


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0268

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	July 19, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Rainscreen capillary break venting
Keywords:	Cladding, rainscreen, capillary break venting
Building Code Reference(s):	9.27.2.2.(2)(d); 9.27.2.2.(3)
Question:	Does a rainscreen cavity need to be open near the top for venting and is an insect screen required there?
Interpretation:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Sentence 9.27.2.2.(3) refers to the top of the drained and vented capillary rainscreen cavity and states that this space cannot be contiguous with concealed spaces in projected construction. The entire principle of rainscreen is that the space is open on two ends: at the bottom to allow draining of the residual moisture and access of the air and at the top allowing for a free flow of this air through the space.</p> <p>The other principle of the construction is to restrict the access for the insects to all spaces that would attract their nesting – therefore the open vented spaces must be protected with insect screens at all access points as per 9.27.2.2.(2)(d).</p>
 <hr/> 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.