

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0053

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	March 10, 2020
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Seismic restraint of mechanical equipment
Keywords:	Seismic, restraint, mechanical, equipment
Building Code Reference(s):	2.2.7.3. of Division C, Schedule B

Question:

Item 3.6 of Schedule B requires the mechanical engineer to take responsibility for "Structural capacity of mechanical components, including anchorage and seismic restraint".

For mechanical equipment that is mounted on the floor, is the extent of anchorage and seismic restraint limited to simply the design and field review of the equipment anchor bolts and anchor plates to resist the seismic loads?

Interpretation:

No

The registered professional of record (RPR) responsible for the mechanical components (MER = mechanical engineer of record) must take overall responsibility for seismic restraint of mechanical components.

This RPR commonly requires the mechanical contractor to retain a Specialty Engineer to undertake the design and field review associated with this seismic restraint.

The excerpt below from the EGBC Guidelines for Mechanical Engineering Services for Building Projects indicates that the Mechanical RPR is responsible to advise the Structural RPR of the seismic loads imposed on the base building structure. The Structural RPR would then verify that the base building structure can accommodate such loads.

3.2.3.3 Unless otherwise noted, the *MER* is responsible to assure that the design and field review of any seismic restraint for mechanical elements is completed. This review may be by the *Specialty Engineer*. When a *Specialty Engineer* is retained to design the seismic restraint elements, the *MER* shall review the design details prepared by the *Specialty Engineer* for the seismic restraint elements for completeness. The *MER* shall provide the seismic restraint information to the Structural Engineer of Record for coordination with the building structural system.



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.