

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

File No: 98-0102

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: November 24, 2004

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Combustible Drainage Pipe

Keywords: Combustible , Piping

Building Code Reference(s): 3.1.5.15.(1)(a)(b), 3.2.6., 3.1.9.4.(6)

Question:

The subject is a Part 3 building of noncombustible construction, constructed in accordance with Subsection 3.2.6. for high-rise buildings.

Can ABS drainage pipe and fittings be used within kitchen and lavatory cabinets or under baths/showers where the piping is located in a drop ceiling space?

Interpretation:

NO -- Clauses 3.1.5.15.(1)(a)(b) requires all exposed piping (i.e., excluding piping concealed in walls or floor assemblies) to meet a flame-spread rating of maximum 25, and for high buildings, a smoke developed classification of maximum 50. ABS pipe and fittings do not meet either of the criteria. Piping located within a cabinet or in a drop ceiling space are not considered to be located in a wall.

This interpretation is supported by Building Code Appeal Board decisions 1365 and 1287. Ruling 1365 concluded that "As in several previous appeals (see #1205, #1260 & #1280) it is the determination of the Board that Sentence 3.1.9.4.(3) is applicable and does not permit the kitchen waste arms or washing machine standpipes and P-traps to be of combustible plastic pipe because the DWV system penetrates fire separations. The Board recognizes that this Sentence is very restrictive and imparts unreasonable requirements on the DWV system but a code change is required to correct this problem."

Consistent with the BCAB recommendation, refer to the attached proposed change to the National Building Code.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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.