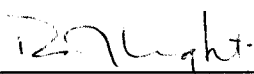
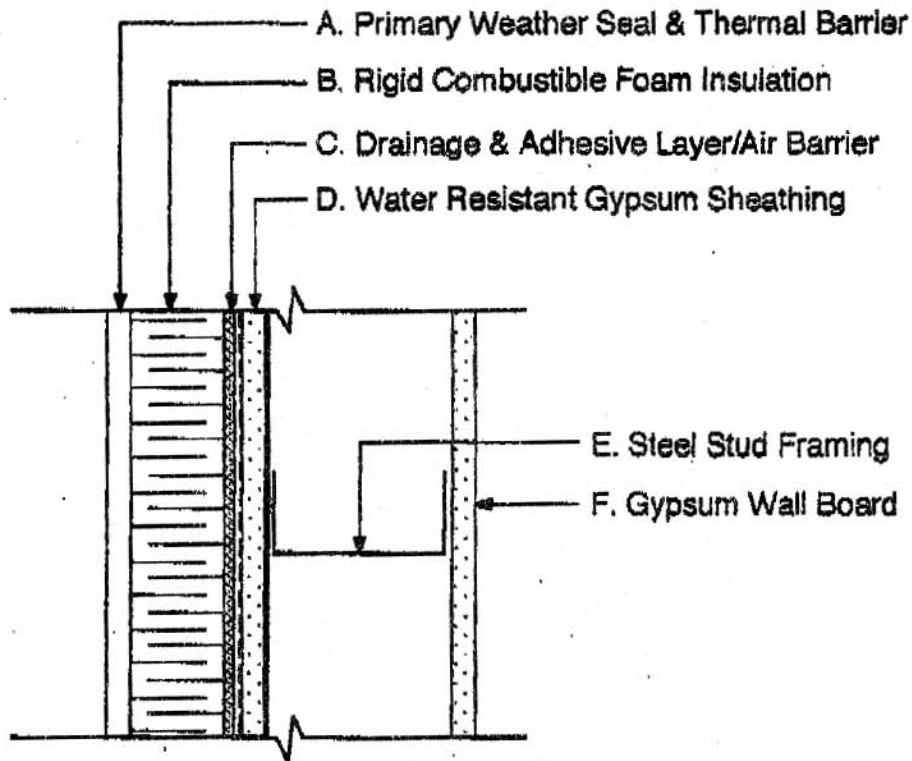


**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

INTERPRETATION		
Interpretation Date:	Decembe 20, 2000	File No.:
Building Code Edition:	B.C. Building Code 1998	98 - 0012
Subject:	Combustible components in exterior walls	
Keywords:	Combustible; exterior walls; cladding	
Building Code Reference(s):	3.1.5.5; A-3.1.5.5; 3.2.3.7.(7),(8)&(9)	Page 1 of 3
<p>Question:</p> <p>(1) Does Article 3.1.5.5 apply to an entire exterior <i>non-loadbearing</i> wall assembly?</p> <p>(2) If such an exterior <i>non-loadbearing</i> wall assembly contains combustible components that are otherwise permitted by Subsection 3.1.5., is it required to comply with Article 3.1.5.5.</p>		
<p>Interpretation:</p> <p>(1) Yes.</p> <p>Appendix A-3.1.5.5 clarifies that the required test, CAN/ULC-S134, "Standard Method of Test of Exterior Wall Assemblies" is to be conducted on the entire exterior wall assembly in order to assess the performance of the entire exterior wall assembly. That is, the performance of some exterior cladding systems will depend on what wall assembly they are attached to.</p> <p>(2) No.</p> <p>Article 3.1.5.1 requires <i>noncombustible buildings</i> to be constructed of <i>noncombustible</i> materials except as otherwise permitted in Articles 3.1.5.2 to 3.1.5.19, 3.1.13.4 and 3.2.2.16. Generally, Articles 3.1.5.2 to 3.1.5.19 list <i>combustible</i> components permitted in <i>noncombustible construction</i>. For example, Article 3.1.5.2 specifically permits adhesives, <i>vapour barriers</i> and sheathing papers and Article 3.1.5.11 permits combustible insulations under certain conditions. The option of applying Article 3.1.5.5 is available where the <i>exposing building face</i> is permitted to have <i>unprotected openings</i> of more than 10 % and the exterior wall contains <i>combustible</i> components that are not otherwise permitted in Subsection 3.1.5, such as a <i>combustible</i> cladding component.</p> <p>The practical application of the code to <i>combustible</i> components in the exterior wall must also consider the requirements of Subsection 3.2.3. Specifically, for <i>exposing building faces permitted</i> to have more than 10% <i>unprotected openings</i>, two options are available to provide exterior protection for foamed plastics. The first option applicable to buildings more than 3 storeys in <i>building height</i>, is to provide a <i>noncombustible</i> material on the exterior surface that conforms to the prescriptive or performance (i.e., testing) requirements of Sentences 3.2.3.7.(7) & (8). The second option is to apply Sentence 3.2.3.7.(9) which permits the wall assembly to comply with the requirements Article 3.1.5.5.</p>		
<p align="center"></p> <p>_____ R.J. Light Committee Chair</p>		<p align="center"><u>December 20, 2000</u></p> <p>_____ Date</p>

