Interpretation Date:	April 16, 2019
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Guard at Backyard Retaining Wall
Keywords:	Guard
Building Code Reference(s):	Division A, 1.1.1.1.(1)

Question:

In the backyard of a house, is a guard required at a two-tier retaining wall at the rear perimeter of the yard, where each tier has a drop of about 1.2 m?

Interpretation:

This issue is not addressed by the BC Building Code.

Division A, Sentence 1.1.1.1.(1) refers to the various applications of the Building Code. A guard on a retaining wall that is not part of a building, and is not part of an exterior exit route for the building, is not within any of the applications of the Building Code. Therefore, the requirement for a guard in this location is not regulated by Building Code.

The Building Code does not address all safety issues. Although the Code does not require a guard in this situation, the risk to persons using the areas near the retaining wall should be considered in assessing whether a guard should be provided.

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

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