

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0141

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	December 16, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Firestopping of Exterior Electrical Outlet Box
Keywords:	Firestopping, Outlet Box, Membrane
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.9.3, 3.1.7.3.(3)
Question:	Where a framed exterior wall requires a structural fire-resistance rating to support the fire-rated floor assembly above, or for spatial separation requirements, is firestopping required for an electrical outlet box on the exterior side of the wall?

Interpretation:

No.

Article 3.1.9.3 requires firestopping for outlet boxes that penetrate the membrane of an assembly required to have a fire-resistance rating, with some exceptions as noted in Sentence 3.1.9.3.(3).

Sentence 3.1.7.3.(3) requires exterior walls to be rated for exposure to fire from inside the building.

Because the exterior wall is required to be fire-protected from the inside, the membrane (such as gypsum wallboard) is located on the inside face of the wall. An outlet box on the exterior side of the wall does not penetrate the membrane and it does not require firestopping.



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.