

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing  
**AIBC, EGBC, BOABC**

**File No: 18-0282**

**INTERPRETATION**

**Page 1 of 1**

Interpretation Date:	September 22, 2023
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Seismic Restraint for Pendant Lights
Keywords:	Seismic, restraint, pendant lights
Building Code Reference(s):	4.1.8.18.(12)

## Question:

Is secondary cabling for seismic restraint required for isolated suspended equipment such as pendant lighting?

## Interpretation:

No (with conditions).

Sentence 4.1.8.18.(12) permits isolated suspended equipment such as pendant lighting to be designed as a pendulum which can freely swing during a seismic event.

The vertical chain or cable that supports the pendant light must be capable of supporting 2 times the weight of the suspended component.

The pendant light must be positioned such that it does not come in contact with any other building component when it swings like a pendulum at an angle of 45 degrees.

Refer to Structural Commentaries to the 2015 NBCC - Commentary J – Article 242 for further information.

### **NBC Sentence 4.1.8.18.(12)**

**242.** If suspended equipment is located so that it is isolated from other pieces of equipment and nearby walls (e.g., pendent lights), then it may be designed as a pendulum system, in which case the supporting chains or rods must be designed to support twice the weight of the suspended equipment and the deflection requirements of NBC Sentence 4.1.8.18.(9) must be met, unless there is sufficient clearance for the suspended equipment to swing 45° without impacting adjacent equipment or walls, as indicated in CAN/CSA-S832.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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