



BULLETIN RB06-047

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

SHAFTS INSIDE FURNACE ROOMS IN UP AND DOWN 4 PLEXES

Reference: Sentence 9.10.9.3.(1), Sentence 9.10.9.14.(1) and Sentence 9.10.9.14.(3)

Sentence 9.10.9.3.(1) "Except as permitted in **Articles 9.10.9.5., 9.10.9.6. and 9.10.9.7.**, openings in required fire separations shall be protected with closures conforming to **Subsection 9.10.13.**"

Sentence 9.10.9.14.(1) "Except as provided in **Sentences (2) and (3) and Part 10**, suites in residential occupancies shall be separated from adjacent rooms and suites by a fire separation having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 45 min."

Sentence 9.10.9.14.(3) "Dwelling units that contain 2 or more storeys including basements shall be separated from the remainder of the building by a fire separation having a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 h. (See **A-3.3.4.4.(1) in Appendix A.**)"

Question:

Is a separate shaft required to enclose each chimney and combustion air intake for furnace rooms which lie one above the other in up-and-down 4-plexes and other similar situations?

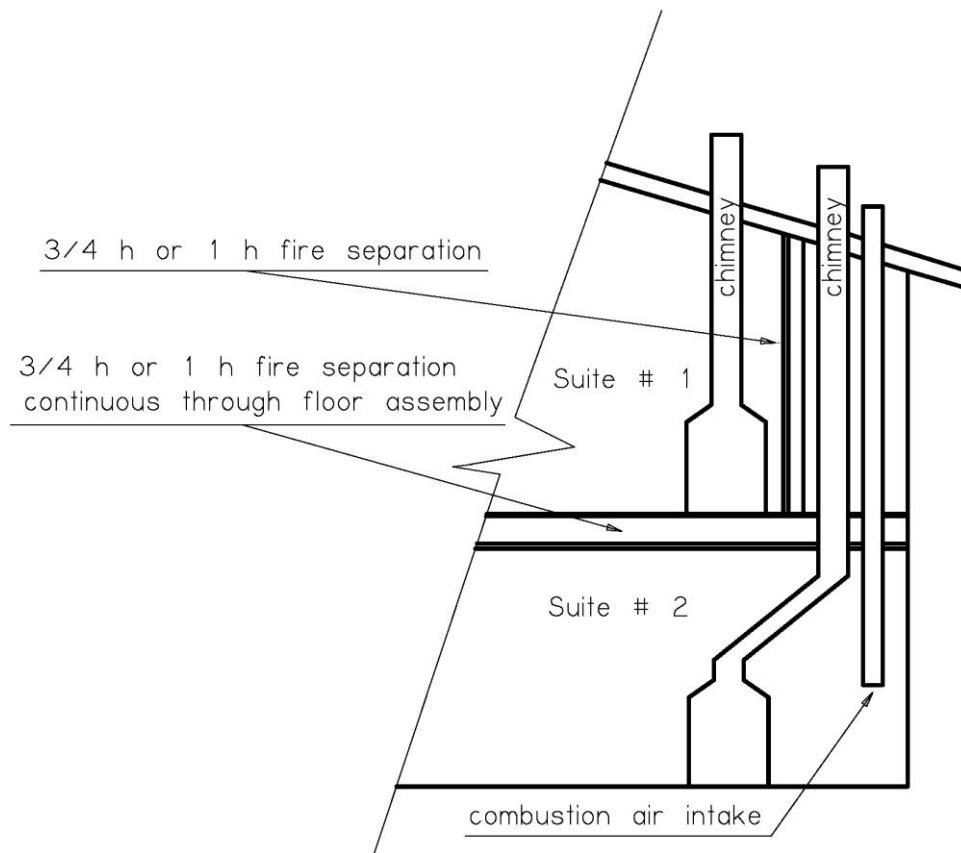
Commentary / Relevant Facts:

Furnace rooms in dwellings are not required to be fire separated from the remainder of the dwelling unit (**Article 9.10.10.1.**), however, floor assemblies between separately owned and titled dwelling units require a fire separation of 45 minutes or 1 hour as per **Sentences 9.10.9.14.(1) or (3)**. A fire separation equal to the floor fire separation is required around chimneys and/or combustion air intakes which serve separate fire compartments.

Conclusion:

Yes. A separate shaft is required to enclose each chimney and combustion air intake which serves a separate fire compartment. (See sketch)

Note: Secondary suites do not require fire separations. The same protection is required to separate the units as well as the furnace room, ½" gypsum board or equivalent material should be used to protect a chimney or combustion air that runs through an adjacent space.



Chief Building Inspector

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Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. These bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.