BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

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Interpretation Date:	October 18, 2016
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Lateral Support of Flat Insulating Concrete Form Foundation Walls
Keywords:	Lateral support, flat insulating concrete forms, foundation walls
Building Code Reference(s):	9.15.4.2.(3), 9.15.4.5., Tables 9.15.4.5.A, B & C

Question:

Sentence 9.15.4.2.(3) states that foundation walls that are constructed using flat insulating concrete forms must be laterally supported at the top and the bottom of the wall.

Tables 9.15.4.5.A., B & C use the term "Maximum Unsupported Basement Wall Height".

Is there a conflict between Sentence 9.15.4.2.(3) and Tables 9.15.4.5.A., B & C?

Interpretation:

No

All foundation walls that are constructed using flat insulating concrete forms must be laterally supported at the top and the bottom of the wall as per Sentence 9.15.4.2.(3).

The term "Maximum <u>Unsupported</u> Basement Wall Height" in Tables 9.15.4.5.A., B & C means the maximum distance between the lateral supports at the top and bottom of the wall.

The portion of the foundation wall between the top and bottom lateral supports is considered to be "unsupported".

The concrete wall thickness c/w reinforcement steel described in Tables 9.15.4.5.A., B & C will safely span between the top and bottom lateral supports to resist the lateral earth pressures that are exerted on the foundation wall.

Sentence 9.15.4.3.(5) describes the acceptable methods for lateral support at the top of the wall. Sentence 9.15.4.4.(1) describes the acceptable methods for lateral support at the bottom of the wall.

R. J. Light, Committee Chair.

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. 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.

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