BULLETIN RB06-057
(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

COMBUSTIBLE PIPING PENETRATIONS (WATER DISTRIBUTION PIPES)

Reference: Sentence 3.1.9.4.(2)

Sentence 3.1.9.4.(2)"Combustible water distribution piping that has an outside diameter not more than 30 mm is permitted to partly or wholly penetrate a vertical fire separation that is required to have a fire-resistance rating without being incorporated in the assembly at the time of testing as required in **Div B, 3.1.9.2**., provided the piping is sealed in conformance with **3.1.9.1.(1)(a).**"

Question:

This Sentence only deals with water distribution piping penetrating a vertical fire separation. How shall we deal with such pipes penetrating a horizontal fire separation, which is a more severe situation due to the possibility of vertical fire spread through such an assembly?

Commentary / Relevant Facts:

There appears to be a gap in the Code requirements in this area, as it does not deal with combustible water distribution piping penetrations through horizontal fire separations. Penetration of horizontal separations by sprinkler piping is dealt with in **Sentence 3.1.9.4.(1)** and DWV piping in **Sentences 3.1.9.4.(3)** to **(5).**

Conclusion:

Water supply pipes are always less hazardous as a conduit of fire and smoke than DWV piping. Therefore, requirements in **Sentences 3.1.9.4.(3)** to **(5)** can also be safely applied to water supply piping. (Also see **Regulation Bulletin I-130**.)

Chief Building Inspector