


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 06-0092

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	June 21, 2011
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2006
Subject:	Lateral support of foundation walls with flat insulating concrete form units
Keywords:	Lateral support, foundation walls, flat insulating concrete form units
Building Code Reference(s):	9.15.4.2.(3), Table 9.15.4.2.B., 9.15.4.5.
Question:	<p>Can foundation walls that are constructed of flat insulating concrete form units be laterally unsupported at the top?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>No</p> <p>Sentence 9.15.4.2.(3) requires that foundation walls that are constructed of flat insulating concrete form units be laterally supported at both the top and bottom.</p> <p>Table 9.15.4.2.B. provides prescriptive design requirements for foundations walls that are constructed of reinforced concrete block where the top of wall is either laterally supported or laterally unsupported at the top.</p> <p>Table 9.15.4.2.B. cannot be applied to foundation walls that are constructed of flat insulating concrete form units.</p> <p>Article 9.15.4.5. provides prescriptive design requirements for reinforcing steel in flat insulating concrete form foundation walls, but in all cases these walls are laterally supported at the top.</p> <p>It may be possible to design a laterally unsupported flat insulating concrete form wall based on the requirements of Part 4, but this would require the involvement of a registered professional.</p> <p> _____ R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	