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Vinyl Siding and the Capillary Break Rain Screen Requirement

2006 BC Building Code – Part 9

The wording of Section 9.27.2.2. *Minimum Protection from Precipitation Ingress* has resulted in an unintended consequence of some vinyl siding profiles not meeting the specific detailed requirements of the code. The generic specifications in the 2006 BC Building Code unintentionally exclude several common vinyl siding profiles.

It is the opinion of the Office of Housing and Construction Standards that vinyl siding is an acceptable cladding product that meets the new requirements for rain screen cladding. Open back vinyl (and aluminium) siding can be used in the coastal climate in the conventional manner without strapping or other means of providing a drained and vented air space (capillary break) behind it.

Building Policy Branch
Office of Housing and Construction Standards
Ministry of Forests & Range
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