

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

File No: 06-0071

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date: Oct 19, 2010

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2006

Subject: Combustible Fittings in Drainage Systems

Keywords: Drainage Fittings, Expansion Joints

Building Code Reference(s): 3.1.5.2. ; 7.2.10.4.(2) .

Question:

Can an elastomeric style expansion joint coupling without a shear band be considered a minor combustible component as indicated in BCAB # 1098 when installed in a noncombustible piping system located in a building where penetrations of required fire separations are necessary?

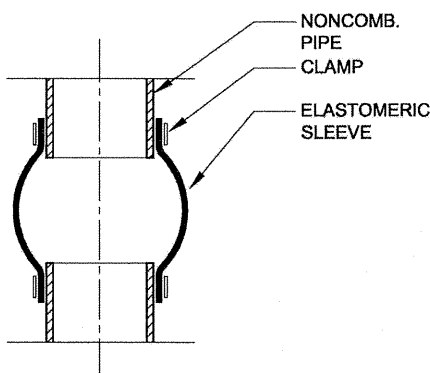
Interpretation:

No

Due to the physical dimensions that leave a combustible gap between the installed noncombustible pipe sections such connectors must be considered a pipe fitting which is no different than any other directional fitting installed in the drainage system.

Where this fitting is installed in a noncombustible drainage system it must be considered a change from noncombustible to combustible material.

Therefore, if this combustible fitting melts off due to a fire located within a given storey the result would be an opening through the upper fire separation and a failure of the required fire stop assembly which would not be acceptable.



The ruling in BCAB # 1098 referred to a coupling certified to CSA B70 Standard that did not include a stainless steel shear band but did allow the installed noncombustible piping to fit close together at the coupling and not leave a combustible gap.

However, it is also noted that should these fittings be installed in a drainage system where no penetration of a required fire separation is necessary such fittings could be used if certified for use to the appropriate standard for the piping used or to CSA – B602 Mechanical Coupling Standard referenced in Sentence 7.2.10.4.(2).

Further information can be found in BCIC Interpretation # 06-0070.

R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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