

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0264

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 22, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Bracing to Resist Lateral Loads for Part 9 Buildings
Keywords:	Conventional framing, seismic bracing
Building Code Reference(s):	9.23.1.1.(1) & (2), 9.23.13., 4.3.1.

Question:

For a Part 9 building that contains structural members in walls, floors or roof framing spaced more than 600 mm o.c.:

1. Must such structural members be designed by a registered professional to support gravity loads in accordance with Subsection 4.3.1.?
2. If the bracing to resist lateral loads consists of structural members with framing less than 600 mm oc, in a building where the structural members of roof or floor assemblies are spaced greater than 600 mm, does such bracing have to be designed by a registered professional in accordance with Subsection 4.3.1.?

Interpretation:

1. Yes

Clause 9.23.1.1.(1)(1)(b) and Sentence 9.23.1.1.(2) requires that Part 9 buildings with structural members spaced more than 600 mm o.c. must have their framing and fastenings designed to Subsection 4.3.1. This requirement only applies to the structural components that are not within the scope of Part 9.

Subclause 2.2.7.1.(1)(c)(1) of Division C requires that structural components that are not within the scope of Part 9 be designed by a registered professional.

2. No (with conditions)

If the braced wall bands and braced wall panels to resist wind and seismic forces have structural members that are spaced less than 600 mm o.c., then the bracing itself is within the scope of Part 9 and can be designed to Subsection 9.23.13.



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.

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Note that if the building is in areas of extreme wind and seismic forces as described in Article 9.23.13.3., the bracing system cannot be designed to Part 9 and will require a registered professional.



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