

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 98-0139

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: June 20, 2006 Rev. – June 21, 2011

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Combustible DWV Piping

Keywords: DWV piping, flame-spread rating

Building Code Reference(s): 3.1.5.15., 3.1.9.4.(3)(4)(5), 9.10.9.7.

Question:

1. Where a project consists of combustible townhouses or apartments built on top of a storage garage, is it acceptable to change the drain, waste and vent (DWV) piping material from noncombustible to combustible in multiple locations?
2. If so, would the change take place above or below the floor assembly required to be fire separation above a storage garage that is not classified as a separate building?
3. If the storage garage is required to be of noncombustible construction in accordance with Subsection 3.2.2., are there specific requirements regarding the use of combustible DWV piping?


Interpretation:

1. Yes.

In accordance with Sentence 3.1.9.4.(4) and 9.10.9.7.(3), combustible piping is permitted through penetrations of a fire separation required to have a fire resistance rating where the installation is fire stopped and not located in a vertical shaft in conformance with Clauses 3.1.9.4.(4)(a)&(b) and 9.10.9.7.(2)&(3). If these requirements cannot be met, then the DWV piping system must be noncombustible throughout in accordance with Sentence 3.1.9.4.(3) and 9.10.9.7.(1) with exception to the portions permitted to be combustible within 3.1.9.4.(5)&(6) and 9.10.9.7.(4)&(5).

2. It should be noted that where combustible DWV piping is used, combustible piping penetrations of fire separations required to have a fire-resistance rating must use a listed fire stop system in accordance with Clause 3.1.9.4.(4)(a) and 9.10.9.7.(3). In accordance with CAN4-S115-M testing criteria, a change from noncombustible to combustible piping must occur a minimum of 915 mm above the fire separation (see drawing on Page 2).

To comply with the fire stop assembly testing of a noncombustible pipe penetration, all drain, waste and vent piping below such penetration must be noncombustible piping material.


R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of 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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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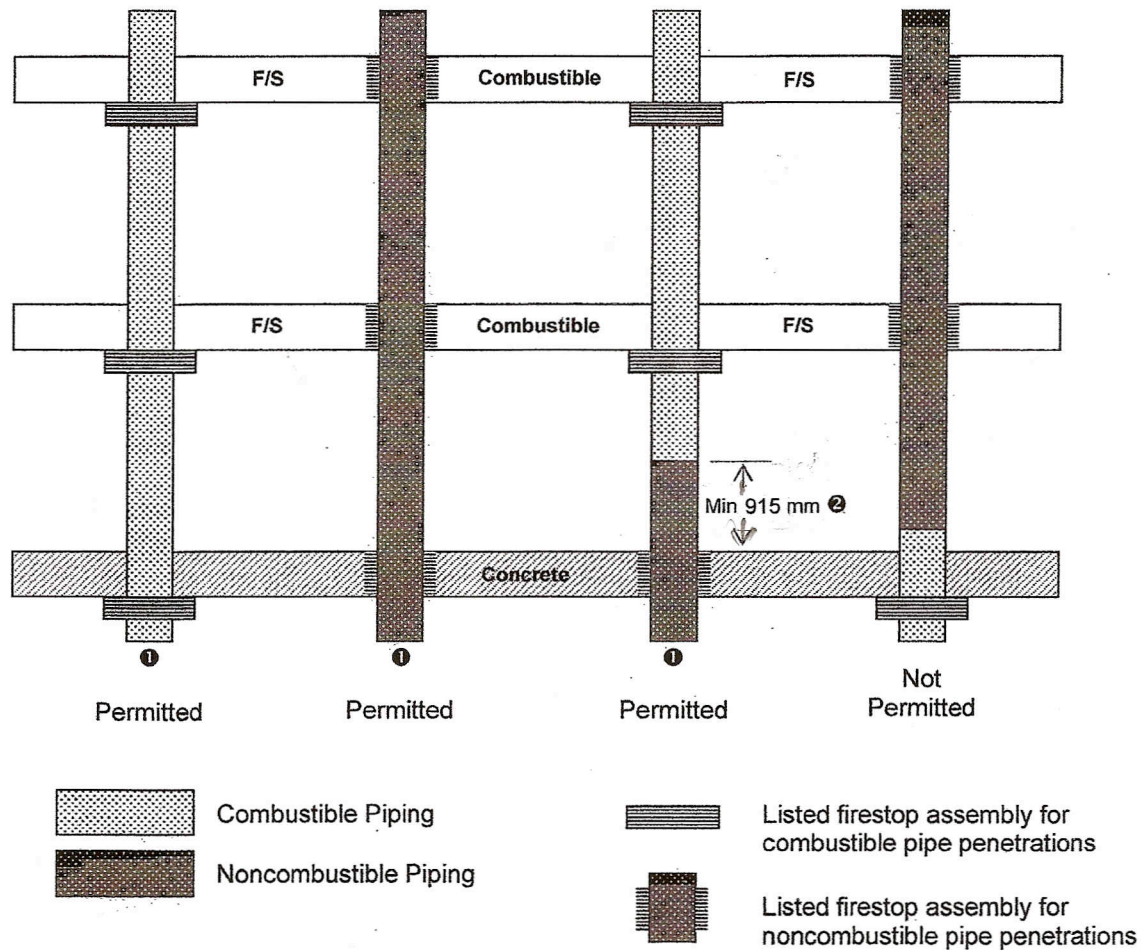
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3. Where a combustible DWV piping system is used, the combustible piping materials must meet the requirements of Article 3.1.5.15. with regards to flame-spread rating not more than 25 and where necessary, a smoke development classification not more than 50 for high buildings in accordance with Section 3.2.6. In accordance with Subsection 3.1.9., all penetrations must have a listed fire stop assembly consistent with the material utilized.

See drawings below illustrating these piping transition principles.



- ① Same piping to grade level or noncombustible piping.(typical).
- ② Derived from CAN4-S115-M testing criteria.


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