

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 18-0256**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	June 27, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Combustible Outlet Boxes in Fire-rated Wall
Keywords:	Electrical Outlet Boxes, Fire-Resistance Rated Assembly
Building Code Reference(s):	9.10.5.1.(2); 9.10.5.1.(3); 9.10.9.1.(1)(a); 9.10.9.6.(8)

**Question:**

In Part 9 buildings, is there a limit of the number of combustible electrical boxes in an assembly with a fire-resistance rating?

**Interpretation:**

No.

Sentence 9.10.5.1.(2) permits penetration of electrical outlet boxes in assemblies required to have a fire-resistance rating.

Sentence 9.10.5.1.(3) requires offsetting these boxes if they occur on both sides of the wall. In both Sentences (2) & (3) there is no provision of any limitation on the number of these boxes.

Sentence 9.10.9.6.(8) permits penetration of electrical outlet boxes in assemblies of fire separations with fire-resistance rating for the combustible electrical boxes provided that the opening does not exceed 160 cm<sup>2</sup>, however there is no limitation as to the number of boxes.



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.