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
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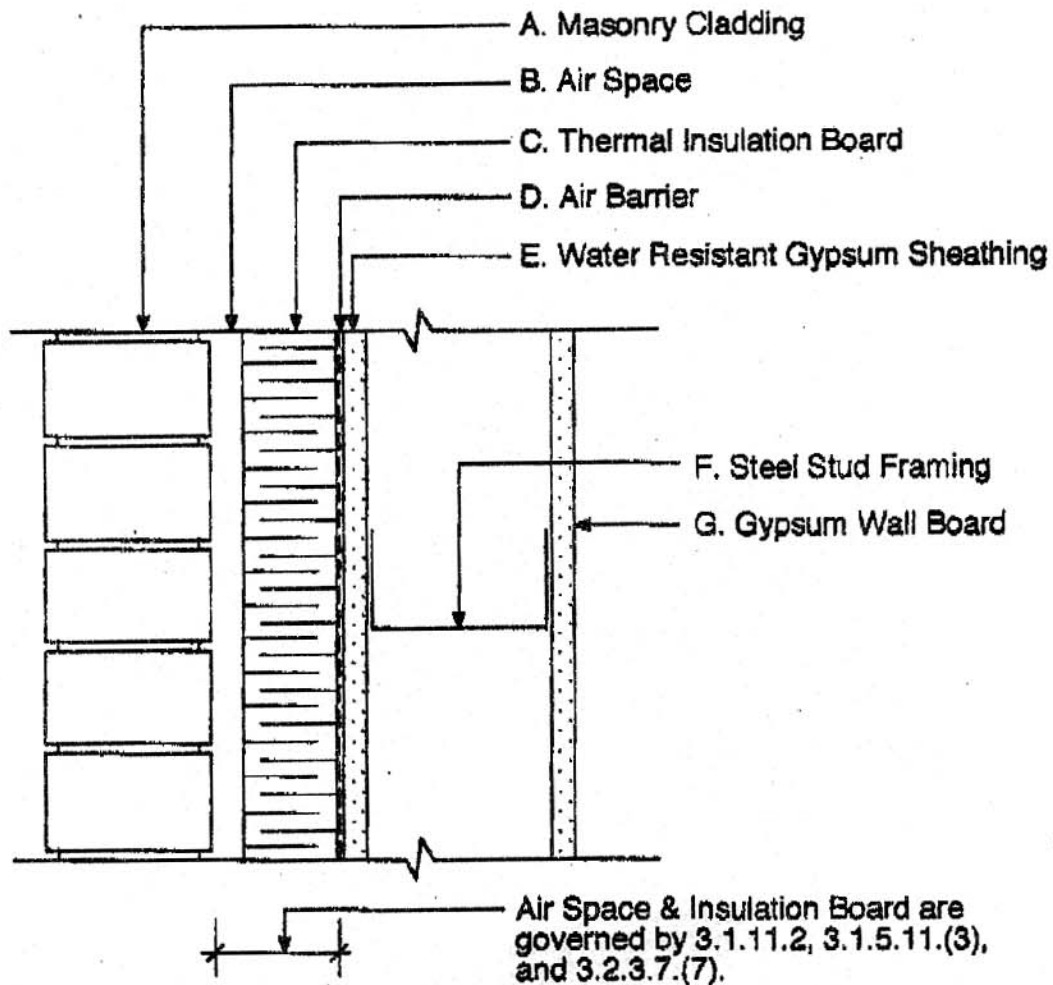
INTERPRETATION 98-0012, PAGE 2 OF 3



**Proprietary Exterior Wall System Conforming to CAN/ULC-S134
A, B, C, D, F have combustible components.**

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

INTERPRETATION 98-0012, PAGE 3 OF 3



Generic Rain Screen Wall Assembly

C, D, E, G have combustible components as permitted by 3.1.5.2 to 3.1.5.19.