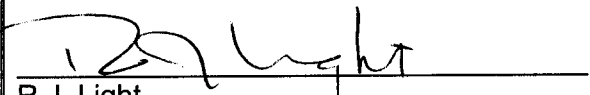
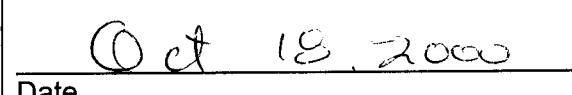


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>INTERPRETATION</b>		
Interpretation Date:	October 18, 2000	File No.:
Building Code Edition:	B.C. Building Code 1998	<b>98 - 0008</b>
Subject:	Tightly fitted fire stopping of service penetrations	
Keywords:	Fire stopping, tightly fitted, service penetrations	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.9.1.(1)(a)	Page 1 of 1
<p>Question:</p> <p>Is drywall taping and filling an acceptable method for fire stopping of service penetrations through gypsum board membranes forming part of an assembly required to have a <i>fire-resistance</i> rating or a <i>fire separation</i>?</p>		
<p>Interpretation:</p> <p>Yes, with conditions</p> <p>Clause 3.1.9.1.(1)(a) permits "tightly fitted" fire stopping of service penetrations through membranes forming part of an assembly required to have a <i>fire-resistance rating</i> or a <i>fire separation</i>. However, "tightly fitted" is not defined. The Users Guide – NBC 1995 (Part 3) indicates that, "a pipe embedded in concrete or grouted into a concrete slab" are examples of "tightly fitted".</p> <p>Drywall taping and filling is commonly used in the construction industry to fulfill this "tightly fitted" requirement when the service penetrations are through a gypsum board membrane. Such common practice is considered acceptable with the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annular space around the service penetration does not exceed 6 mm,</li> <li>• The holes for the service penetration through the gypsum board are neatly cut with a saw or a knife (i.e. no hammer holes),</li> <li>• The drywall fill is inserted between the pipe and the drywall prior to taping,</li> <li>• The taping and filling is tightly fitted around the service penetration,</li> <li>• Service penetrations are perpendicular to the gypsum board membrane, and</li> <li>• Workmanship on the quality of installation is of primary importance.</li> </ul> <p>The preferred method for maintaining an adequate fire stop system is to utilize a system that has been tested in accordance with CAN4-S115-M as per Clause 3.1.9.1.(1)(b).</p>		
 R.J. Light Committee Chair		 Date