
BULLETIN 2014-03-BU

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POWER-ACTUATED FASTENERS AND DROP-IN ANCHORS FOR ANCHORAGE AND SEISMIC RESTRAINT

Vancouver's Building By-Law (VBBL) Clause 4.1.8.17.(8)(d) prohibits the use of power-actuated fasteners and drop-in anchors to be used to support elements of structures and non-structural components and equipment described in Table 4.1.8.17.

It has been brought to our attention that industry is unclear about which anchors are permitted to be used for anchorage and seismic restraint. The BC Building Code Interpretation Committee has provided an interpretation stating that power-actuated fasteners and drop-in anchors are not permitted to be used for seismic tensile loading (see link below). It is our understanding that a code change request has been sent to NRC to further clarify this matter and also that APEGBC will be issuing a bulletin to its members in the future.

Until more clarification is provided, drop-in anchors and power-actuated connections in concrete are not considered to be acceptable for anchorage and seismic restraint. Registered professionals who sign the schedule B-2 for structural capacity including anchorage and seismic restraint (all disciplines) and contractors must ensure that the proper fasteners and anchors are being used and that they comply with Part 4 of the VBBL. These anchors and fasteners shall be inspected, tested, and listed (e.g. sprinkler) where required.

If you have any questions, please contact the Building Policy Branch at cbo@vancouver.ca.

BCBC Interpretation Committee Link:

<http://www.boabc.org/assets/Codes-and-Regs/201403191335.pdf>

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