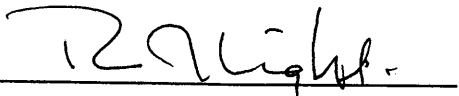


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0020	INTERPRETATION	Page 1 of 1
Interpretation Date:	November 20, 2007	
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006	
Subject:	Continuity of fire separation	
Keywords:	Fire separation, continuity, truss members, penetrations, firestopping	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.7.1., 3.1.8.1., 3.1.8.3., 3.1.9.1.	
Question:	<p>In a building, such as for example with a residential occupancy, where 1h rated suite demising fire separations continue vertically through the roof attic space, can the structural wood truss members or wood lateral bracing penetrate these 1h rated vertical fire separations?</p>	
Interpretation:	<p>No.</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.8.1.(1) requires that any partition required to be a fire separation must be continuous and must have a fire resistance rating.</p> <p>Sentence 3.1.7.1.(2) refers to use of Appendix D to derive fire resistance ratings for structural members, and it would seem possible for the truss member or lateral bracing to be assigned a localized fire resistance rating on this basis for the portion of the wood truss or bracing member embedded within the fire separation assembly.</p> <p>However, this cannot be supported for several reasons:</p> <p>The portion of the truss or bracing penetrating the fire separation is typically isolated and not part of a solid wood wall as addressed in Table D-2.4.1.</p> <p>With respect to fire separation continuity the vertical fire separation is breached by the penetration of the truss or bracing member. The truss or bracing member constitutes a penetration of the fire separation which does not conform to Subsection 3.1.9., and there is currently no known listed firestopping method for such penetrations.</p> <p>The remainder of the truss or bracing member outside the fire separation assembly is exposed to fire by being unprotected and could cause the premature collapse of the fire separation in a fire scenario.</p>  R. J. Light, Committee Chair	
<small>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee of AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. 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.</small>		