Builder Tip
Issue No: 50
January 1, 2025
Updated to 2024 OBC

Fire Stopping Juncture Of Walls/Slab/Deck

(Continuity Of Fire Separations)

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

3.1.7.1. Determination of Ratings

(1) Except as permitted by Sentence (2) and Article 3.1.7.2. and 3.6.3.5., the rating of a material, assembly of materials or a structural member that is required to have a fire-resistance rating, shall be determined on the basis of the results of tests conducted in conformance with CAN/ULC-S101, "Standard Method of Fire Endurance Tests of Building Construction and Materials".

(2) A material, assembly of materials or a structural member is permitted to be assigned a fire-resistance rating on the basis of MMAH Supplementary Standard SB-2, “Fire Performance Ratings.”

3.1.7.3. Exposure Conditions for Rating

(1) Floor, roof and ceiling assemblies shall be rated for exposure to fire on the underside.

(2) Firewalls and interior vertical fire separations shall be rated for exposure to fire on each side.

(3) Exterior walls shall be rated for exposure to fire from inside the building.

3.1.8. Fire Separations and Closures

3.1.8.1. General Requirements

(1) Any wall, partition or floor assembly required to be a fire separation shall

(a) except as permitted by Sentence (2), be constructed as a continuous element in conformance with Article 3.1.8.3., and

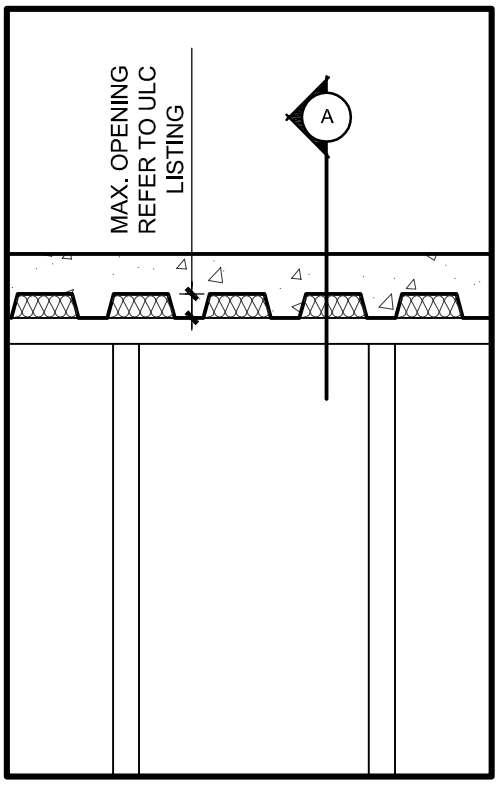
(b) as required in this Part, have a fire-resistance rating as specified. (See Note A-3.1.8.1.(1)(b))

(2) Openings in a fire separation shall be protected with closures, shafts or other means in conformance with Articles 3.1.8.4. to 3.1.8.20. and Subsections 3.1.9. and 3.2.8. (See Note A-3.1.8.1.(2))

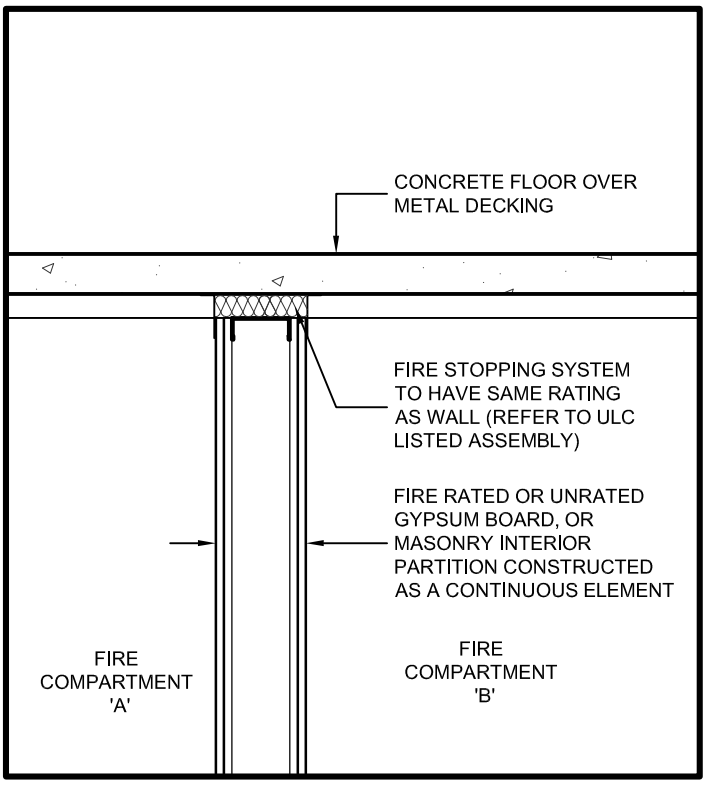
OBJECTIVE

When a rated or unrated fire separation is required to divide one compartment from another, such as a masonry or gypsum board interior partition, the fire separation must be built as a continuous element, terminate at a slab, metal deck, or a roof deck, have a fire resistance rating as specified and have a smoke tight joint where it abuts a horizontal plane.

Since a fire separation wall is required to be rated for exposure to fire from each side, each wall side shall contribute to the fire resistance rating. For this reason, designers must select joint assemblies that have been tested for this purpose. The ULC listings can provide a variety of tested assemblies that can work even with the difficult condition of a vertical wall abutting a metal deck where the flutes are filled with tested material and all the joints sealed.



ELEVATION



SECTION 'A'