

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0082

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 16, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Firestopping Between Fire-Rated Sill and Exterior Curtain Wall
Keywords:	Firestopping, Sill, Curtain Wall
Building Code Reference(s):	Division A 1.4.1.2, Division B 3.2.3.7

Question:

In a building with concrete floor slabs and an exterior curtain wall, firestopping is provided at the space between the slab and the curtain wall, at the floor level. Above the floor slab, where a sill at an exterior wall in this building requires a fire-resistance rating due to spatial separation requirements, or at the underside of the slab above where there is a fire-rated bulkhead at the exterior wall, is firestopping required between the sill or the bulkhead and the back of the spandrel at the exterior curtain wall? Refer to the sketch on page 2.

Interpretation:

No.

Since the floor assemblies are concrete, the sill or bulkhead is assumed to be a short - framed wall with sufficient gypsum board to provide the required fire-resistance rating. Article 3.2.3.7 requires fire-resistance ratings for portions of exterior walls that exceed the allowable area of unprotected openings. In Division A, Section 1.4.1.2, the definition of "fire-resistance rating" refers to the time that a material or assembly of materials will withstand the passage of heat or flames. The definition of fire separation refers to a construction assembly that acts as a barrier against the spread of fire.

The purpose of providing a fire-resistance rating for spatial separation is to reduce the radiation from a fire that would otherwise be transmitted out through unprotected exterior wall areas. These walls provide a fire-resistance rating but are not fire separations.



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.

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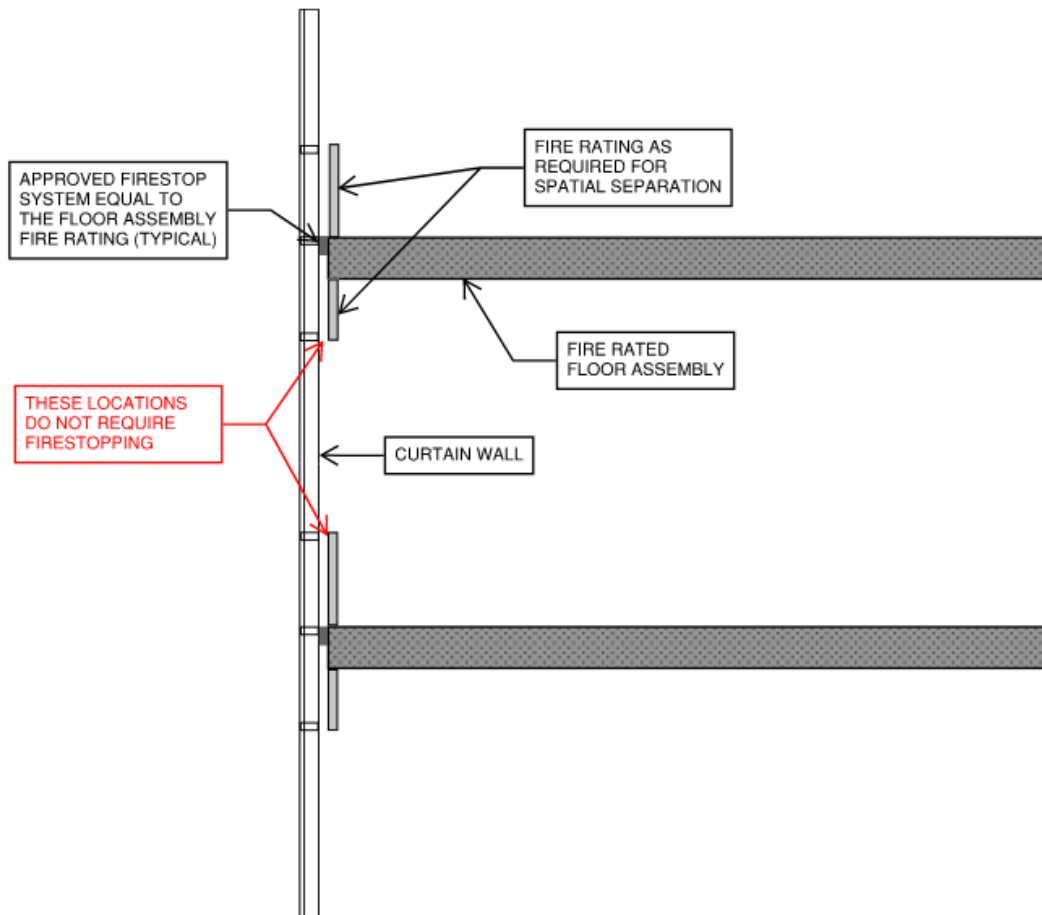
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The gypsum board should be continuous to the back of the spandrel to maintain the fire-resistance rating of the sill or bulkhead assembly, but because the sill and bulkhead are not a fire separation, and the space between the sill or bulkhead and the spandrel does not affect the radiation transmitted through the openings, firestopping is not required.



Pat Shek

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