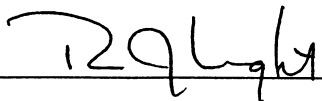


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE  
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

<b>INTERPRETATION</b>		
Interpretation Date:	January 15, 2003	File No:  <b>98-0062</b>
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	Firestopping service penetrations within a suite	
Keywords:	Firestopping, service penetrations, townhouses	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.11.2., 3.1.11.7.	Page: 1 of 2
<p><b>Scenario:</b>            A 3 storey wood frame townhouses designed under Part 3.            All townhouses are side by side units (i.e. no stacked units).            There is no fire separation or no fire resistance rating required at any floor assemblies within the dwelling unit (i.e. 2nd &amp; 3rd floors).            There is no fire resistance rating required for the roof assembly.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do service penetrations such as pipes, conduit or wiring etc. require a firestop system at the double top plate at the ceiling levels of floor or roof assemblies that have no fire resistance rating?</li> <li>Do service penetrations such as pipes, conduit or wiring etc. require a firestop system at the single bottom plate at the floor levels of floor assemblies with no fire separation and no fire resistance rating?</li> <li>If the answer to either 1 or 2 is yes, does the firestop material have to be a ULC listed firestop material?</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Interpretation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No, since 3.1.11.2.(1)(b) only requires firestopping at ceiling levels when the ceiling forms part of a fire resistance rating.</li> <li>Yes, if the walls are not fully filled with insulation (i.e. interior non-insulated walls require firestopping, perimeter walls that are filled with insulation do not require firestopping).</li> <li>No, since the single bottom plate does not have a fire resistance rating, the firestop system for the service penetrations must simply provide sufficient resistance to passage of fumes that is consistent with the firestop material itself. For small openings this could be achieved by stuffing the opening with a firestop material such as mineral wool.</li> </ol>		
<div style="text-align: center;">   <hr style="width: 30%; margin: auto;"/> </div> <p>R.J. Light, Committee Chair</p>		
<p>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.</p>		