


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0028**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 1 of 1**

Interpretation Date:	November 26, 2018
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Structural Fire Protection
Keywords:	Fire protection, steel members, wholly or partly
Building Code Reference(s):	3.2.2.3.(1)(g)
<b>Question:</b>	<p>If the loadbearing steel columns supporting a fire-rated assembly are located entirely within the un-rated exterior wall, are they required to be fire-protected?</p>
<b>Interpretation:</b>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The intent of 3.2.2.3 is “to exempt from the application of 3.2.2.1., which relates to fire protection, certain non-combustible building elements that are not critical to the stability of the building’s structural framework.”</p> <p>3.2.2.3.(1)(g) exempts fire protection of loadbearing steel members that are wholly or partly outside a building face in a building not more than 4 storeys in building height and classified as Group A, B, C, D or F, Division 3 major occupancy provided the members are not less than 1 m away from any unprotected opening in an exterior wall or shielded from heat radiation in the event of fire within the building by construction that will provide the same degree of protection that would be necessary if the member was located inside the building.</p> <p>An exterior wall that have no fire-resistance rating is considered as an unprotected opening. If the steel members are entirely within the exterior wall or less than 1 m. away from the exterior wall they are still required to have the fire-resistance rating as per 3.2.2.</p>
	<p> Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>

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.