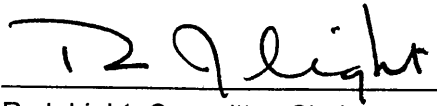


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**  
**AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>File No: 06-0010</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>Page 1 of 1</b>
Interpretation Date:	May 15, 2007	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	WC penetrations	
Keywords:	water closets, firestopping	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.9.1., 3.1.9.4.(3), (4), (5).	
<b>Question:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is the annular space around a combustible drainage pipe from a noncombustible WC installed on a concrete floor with a fire resistance rating required to be fire stopped?</li><li>2. If firestopping is required, is it required to meet the fire stopping requirements of Sentence 3.1.9.4.(4)?</li></ol>	
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Yes. Sentence 3.1.9.4.(3) prohibits the use of combustible drain, waste and vent piping if any part of the system penetrates a fire separation required to have a fire-resistance rating. However, this sentence does permit the use of combustible piping as stated in Sentences (4) to (6) of this Article. Sentence (5) permits combustible drain piping to penetrate a horizontal fire separation providing it leads directly from a noncombustible water closet through a concrete floor slab. Although this exception excludes the need for a fire stop system such as that stated in Sentence (4), it does not exclude the requirements of Article 3.1.9.1. which requires that all piping penetrations (combustible or noncombustible) be sealed with a firestop system in accordance with ULC-S115.</li><li>2. No. Sentence 3.1.9.4.(5) exempts the need for the 50 Pa pressure differential portion of the ULC-S115 testing detailed in Sentence 3.1.9.4.(4) due to the installation of the noncombustible WC installed on top of the concrete floor slab. However, it should be noted that the annular space around combustible or noncombustible piping under a noncombustible water closet is still required to be fire stopped with an approved fire stop device or fire stopping material in accordance with Article 3.1.9.1.</li></ol>	
 R. J. Light, Committee Chair		
<small>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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</small>		