


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0007

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	March 26, 2019
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Fire blocking within rain screen air cavity of wall assemblies
Keywords:	Rain screen air cavity, fire blocking
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.11.2.; 9.10.16.2.
Question:	
	1. Should the requirement for fire blocks in wall assemblies include the rainscreen air cavity?
Interpretation:	
	1. No. The rainscreen air cavity which is restricted to max. 25mm wide space, is excluded from the fire blocking requirement by Clauses 3.1.11.2.(2)(d) and 9.10.16.2.(2)(a). Note that this requirement stipulates that the wall is insulated and has only one concealed space. It is a good practice to provide through wall horizontal flashing on every floor level that at the same time does provide a break in the vertical cavity and allows for shrinkage and deflection movements at the wall/floor interface.
	
Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair	
<small>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.</small>	