



# Building Bulletin

## Fire Separations & Horizontal Shaftwall Update (some OBC Part 3 buildings)

The City of Kitchener would like to share an important update that you may be aware of related to horizontal shaftwall construction.

The City has recently learned that BMEC Authorizations for the horizontal shaftwall systems have been revoked (ex. BMEC 89-01-118). It is our understanding, that BMEC has deemed these systems to no longer be innovative because the assemblies can be tested in accordance with CAN/ULC-S101.

At this time, the City is not aware of any horizontal shaftwall systems that have been tested in accordance with CAN/ULC-S101 and tested from both sides, like the BMEC authorized assemblies.

With limited options for this type of construction assembly, and in the absence of CAN/ULC-S101 tested systems from both sides, as an interim measure the City of Kitchener will accept a past BMEC Authorization for horizontal shaftwall systems with an Engineered Judgement.

However, this option will only be accepted by the City of Kitchener until June 1, 2024, where our expectation is that the manufacturers will have taken this 2 year period to have their systems appropriately tested and approved to CAN/ULC-S101. In addition, if a system is tested and approved prior to June 1, 2024, we will no longer be accepting past BMEC Authorizations with an Engineered Judgements for non-tested systems. Post June 1, 2024, the City will require the horizontal shaftwall to comply with the Ontario Building Code CAN/ULC-S101 requirement on projects moving forward.

On projects where the permit has been issued and where a revoked BMEC authorization was proposed and accepted by the City of Kitchener, the project may proceed with that system.

As always thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions, please contact Matt Ruetz.

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