

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0048

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	April 21, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Combustible ducts in noncombustible buildings
Keywords:	Combustible, ducts, horizontal run
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.5.18.(1), 3.6.5.1.(2)(d), 3.6.5.1.(5)

Question:

Sentence 3.1.5.18.(1) and Clause 3.6.5.1.(2)(d) permit the use of combustible ducts in buildings that are required to be noncombustible construction provided the ducts are only used in "horizontal runs".

Does that mean that no portion of a combustible duct can be oriented vertically?

Interpretation:

No

Combustible ducts as illustrated on Page 2 are permitted in a building that is required to be noncombustible construction.

The intent statement for Sentence 3.1.5.18.(1) is as follows:

To exempt certain combustible materials from the application of Sentence 3.1.5.1.(1) if certain conditions are met, on the basis that the materials are deemed to insignificantly contribute to fire growth and spread.

The intent statement for Clause 3.6.5.1.(2)(d) is as follows:

To exempt certain combustible materials from the requirements of Sentence 3.6.5.1.(1), which would otherwise require the material to be noncombustible, if certain conditions are met.

This is to limit the probability that the materials will contribute to the growth or spread of fire, which could lead to the spread of fire to other parts of the building by means of the air duct systems, which could lead to harm to persons.

For the purposes of this interpretation, the term "horizontal run" is interpreted to mean a duct that is contained within a horizontal service space within a single fire compartment which does not penetrate a vertical or horizontal fire separation as per 3.6.5.1.(5).



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.

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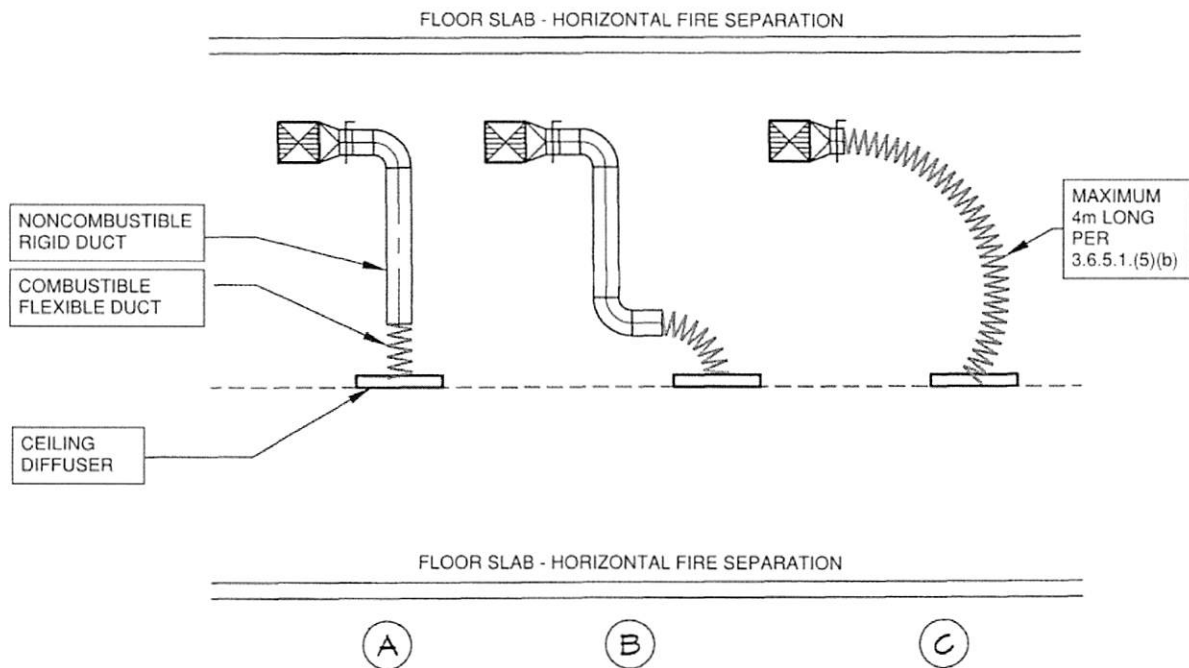
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Combustible flexible ducts as illustrated below are permitted in a building that is required to be noncombustible construction.



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