

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0123

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	June 15, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Exit Enclosure Fire Separation Services Penetrations
Keywords:	Exit, enclosure, fire separation, services penetrations
Building Code Reference(s):	3.4.4.1, 3.4.4.4.(1), 3.1.7, 3.1.8, 3.1.9

Question:

Article 3.4.4.1 requires fire separation enclosures of exits. Sentence 3.4.4.4.(1) restricts certain openings or services penetrations of enclosure assemblies of the fire separations required by Article 3.4.4.1.

1. Are building services other than those acceptable in Sentence 3.4.4.4.(1), permitted to be contained within the fire separation assemblies required by Article 3.4.4.1?
2. If building services are permitted to be contained within exit enclosure fire separation assemblies, are they permitted to penetrate the membrane of such fire separation assemblies on the outside face of the exit enclosure?

Interpretation:

1. Yes.
Building services other than those acceptable in Sentence 3.4.4.4.(1), are permitted to be contained within the fire separation assemblies required by Article 3.4.4.1, subject to installation in accordance with Subsections 3.1.7, 3.1.8, and 3.1.9.
A "fire separation" is defined in Division A, Article 1.4.1.2 as "a construction assembly that acts as a barrier against the spread of fire".
2. Yes.
Building services other than those acceptable in Sentence 3.4.4.4.(1), are permitted to penetrate the membrane of such fire separation assemblies on the outside face of the exit enclosure required by Article 3.4.4.1, subject to installation in accordance with Subsections 3.1.7, 3.1.8, and 3.1.9.
A "fire separation" is defined in Division A, Article 1.4.1.2 as "a construction assembly that acts as a barrier against the spread of fire".



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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Examples of such services penetrations are: electrical outlet boxes located in the public corridor, manual stations, devices associated with permitted security locking systems, etc.

This is consistent with past BC Building Code interpretation 06-0099.

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