


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0088

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 16, 2025
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Building Plan Dimension for Braced Wall Panels
Keywords:	Plan dimension, braced wall panels, braced wall bands
Building Code Reference(s):	9.23.13.7.(4), Table 9.23.13.7.- C
Question: When applying Table 9.23.13.7.-C to an L-shaped building, is the building plan dimension the overall length of the building parallel to the braced wall band?	
Interpretation: Yes. Table 9.23.13.7.-C is used to determine the minimum total braced wall panel length for seismic forces. The 3rd column in Table 9.23.13.7.-C is the "Building Plan Dimension Parallel to Braced Wall Band, Lwl in meters". It is the overall length of the building measured horizontally on the plan parallel to the same line as the braced wall band. This is explained in Notes A-9.23.13.7.(4) on Page 9-824 of the Notes to Part 9. For simple rectangular buildings, there are only 2 building plan dimensions (north/south dimension and east/west dimension). An irregular shaped building such as an L-shaped building has also two plan dimensions, similar to a rectangular building. Please refer to the example 6.3 on Page 54 to 60 of the Illustrated Guide on Lateral Bracing Requirements published by BC Housing. Table 6 shows two building plan dimensions, the total length and width of the building.  <hr/> Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair	
<small>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.</small>	