

CONSTRUCTION OF GABLE ENDS IN HOUSING WITH A LIMITING DISTANCE LESS THAN 1.2 m

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

Part 1 Scope and Definitions – Defined Terms

Exposing Building Face means that part of the exterior wall of a building which faces one direction and is located between ground level and the ceiling of its' top storey, or where the building is divided into fire compartments, the exterior wall of a fire compartment that faces one direction.

9.10.15.5. Construction of Exposing Building Face of Houses

- (1) Except as provided in Sentences (2) to (4) and (6), each exposing building face and any exterior wall located above an exposing building face that encloses an attic or roof space shall be constructed in conformance with Subsection 9.10.8.,
 - (a) for the exposing building face as a whole, or
 - (b) for any number of separate portions of the exposing building face.
- (2) Sentence (1) does not apply where,
 - (a) the limiting distance is not less than 1.2 m (3 ft 11 in),
 - (b) the limiting distance is less than 1.2 m (3 ft 11 in) but not less than 0.6m (23⁵/₈ in), provided that the exposing building face has a fire-resistance rating of not less than 45 min, or
 - (c) the limiting distance is less than 0.6 m (23⁵/₈ in), provided that the exposing building face has a fire-resistance rating of not less than 45 min and is clad with non-combustible material.
- (3) Where the limiting distance is less than 0.6 m (23⁵/₈ in), cladding on the exposing building face and on exterior walls located above the exposing building face that encloses an attic or roof spaces need not be non-combustible, provided that the cladding,
 - (a) conforms to Subsection 9.27.12.,
 - (b) is installed without furring members over not less than 12.7 mm (1/2 in) thick gypsum sheathing or over masonry,
 - (c) has a flame-spread rating not more than 25 when tested in accordance with Sentence 3. 1. 12.1.(2), and

- (d) is not more than 2 mm (3/32 in) in thickness exclusive of fasteners, joints and local reinforcements.

OBJECTIVE

Housing buildings are exempt from the requirements for a fire-resistance rating and non-combustible cladding for the walls (gable end) above the *exposing building face*, which enclose a roof or attic space, as long as the *exposing building face* of the house complies with Sentences 9.10.15.5.(2)(3). The Building Code has provided this exemption for housing (where there is no dwelling unit above another dwelling unit) on the basis of tradition and past performance, and the fact that the life-risk component of this Building Code requirement is minor.

