairs
 - 1) Exit stairs shall have a clear width of not less than 860 mm.
4. 16.2.4. Landings
 - 1) Landings for stairs shall be at least as wide as the stairs and not less than 900 mm in length.
5. 16.2.5. Handrails and Guards
 - 1) Handrails and guards shall conform to the requirements of Subsections 9.8.7. and 9.8.8. of Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006.
6. 16.2.6. Public and Exit Corridor Width
 - 1) The clear width of every public corridor and exit corridor shall be not less than 860 mm.
7. 16.2.7. Unenclosed Exterior Stair or Ramp
 - 1) Where an unenclosed exterior exit stair or ramp provides the only means of egress from a secondary suite and is exposed to the hazards of fire from unprotected openings in the exterior wall of another dwelling unit, the openings shall be protected in conformance with Articles 9.10.13.5. and 9.10.13.7. of Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006.
8. 16.2.8. Exit Doors
 - 1) Every exit door or door that provides access to exit from a secondary suite shall be
 - a) not less than 1 980 mm high,
 - b) not less than 810 mm wide, and
 - c) permitted to swing inward.

9. 6.2.9. Means of Egress
 - 1) Except as permitted in Sentence (2), each dwelling unit shall be provided with at least one exit that leads directly to the outside.
 - 2) Dwelling units may share a common exit meeting the requirements of Article 2.16.2.10.

10. 16.2.10. Protection of Exits
 - 1) Every exit, other than an exit doorway, shall be separated from adjacent floor areas by not less than one layer of 12.7 mm thick gypsum wallboard or equivalent material on each side of the walls. (See Appendix A.)

11. 16.2.11. Dwelling Unit Separations
 - 1) Dwelling units shall be separated from each other by not less than one layer of 12.7 mm thick gypsum wallboard or equivalent material on the ceiling and on each side of the walls. (See A-2.16.2.10.(1) in Appendix A.)

12. 16.2.12. Protection of Public Corridors
 - 1) A public corridor shall be separated from the remainder of the building by not less than one layer of 12.7 mm thick gypsum wallboard or equivalent material on each side of the walls. (See A-2.16.2.10. (1) in Appendix A.)

13. 16.2.13. Furnace Room Separations
 - 1) A furnace room shall be separated from the remainder of the building by not less than one layer of 12.7 mm thick gypsum wallboard or equivalent material on the ceiling and on each side of the walls. (See A-2.16.2.10. (1) in Appendix A.)
 - 2) A door shall be provided to each furnace room.-

14. 16.2.14. Heating and Ventilation Systems
 - 1) For an existing secondary suite, a single heating and ventilation system may be used to serve both the secondary suite and main dwelling unit.

15. 16.2.15. Smoke Alarms
 - 1) Smoke alarms conforming to CAN/ULC-S531, "Smoke Alarms," installed in accordance with Subsection 9.10.19. of Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006 shall be provided in each dwelling unit.
 - 2) Smoke alarms shall be installed by permanent connections to an electrical circuit and wired so that activation of one smoke alarm will cause all alarms within both dwelling units to sound.
 - 3) Smoke alarms shall be installed in areas that are common to both dwelling units and connected in conformance with Sentence (2).

16. 16.2.16. Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Smoke Alarms
 - 1) Smoke alarms required by this Section shall be inspected, tested and maintained in conformance with the manufacturer's instructions.