

RB14-018

SUPPLY OF COMBUSTION AIR FOR FIREPLACES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Reference: Alberta Building Code 2014 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

Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Regulation 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. Regulation Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. Regulation Bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code