

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 18-0007- Rev1**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date:	October 06, 2025 (Revision 1)
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Fire blocking within rain screen air cavity of wall assemblies
Keywords:	Rain screen air cavity, fire blocking
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.11.2.; 9.10.16.2.

## Question:

1. Should the requirement for fire blocks in wall assemblies include the rainscreen air cavity?

## Interpretation:

1. No.

**If the rainscreen air cavity is not more than 25 mm in horizontal thickness**, it is excluded from the fire blocking requirement by Clauses 3.1.11.2.(2)(d) and 9.10.16.2.(2)(a). Note that this requirement stipulates that the wall is insulated and has only one concealed space.

It is a good practice to provide through wall horizontal flashing on every floor level that at the same time does provide a break in the vertical cavity and allows for shrinkage and deflection movements at the wall/floor interface.



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

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