



**Code Interpretation Committee  
Response Form**

**IRC 309**

DEPARTMENT OF  
BUILDING & FIRE SAFETY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Code Interpretation</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Code Inquiry</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Training Issue</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alternate Material</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Department Policy</b>

**CIC #: 00010**

**Question/issue:** Does the IRC amendment for "separation requirements" (R309.2) imply a fire rated separation and as such, should the areas historically treated as "fire separation" (5/8"-X in beneath stairways when enclosed) be treated with regard toward membrane and full penetrations or are they merely given a higher level of protection for other reasons?

**Position:** No, the garage wall, ceiling or enclosed accessible space under the stairs do not require "fire rated separation." The code does not require the walls to be fire taped nor does it require protection of penetrations.

**Justification:** To provide uniformity with the Southern Nevada Regional Interpretation dated 09/08/05.

**Code references:** 2000 IRC amendments R309.2, R311.2.2, IRC commentary Pg 119

<b>MANAGEMENT APPROVAL</b>	
<i>Michael W. Bouse</i> (Building Official)	Date: <i>3-28-06</i>