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	BC Building Code 1998	
Subject:	size and spacing of studs		
Keywords:	unsupported height, stu	unsupported height, stud size, stud spacing	
Building Code Reference(s):	Table 9.23.10.1., 9.23.1	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, Committee Chair

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