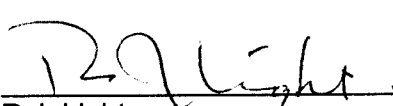


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

INTERPRETATION		
Interpretation Date:	November 15, 2000	File No.:
Building Code Edition:	B.C. Building Code 1998	98 - 0011
Subject:	Foamed plastics in crawl spaces	
Keywords:	Foamed plastic, crawl spaces	
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.8.8, 9.10.16.10; 9.25.2.2.(2); A-9.25.2.2.(2)	Page 1 of 1
<p>Question:</p> <p>(1) Do Sentences 9.10.16.10(1) and 9.25.2.2.(2) permit foamed plastic insulation to be exposed in crawl spaces?</p> <p>(2) Do uses within the crawl space (eg., storage, furnaces, hot water tanks) affect the answer?</p>		
<p>Interpretation:</p> <p>The following answers are based on the crawl space complying with Article 9.10.8.8. that states that "crawl spaces" are required to be classified as a <i>basement</i> where height exceeds 1.8 m <u>or</u> is used for any <i>occupancy</i> (including storage) <u>or</u> the passage of flue pipes. Once a "crawl space" is required to be classified as a <i>basement</i> foamed plastic insulation is required to be protected in conformance with Article 9.10.16.10.</p> <p>(1) Yes. Sentence 9.10.16.10(1) specifically permits foamed plastic insulation to be exposed in crawl spaces. Further the <i>flame-spread rating</i> requirements identified in the test standards for insulation materials in Sentence 9.25.2.2.(1) are not applicable to foamed plastics within crawl spaces as explained in A-9.25.2.2.(2). Note that where the crawl space is used as a warm air plenum Sentence 9.18.7.1.(2) requires the <i>flame-spread rating</i> of the materials enclosing the crawl space to be limited to a maximum of 150.</p> <p>(2) Yes. For example, <i>service room</i> is defined to mean a room in a building containing equipment associated with building services. Therefore, locating certain building service equipment in a "crawl space" (eg., furnaces, hot water tanks) may change the classification of the "crawl space" to a <i>service room</i>. <i>Service rooms</i> are regulated based on the equipment contained within the space (refer to Article 9.9.5.8, Subsection 9.10.10 and Subsection 9.10.16). Note that Sentence 9.10.16.10(1) specifically requires protection of foamed plastic insulation in a crawl space that is classified as a <i>service room</i>.</p>		
<p align="center"></p> <p>R.J. Light Committee Chair</p>		<p align="center"><u>Nov 15, 2000</u></p> <p>Date</p>