

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0104**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	April 20, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Spray Foam Insulation as Alternate to Roof Venting
Keywords:	Spray foam insulation, roof venting
Building Code Reference(s):	9.19.1.1., A-9.19.1.1

## Question:

Sentence 9.19.1.1.(1) requires that where insulation is installed between a ceiling and the underside of roof sheathing (roof space), vents and unobstructed air space between insulation and roof sheathing, must be provided to permit effective transfer of moisture from the roof space to the exterior; except where it can be shown to be unnecessary.

Can spray foam insulation applied directly to the underside of roof sheathing be an acceptable alternate to providing the vents and unobstructed air space required by Sentence 9.19.1.1.(1)?

## Interpretation:

Yes, under certain situations.

The Notes to Part 9 commentary A-9.19.1.1.(1) indicates that the exception in Sentence 9.19.1.1.(1) recognizes that some specialized ceiling-roof assemblies such as those used in some factory-built buildings, have, over time, demonstrated that their construction is sufficiently tight to prevent excessive moisture accumulation.

Any use of spray foam insulation applied directly to the underside of roof sheathing proposed as an alternate to required vents and unobstructed air space, must similarly be able to demonstrate performance that the system will not lead to deterioration of the roof assembly. This proposal submission is subject to review and acceptance by the Authority having Jurisdiction.

This interpretation is supported by past BC Building Code appeals 1719, 1741, and 1762.



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

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