

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE


A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC

File No: 12-0129

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	October 16, 2018
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Combustible Acoustical Insulation in a Noncombustible Building
Keywords:	Insulation, combustible, wall finish
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.5.10.(2), 3.1.5.12.(1), 3.1.13.1.(2)
Question:	<p>Combustible acoustical insulation is applied to the interior surface of the walls of a sound studio in a building that is required to be non-combustible construction. This combustible acoustical insulation is not foamed plastic insulation, has a flame spread rating of not more than 25, and is exposed to the interior of the room.</p> <p>Is the insulation considered to be an interior finish which is regulated by 3.1.5.10.(2), or is it considered to be insulation which is regulated by 3.1.5.12.(1)?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Sentence 3.1.13.1.(2) states that interior finish material shall include any material that forms part of the interior surface of a floor, wall, partition or ceiling.</p> <p>Since the combustible acoustical insulation is applied to the interior surface of the wall, and is exposed to the interior of the room, it is considered to be an interior finish and must comply with Sentence 3.1.5.10.(2).</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.5.10.(2) permits the use of combustible interior wall finishes provided that the thickness of the wall finish does not exceed 25mm, and the flame spread rating of the wall finish does not exceed 150.</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.5.12.(1) permits the use of combustible insulation, other than foamed plastic insulation, in a building that is required to be non-combustible construction, when the flame spread rating of the insulation is not more than 25 on both the surface and on any exposed surface when in any direction. This sentence does not have any limitations on the thickness of the combustible insulation.</p> <p>Article 3.1.5.12. does not stipulate where the combustible insulation can be in the building, but if it is installed as an interior wall finish, they 25 mm maximum thickness per 3.1.5.10.(2) would apply.</p> <p></p> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. 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>	