


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0219

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	November 22, 2022
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018, Book II: Plumbing Systems (BCPC)
Subject:	Multiple Transitions from ABS to PVC Piping in a Drainage System
Keywords:	Drainage System, Transition Solvent Cement
Building Code Reference(s):	2.2.5.10.(2), 2.2.5.9.(2) (2015 National Plumbing Code)
Question: Can transition solvent cement be used to facilitate multiple transitions within a drainage system from ABS to PVC piping material?	
Interpretation: No, Sentence 2.2.5.10.(2) states, "Transition solvent cement shall only be used for joining an ABS drainage system to a PVC drainage system." The wording tends to indicate that only a single transition from one drainage system (not plural) to another, such as from an ABS building drain to a PVC building sewer, is compliant. However, the definition of a drainage system includes all aspects of drainage from the upper vent connection point to the downstream public sewer or private sewage disposal system. The committee understands that the BCPC is not specific as to where these transitions may occur and that drainage systems can be extensive and site specific conditions may merit other considerations. The Intent Statement attributed to Sentence 2.2.5.10.(2). (please note that it is Sentence 2.2.5.9.(2) in the 2015 National Plumbing Code included in this Interpretation), is clear that the intent is to limit the probability that an inappropriate cement will be used which could result in joint failure. The committee supports the statement from Appeal Board Decision #1566 (attached) that the ASTM Standard (ASTM D3138) referenced in the CSA Standards for both ABS and PVC pipe that (quoted from Note 1) "The intention was not to create a specification for an all-purpose ABS-PVC solvent cement that would be used for mixing of ABS and PVC piping materials nor to specify a cement that could generally be used for either material." Multiple transitions between different piping materials in a drainage system can be better accomplished by other means. This Interpretation is also consistent with the previous POABC Interpretation, POA2007 (also attached).  _____ 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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Sentence 2.2.5.9.(2)

1. OH2

Objective	<u>OH2 Sanitation</u>
Attribution	[F20,F80,F81- <u>OH2.1,OH2.3</u>]
Intent	
Intent 1: To limit the probability that an inappropriate cement will be used, which could lead to joint failure, which could lead to leakage, which could lead to unsanitary conditions, which could lead to harm to persons.	

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

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BCAB #1566 - Transition Cement, Sentence 7.2.5.11.(2)

June 19, 2002

BCAB #1566

Re: Transition Cement, Sentence 7.2.5.11.(2)

Project Description

The project in question is a new 100 unit seniors housing project. It is proposed to use ABS shower strainers connected to PVC trap arms and ABS trap arms under vanity sinks connected to PVC stub outs in the walls.

Reason for Appeal

Sentence 7.2.5.11.(2) states that the transition cement required by sentence 7.2.5.11.(1) is only to be used for "joining an ABS drainage system to a PVC drainage system."

Appellant's Position

The appellant contends that there is no limit on the number of locations in a DWV system that the transition cement can be used. It is only limited to joints between ABS and PVC and may not be used to join PVC to PVC or ABS to ABS.

Building Official's Position

The building official maintains that the ASTM D3138-95 standard for transition cement, referenced in both the CSA PVC and ABS pipe standards, is not a specification for cement intended for "mixing ABS and PVC piping materials. The standard envisaged limited application such as the joint between an ABS building drain and a PVC sewer system.

Appeal Board Decision #1566

It is the determination of the Board that transition cement can only be used to join an ABS drainage system to a PVC drainage system. It is not intended that it be used to join components throughout a drainage system. The ASTM standard for transition cement (ASTM D3138) referenced in the CSA standards for ABS and PVC pipe and fittings clearly states that it is only intended to be used for, "for example, joining an ABS building drain to a PVC sewer system. The intention was not to create a specification for an all purpose ABS-PVC solvent cement that would be used for mixing of ABS and PVC piping materials."

George Humphrey, Chair

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POABC INTERPRETATION

PLUMBING OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION OF BC

Manual Reference Section: 2	1998 Code Ref.:			
Date: February 1992, April 8, 1999	Sentence 7.2.5.11 (2)			
No. P.O.A.: 2007 Revised				
Questions: Certified transition solvent cement is available for joining PVC and ABS DWV and sewer pipe. Can this solvent cement be used throughout the entire drainage system for multiple transitions?				
Interpretation: No!! Transition cement shall be for a single change of material with in a drainage system as defined in the 1998 BC Plumbing Code.				
Further Explanation: Transitions can be better accomplished by the use of approved mechanical type transition fittings certified to CSA B602 standard. Excessive use of transition solvent cement on ABS pipe can be detrimental to the pipe and fittings.				
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Approved	VIPCC	JUNE / 99	LMPCC	