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## Unfaced Fiberglass used as Fireblocking (Based on the IRC 2009 as amended by MUBEC)

Background: Section R302.11.1.2 of the IRC 2009 Code allows the use of unfaced fiberglass batt insulation to be used as fireblocking, provided that it "shall fill the entire cross section of the wall cavity to a minimum height of 16 inches measured vertically."

Q. Where exactly is "a minimum height of 16 inches measured vertically" measured from?

A. The 16" refers to the length of the batt and must be located at the beginning of the area requiring fireblocking. Generally this from the draft opening measured down. The intent of the code is that the batting provide 16" of firestopping before the draft opening.

Q. Is it acceptable to use it in all locations requiring fireblocking?

A. No.

Q. What about the junction between a wall and the lower portion of a soffit?

A. Yes, from the lower portion of the soffit down.

Q. What about furred out basement walls?

A. Not unless the insulation effectively fills the cavity and is self-supporting and eliminates all concealed draft openings (both vertical and horizontal). Typically it will not work in furred walls because the insulation will not be self-supporting and will not meet the intent of the code.

Q. Is fire blocking required around all tub/shower drains? Would unfaced fiberglass be allowed?

A. R302.11(4) requires fire blocking around vents, pipes and ducts. Unfaced fiberglass per R302.11.1.2 is referenced for use in a wall cavity and would not be allowed at the tub/shower drain.