

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0149**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: Fire Blocks between concealed vertical and horizontal spaces

Keywords: Fire Blocks, Concealed Spaces

Building Code Reference(s): 3.1.11.2., 3.1.11.4., 3.1.11.5.

## Question:

1. Where Clause 3.1.11.4.(1)(a) waives the requirement for fire blocking at the intersection between vertical and horizontal spaces where all exposed materials have a flame-spread rating (FSR) < 25, does the term “within the space”, apply to both the horizontal and vertical spaces?
2. Does the term “exposed construction materials” refer to all materials in the spaces?
3. Does the FSR in Sentence 3.1.11.4.(1) apply to any surface material or also to the material that is exposed by cutting in any direction same way as it is described in Clause 3.1.11.2.(2)(c).

## Interpretation:

1. Yes.

Both the horizontal and vertical spaces must meet the maximum FSR of 25 in order to waive the fire blocking between the two spaces.

2. Yes.

There are exemptions in Clause 3.1.11.2.(2)(c) for fire blocking in walls. There are no similar exemptions in Article 3.1.11.4. for intersections of vertical and horizontal spaces. So, wiring, pipes and similar services must meet the maximum FSR of 25.

3. No.

Sentence 3.1.11.4.(1) does not require maximum FSR of 25 for materials that are exposed by cutting in any direction, but the vertical and horizontal spaces must comply with Articles 3.1.11.2. and 3.1.11.5. respectively.

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

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