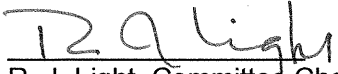


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A Joint Committee with Members Representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0067	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	September 21, 2010	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Foamed plastic insulation in wall and ceiling assemblies of exit enclosures	
Keywords:	Foamed plastic insulation, exits	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.5.12.(3) & (4), 3.1.13.1., Table 3.1.13.2. 3.1.13.8.(1)(b)	
Question:	<p>Is foamed plastic insulation with a flame spread rating more than 25 but not more than 500 permitted in a wall or ceiling assembly of an exit enclosure in a building that is required to be noncombustible construction, provided that it is protected with an appropriate thermal barrier in accordance with Article 3.1.5.12. ?</p>	
Interpretation:	<p>Yes</p> <p>Table 3.1.13.2. requires that the flame spread rating of wall and ceiling finishes within an exit cannot exceed 25 FSR.</p> <p>Clause 3.1.13.8.(1)(b) requires that the flame spread rating in exits also apply to any surface that is exposed by cutting through the material in any direction.</p> <p>Sentences 3.1.5.12.(3) & (4) permit the use of combustible insulation, including foamed plastic insulation, with a flame spread rating more than 25 but not more than 500 in wall and ceiling assemblies provided that the combustible insulation is protected from the adjacent space in the building with a thermal barrier.</p> <p>The requirement of "cutting through the material in any direction" applies to the interior finish material that is exposed within the exit. Samples of interior finish materials are described in Sentence 3.1.13.1.(2). For example, if the interior finish material is 12.7 mm thick gypsum board, the "cutting" would refer to cutting through the gypsum board to expose the edge of the gypsum compound. The "cutting" does not mean to cut through the entire thickness of the gypsum board to expose the foamed plastic insulation beneath.</p> <p>It should be noted that if the gypsum board thermal barrier is cut entirely through to accommodate electrical outlet boxes or recessed light fixtures, then measures must be taken to maintain the thermal barrier to protect the foamed plastic insulation from the adjacent exit enclosure.</p> <p> R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>	
<small>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.</small>		