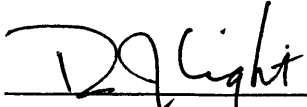


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0013	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	Oct 16, 2007	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Furring for attachment of exterior wall cladding	
Keywords:	Furring, strapping, cladding, sheathing, vertical lumber	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.27.2.2.(1)(a), 9.27.5.1.(2), 9.27.5.3.(1)	
Question:	<p>In a Part 9 building, can 10 mm thick vertically applied spacers be used for attaching the exterior wall cladding when such spacers are applied on top of wall sheathing to create a capillary break?</p>	
Interpretation:	<p>Yes, with conditions</p> <p>Clause 9.27.2.2.(1)(a) states that a cladding assembly is deemed to have a capillary break between the cladding and the backing assembly when a drained and vented air space of not less than 10mm is provided behind the cladding.</p> <p>Except as permitted in Sentences 9.27.5.1.(5) & (6), Sentence 9.27.5.3.(1) requires that furring which supports exterior wall cladding be a minimum of 19 mm x 38 mm when such furring is applied over the exterior wall sheathing. The intent of this requirement is to apply to furring that is used as a structural member which spans between supports.</p> <p>The exceptions in Sentences 9.27.5.1.(5) & (6) allow for thinner furring for wood shingles, wood shakes and fibre-cement shingles, but such furring would normally be installed horizontally.</p> <p>Provided that the wall sheathing has adequate thickness to act as the structural component which spans between wall studs as described in Sentence 9.27.5.1.(2), then the vertical strapping is simply used as a spacer to fulfill the requirement for the capillary break as outlined in Clause 9.27.2.2.(1)(a). In this instance, the 10 mm thickness for the vertical strapping is permitted.</p>	
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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 Authority Having Jurisdiction. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</small>		