BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 98-0120	**INTERPRETATION**	**Page 1 of 1**

Interpretation Date:	October 27, 2004
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 1998
Subject:	size and spacing of studs
Keywords:	unsupported height, stud size, stud spacing
Building Code Reference(s):	Table 9.23.10.1., 9.23.10.2.(2) & (5)

Question:

Does the "maximum unsupported height" in Table 9.23.10.1. refer to the point at which blocking is required between wood studs?

Interpretation:

No

"Maximum unsupported height" in Table 9.23.10.1. refers to the vertical height of a stud between lateral members that brace the strong axis of the stud (i.e. horizontal braces that are perpendicular to the plane of the wall).

This lateral bracing for a stud wall is commonly provided by the floor or roof assemblies, so the "maximum unsupported height" is the clear dimension from the top of floor sheathing to the underside of the successive floor or roof joists.

Blocking between studs is governed by Sentence 9.23.10.2.(5) and is only required when there is no wall sheathing to prevent the weak axis of the stud from buckling.

Although not specifically required in Part 9, it should be noted that blocking between studs at every horizontal joint in the wall sheathing will significantly improve the seismic resistance of the stud wall.

R. J. Light

R. J. Light, Committee Chair