

BUILDING CODE ACT, 1992

USER GUIDE TO RULINGS OF THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS and HOUSING

Section 29(1)(a) of Ontario's *Building Code Act*, 1992 (BCA) empowers the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to make Rulings approving the use of innovative materials, systems or building designs evaluated by a materials evaluation body designated in the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

The Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) has been designated in the OBC as a materials evaluation body for the purposes of Rulings of the Minister.

A CCMC Evaluation Report summarizes the qualities of a product and offers an opinion on the suitability of a product with respect to its intended use. In most cases, that opinion relates to the ability of the product to satisfy the intent of the requirements of the National Building Code, the OBC or other provincial codes. In Ontario, a CCMC Evaluation Report that is not part of a Ruling, has no effect on the OBC unless it is used by the Chief Building Official as the basis for the acceptance of equivalents.

A Ruling of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is based on an Evaluation Report by the CCMC. The Ruling entitles a person to use, in the manner approved, the material, system, or building design, in all of Ontario, unless the Ruling states otherwise. The use of the material, system or building design in the manner approved by the Ruling is deemed not to be a contravention of the OBC.

A Ruling may contain terms and conditions which modifies the "Opinion" contained in the CCMC Evaluation Report in order to satisfy the intent of the OBC. To understand the uniqueness of a Ruling, the user must not only review the Ruling in its entirety but also pay attention to the "Usage and Limitations" section of the associated CCMC Evaluation Report. The following two terms and conditions are contained in all Rulings:

- The use of the approved material, system or building design must comply with the BCA and, except as specifically provided in the Ruling, with the OBC.
- The use of the approved material, system or building design must be in accordance with the CCMC Evaluation Report upon which the Ruling is based, except as provided otherwise in the Ruling.

Each Ruling of the Minister is given a file number; i.e., 94-01-01-(12563-R). The alpha-numerical designation within brackets represents the corresponding CCMC Evaluation Report number associated with the Ruling for the subject material, system or building design.

When proposing the use of a material system or building design approved under section 29(1)(a) of the *Building Code Act*, it would be helpful to the building official if the holder of the Ruling was to offer a copy of the CCMC Evaluation Report and the Ruling at the time when the application for a building permit is made. It is a condition of all Rulings that a copy of the Ruling be attached to the application for a building permit.

If you are interested in obtaining further information about Rulings of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, please contact us at:

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Press 3 for assistance

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