


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 12-0070**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	January 19, 2016
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Insulation of curbs supporting skylights
Keywords:	Insulation, skylight curbs, effective thermal resistance
Building Code Reference(s):	9.25.1.1.(2), 9.25.2.1.(1), 9.25.2.3, 9.36.2.3.(1), 9.36.2.4, 9.36.2.5, 9.36.2.6.(4)
<b>Question:</b>	<p>For Part 9 buildings, where a roof curb supports a skylight assembly, and also separates interior conditioned space from exterior unconditioned space; is thermal insulation required to be provided for such a roof curb assembly?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Subclause 9.25.1.1.(2)(a)(i) requires that assemblies separating conditioned space from unconditioned space or exterior air, must be provided with insulation conforming to Subsection 9.25.2 and Section 9.36.</p> <p>Sentence 9.25.2.1.(1) similarly requires that assemblies separating heated space from unheated space or exterior air, must be provided with insulation to prevent condensation on the room side and to provide comfortable conditions for occupants.</p> <p>Sentence 9.25.2.3.(1) requires that insulation shall be installed to achieve a reasonably uniform insulating value over the entire face of the insulated area.</p> <p>Sentence 9.36.2.3.(1) requires that the gross roof-ceiling assembly area shall be calculated as the sum of the interior surface areas of insulated roof-ceiling assemblies and of skylight openings.</p> <p>Sentence 9.36.2.4.(3) exempts from being taken into account in the calculation of effective thermal resistance: major structural penetrations such as balcony and canopy slabs, beams, columns and ornamentation or appendages that must completely penetrate the building envelope to perform their intended function. This is in recognition of the practical difficulty or prohibitive cost of achieving thermal breaks for such components.</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>	

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Article 9.36.2.5. addresses continuity of insulation for various building envelope conditions, however there is no specific exemption for skylight curbs that separate interior conditioned space from exterior unconditioned space.

Sentence 9.36.2.6.(4) indicates that the minimum effective thermal resistance values for walls stated in tables 9.36.2.6.A and 9.36.2.6.B shall also apply to shafts for skylights.

Based on the various Code references requiring continuity of thermal insulation, it is considered that skylight curbs that separate interior conditioned space from exterior unconditioned space, are not in the same category as major structural penetrations such as balcony and canopy slabs, beams, columns and ornamentation or appendages that must completely penetrate the building envelope to perform their intended function. Therefore skylight curbs that separate interior conditioned space from exterior unconditioned space must be provided with thermal insulation.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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