



BUILDING DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Date: November 18, 2016

To: Construction Material Suppliers / Vendors

Subject: Fireblocking in Concealed Spaces of Combustible Assemblies
International Building Code 2006 (IBC)
International Residential Code 2006 (IRC)

Please find attached a summary of the building codes with regard to Fireblocking in Concealed Spaces of Combustible Assemblies.

The intent and application of fireblocking is to protect and safeguard persons and property by retarding the transmission of airflow, fire and combustible gases in concealed spaces of a structure or dwelling by the use of approved caulking, foam, tape, mineral wool, insulation, etc. The installation of fireblocking material is required at all stud wall openings vertically at floor/ceiling levels and horizontally at intervals not to exceed 10-feet as well as at other locations prescribed in sections IBC 717.2 and IRC R602.8.

Before widespread implementation of required fireblocking, you may have been called or visited by a representative of our offices for your understanding of this issue. We discovered through these inquiries that few material suppliers appear to have approved products on shelf for the contractors and home owner-builders to purchase. We hope that this will provide you with a start for your own research to ready the construction industry for what might an upcoming surge in demand for fireblocking products.

Beginning January 2017, inspectors for building, electrical and plumbing permits will begin comprehensive implementation of fireblocking application requirements and will review product data to verify fireblocking materials applied in construction are materially compatible and approved for use by the International Code Counsel Evaluation Service (ICC-ES). Please be careful to have products that identify with their ICC-ES report number and not simply stated as "tested to" or "meets or exceeds" code or standards. Please also be careful to note product compatible (non-reactive) with materials of construction.

Informational meetings to discuss the implementation of fireblocking requirements are scheduled as follows:

Aupuni Center Conference Room
November 25, 2016 – 10:00 am
101 Pauahi Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

West Hawaii Civic Center, Building G
December 5, 2016 – 10:00 am
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

We encourage you to provide us feedback. Please send written comments to email neil.erickson@hawaiicounty.gov or postal mail to:

DPW-Building Division
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7
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Also feel free to contact me directly with any questions or comments at 961-8473.

Sincerely,

Neil Erickson
Plans Examining Manager