


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0040

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	October 15, 2024
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Footing Area Proportional to Column Spacing
Keywords:	Footing area, proportional, column spacing
Building Code Reference(s):	9.15.3.4., Table 9.15.3.4., 9.15.3.7.
Question:	<p>Table 9.15.3.4. indicates minimum column footing areas for Part 9 buildings where the columns are spaced at 3m on centre. Can the minimum footing size be reduced if the column spacing is less than 3m?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes (with conditions).</p> <p>Sentence 9.15.3.7.(1) states that the column footing area can be adjusted (either increased or decreased) in proportion to the distance between columns.</p> <p>Therefore, if the column spacing is less than 3m, the column footing size can be reduced.</p> <p>Minimum column footing sizes in Table 9.15.3.4. are based on uniform supported joist lengths for each span with a maximum of 4.9 m supported joist length.</p> <p>If the supported joist lengths are greater than 4.9 m for any of the spans, the adjustments to the column footing size cannot simply be based on the proportional variance in the length of the span. The proportional variance must take into consideration the actual superimposed load on the footing due to the variable supported joist lengths.</p> <p>Note that minimum column footing sizes are also subject to change based on soil conditions described in Clause 9.15.3.4.(3)(b).</p> <p></p> <hr/> <p>Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair</p>
<p>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 <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	