BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0069 **INTERPRETATION**

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