

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0250

INTERPRETATION

Page 1 of 1

Interpretation Date:	July 19, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Fill under Small Garage Concrete Slab
Keywords:	Fill, small, garage, bearing walls
Building Code Reference(s):	9.15.3.2.(1), 9.16.1.2.(1), 9.35.3.1.(2),

Question:

For a detached single storey garage which is less than 55 m². in area, is non-compacted fill allowed under the 100 mm concrete slab if the slab is used to support the bearing walls for the roof structure as permitted by Sentence 9.35.3.1.(2)?

Interpretation:

Yes.

Sentence 9.15.3.2.(1) requires “footings” to rest on undisturbed soil, rock or compacted granular fill.

Sentence 9.35.3.1.(2) provides an exception to the foundation design requirements of Subsections 9.12. (excavation) and 9.15. (footing & foundations) for garages that meet the following criteria:

- Area of the garage is < 55 m². in area,
- Height of the garage is not more than 1 storey, and
- The garage does not contain masonry or masonry veneer construction.

Such small garages are permitted to be supported on mud sills or 100 mm concrete slabs and are exempt from the requirements of Sentence 9.15.3.2.(1) which requires “footings” to rest on undisturbed soil, rock or compacted granular fill.



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.