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.