


# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0070**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	April 15, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Protection of steel columns within a fire-rated wall
Keywords:	Fire-resistance rating, steel column
Building Code Reference(s):	Appendix D-2.6, Table D-2.6.1.- F
<b>Question:</b>  A loadbearing steel column is located within a wood or steel stud fire-rated wall with drywall on both sides of the studs.  Does this steel column require any additional fire protection if the fire-rated stud wall assembly has the same fire-resistance rating as required for the steel column?	
<b>Interpretation:</b>  No, with conditions.  Fire protection of steel columns is described in Section D-2.6 of Appendix D.  This section assumes that the column is free standing with exposure to fire on 4 sides of the column.  If the steel column is embedded within a fire-rated stud wall, it would be exposed to a fire on only 2 sides of the column.  Table D-2.6.1.- F of Appendix D provides the minimum thickness of Type X gypsum board for various M/D ratios of the steel column.  Provided the thickness of Type X gypsum board on each side of the stud wall is equal to or greater than the thicknesses indicated in Table D-2.6.1.- F, the steel column would not require any additional fire protection.   <hr/> Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair	
<small>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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</small>	