BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0042 **INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation Date:	January 13, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Plastic vent pipe from gas venting appliance, located in vertical shaft
Keywords:	Plastic vent pipe, vertical shaft, vertical service space
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.5.19.(1)

Question:

1. Plastic vent piping is sometimes used as part of a gas appliance venting system, used to discharge the products of combustion to the exterior. Is such plastic piping permitted to be located in a vertical shaft extending vertically through the building?

2. Is the plastic vent piping permitted to be located in a vertical service space containing other building services that penetrate the vertical service space enclosure?

Interpretation:

1. Yes.

Plastic vent piping used as part of a gas appliance venting system is typically housed in a vertical shaft extending vertically through the building. Such a shaft is an extension of the space containing the vented appliance, and is not considered to be defined as a vertical service space, as supported by past Building Code Appeal BCAB #1654, provided the shaft is not interconnected with other storeys. Refer to diagram shown on next page.

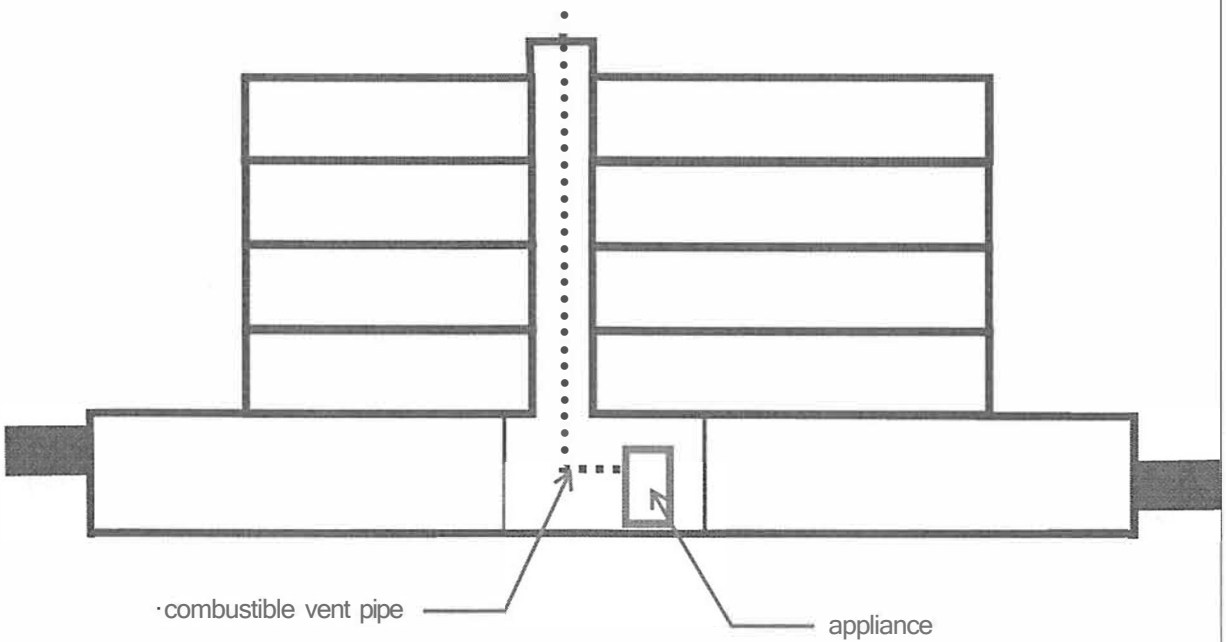
The plastic piping is also regulated by the Gas Safety Regulation and is required to comply with standards CSA 8149.1 'Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code' and ULC S636 'Standard for Type BH Gas Venting Systems'.

However for noncombustible buildings, combustible piping is limited to a flame spread rating not exceeding 25. For high buildings there is an additional restriction of smoke developed classification not exceeding 50.

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

2. No.

The Building Code addresses dedicated vertically oriented enclosures containing building services and defines these as vertical service spaces. Typically the Building Code does not intend that combustible piping be located in a vertical service spaces. This is indicated for example for combustible DWV piping in Clauses 3.1.9.5.(4)(b) and Sentence 3.1.9.5.(5).



Pat Shek

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