



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	December 11, 2015	Interpretation	15-007
Topic	Stairway Penetrations		
Code Section(s)	CBC Section 1022.5, 714.3.2		
Requested by	UC Irvine Scott Jackson, Lead Campus Fire Marshal		
Date Received	June 23, 2015		

Background:

The California Building Code (CBC) Section 1022.5 and 1023.5 discusses penetrations into stairs and exit passageways. These sections permit penetrations and openings into the enclosure based on the premise that these penetrations must serve the enclosures. This section makes the exception that these penetrations shall be allowed per CBC Section 714.3.2. CBC Section 714.3.2 does not specify that these membrane penetrations must serve the enclosure.

Questions:

1. Does this new change now mean that what serves the stair is no longer relevant?

Answer: No, it is relevant. Only systems that serve the exit enclosure can penetrate through the assembly as per the 2013 edition of CBC 1022.5.

2. Does this mean that membrane penetrations still need to serve the stair enclosure?

No. Membrane penetrations that are in compliance with CBC 714, that only penetrate the exterior membrane of the exit enclosure are now allowed per the 2013 section 1022.5 exception.