

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0227

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	December 13, 2022
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Fire Blocking at junction of Floor and Vertical Fire Separation
Keywords:	Fire Blocking, Fire Separation, Double Row Stud Wall
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.11.2.(1), 3.1.11.7., 9.10.16.2.(1), 9.10.16.3.

Question:

When 15.9mm thick floor sheathing is not interrupted across the air gap at a double row of studs at a demising fire separation wall; is additional sheet metal fire blocking still required at the floor sheathing location?

Interpretation:

No.

Sentence 3.1.11.2.(1) requires fire blocking conforming to Article 3.1.11.7 at the floor level, as well as other locations such as at the ceiling level. The sheet metal fire blocking would be redundant at the floor level, however fire blocking is also required at the ceiling level, and so that the maximum horizontal dimension is not more than 20m and the maximum vertical dimension is not more than 3m. It is interpreted that 12.5mm plywood, waferboard or OSB are acceptable as fire blocking by reference to Article 3.1.11.7, particularly Clause 3.1.11.7.(5)(b).

Similarly, for Part 9 buildings, Sentence 9.10.16.2.(1) requires fire blocking at the floor level, as well as other locations such as at the ceiling level, and so that the maximum horizontal dimension is not more than 20m and the maximum vertical dimension is not more than 3m. Sentence 9.10.16.3.(1) and Clause 9.10.16.3.(2)(c) permit the use of 12.5mm plywood, waferboard or OSB, as fire blocking.

It should be noted that for residential buildings most acoustical engineers recommend against running the plywood floor sheathing through a suite demising wall due to poor acoustical performance.



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.