

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0069

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	July 21, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Height of Foundation Wall
Keywords:	Height, foundation wall, laterally supported
Building Code Reference(s):	9.15.4.2., Table 9.15.4.2.-A,

Question:

When applying Table 9.15.4.2.-A is the height of the foundation wall measured from the top of the footing, or from the top of the slab on grade?

Interpretation:

This depends upon whether the slab on grade can resist lateral loads induced by lateral earth pressures on the foundation wall.

If the slab on grade has sufficient thickness and is poured tightly against the inside face of the foundation wall, the height of the foundation wall can be measured to the top of the basement slab on grade.

If the slab does not exhibit those characteristics, the height of the foundation wall must be measured to the top of the footing. It is common practice to provide a thermal break between the slab edge and the foundation wall, so the slab could not be used to resist the lateral forces from the lateral earth pressures.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. 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 *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.