

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0091

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	May 20, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Radon System Pipe Standard and Air Barrier Material
Keywords:	Radon, Pipe Standard, Polyethylene Air Barrier
Building Code Reference(s):	9.13.4.3.(2)(e), CAN/CGSB-149.11, 9.25.3.6., 1.5.1.2.(1)
Question: 1. Clause 9.13.4.3.(2)(e) states that a radon vent pipe which is installed to protect a building from the ingress of soil gas shall consist of pipe and fittings in accordance with 7.1.3. of CAN/CGSB-149.11. 7.1.3.1.3 of this Standard states that PVC pipes installed completely above grade shall comply with certain Schedule 40 specifications (wall thickness, inside and outside diameters and pressure ratings). Does the foregoing restrict the use of ABS cellular core piping for an above grade radon vent system? 2. In the CAN/CGSB-149.11, the use of a soil gas barrier consisting of 0.25 mm (10 mil) thick polyethylene or equivalent polyolefin; however, Article 9.25.3.6. and Note A-9.25.3.6.(2) and (3) require 0.15 mm polyethylene (6 mil). Does 6 mil polyethylene meet the minimum requirements?	
Interpretation: 1. No. ABS cellular core pipe is permitted by the reference to the ASTM F628 Standard in 7.1.3.2.2 of the CAN/CGSB-149.11 Standard. ABS cellular core pipe conforms with this standard and is acceptable for use in an above grade radon vent system. It should be noted that 7.1.3.1.3 contains a note that states, in part "Where possible, radon pipe should have a different colour or identifying markings than DWV piping." This means that, if possible, different material should be chosen for the DWV and radon system for ease of identification.  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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.	

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2. Yes.

7.1.4 (Sealing the soil gas collector) of CAN/CGSB-149.11 is not referenced by the 2024 BCBC in this regard. Since the 10 mil polyethylene comes from this Section of the Standard, a 6 mil polyethylene is in compliant in accordance with Article 9.25.3.6. j If 7.1.4 was directly referenced by the BCBC, Sentence 1.5.1.2.(1) of Division A states that “In case of conflict between the provisions of this Code and those of a referenced document, the provisions of this Code shall govern.”. However, no such conflict currently exists.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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