

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0037

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: September 24, 2024

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Fire Dampers in Houses with Secondary Suites

Keywords: Fire damper, secondary suite, ducts

Building Code Reference(s): 9.10.9.9.(6); 9.32.3.2.(5)

Question:

Can fire dampers be omitted in ducts penetrating the fire separations in a house with a secondary suite?

Interpretation:

Yes (with conditions).

Sentence 9.32.3.2.(5) requires that ducts penetrating fire separations shall be equipped with fire dampers in conformance with Article 3.1.8.10. except as provided in Sentence 9.10.9.6.(14),

9.10.9.6.(14) was in the 2018 BCBC but was relocated to 9.10.9.9.(6) in the 2024 BCBC. Sentence 9.32.3.2.(5) should have referenced 9.10.9.9.(6) as the exception rather than Sentence 9.10.9.6.(14).

As per Sentence 9.10.9.9.(6), "in a house with a secondary suite including their common spaces, ducts penetrating fire separations need not be equipped with fire dampers in conformance with Article 3.1.8.10. provided they are noncombustible with all openings in the duct system serving only one fire compartment".

Building and Safety Standards Branch has been informed of this error and the revision is forthcoming.



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.