


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0112

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	April 17, 2012
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Protection of Foamed Plastic Insulation
Keywords:	Foamed plastic insulation, protection, interior finishes, thermal barrier, building service penetrations
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.17.10.(1), 9.10.9.6., 9.10.9.7.
Question:	<p>The exterior wall of a single family dwelling contains foamed plastic insulation and is protected from the adjacent interior spaces with interior finishes or thermal barriers as described in Sentence 9.10.17.10.(1).</p> <p>Is it permissible to penetrate the interior finish material or the interior thermal barrier with building services such as electrical outlet boxes, main electrical panel, kitchen and bathroom exhaust ducts?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes – with conditions</p> <p>Although the building code does not address this issue, a reasonable approach is to treat building service penetrations through the interior finishes that protect foamed plastic insulation in a similar manner to building service penetrations through fire separations.</p> <p>Articles 9.10.9.6. and 9.10.9.7. describe the types of building service penetrations that are permitted in fire separations. These same requirements can be applied to building service penetrations through the interior finishes that protect foamed plastic insulation.</p> <p>In the examples noted above, electrical outlet boxes with an area that does not exceed 160 cm², are permitted.</p> <p>Main electrical boxes with an area exceeding 160 cm² are not permitted unless they are boxed in behind the electrical box with an interior finish or thermal barrier as described in Sentence 9.10.17.10.(1).</p> <p>Service penetrations for noncombustible ducts for kitchen and bathroom exhaust are permitted by Sentence 9.10.9.6.(2). Note that penetration by combustible ducts is not permitted.</p> <p> R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	