

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

9.10.5.1. Permitted Openings in Wall Membranes

- (1) Except as permitted in Sentences (2) and (4), a membrane forming part of an assembly required to have a fire-resistance rating shall not be pierced by openings into the assembly unless the assembly has been tested and rated for such openings.
- (2) A wall or ceiling membrane forming part of an assembly required to have a fire-resistance rating is permitted to be pierced by openings for electrical and similar service outlet boxes provided such outlet boxes are tightly fitted.
- (3) Where boxes referred to in Sentence (2) are located on both sides of walls required to provide a fire-resistance rating, they shall be offset where necessary to maintain the integrity of the fire separation.

- (4) A membrane ceiling forming part of an assembly assigned a fire resistance rating on the basis of Table 2 of MMAH Supplementary Standard SB-3, "Fire and Sound Resistance of Building Assemblies", is permitted to be pierced by openings leading to ducts within the ceiling space provided the ducts, the amount of openings and their protection conform to the requirements in MMAH Supplementary Standard SB-2, "Fire Performance Ratings".

OBJECTIVE

The Ontario Building Code permits openings in a wall membrane forming part of a fire rated wall assembly as long as these openings such as electrical outlet boxes are tightly fitted around the membrane providing the fire rating. When the outlet boxes are located in the same stud space they shall be separated by a material such as gypsum board to maintain the integrity of the fire separation of the wall assembly. Refer to the illustration below for details.

