



BULLETIN RB06-030

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

SUPPLY OF COMBUSTION AIR FOR FIREPLACES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Reference: Section 6.2. and Sentence 9.22.1.5.(1)

Section 6.2. "Design and Installation"

Sentence 9.22.1.4.(1) "Combustion air for a fireplace shall be provided and shall be introduced by an air intake other than a door or window. (See **Appendix A.**)"

Question:

In apartment buildings with pressurized public corridors, is it acceptable to depend on air leakage from such corridors into the suites to provide for combustion air to the fireplaces', without providing an independent source of air supply?

Commentary / Relevant Facts:

The doors in public corridors are fire-rated, with limited allowable gaps between the bottom of the door and the floor. Leakage through these gaps is not usually sufficient to provide combustion air for the fireplaces in suites. Undercutting the door to let more air through to the suites invalidates the certification of the fire door.

Conclusion:

The leakage from pressurized public corridors is not a satisfactory source of combustion air in multi-family residential buildings. Fireplaces in such buildings shall be provided with their own supply of combustion air, unless air from the pressurized corridor is ducted into suites and fire dampers are provided where the ducts penetrate the corridor walls. The supply of combustion air shall be as per the manufacturer's installation instructions. In their absence the requirements of CAN/CSA-B365 "Installation Code for Solid-Fuel-Burning Appliances and Equipment" shall be complied with.

Chief Building Inspector

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