

# BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

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

**File No: 24-0112**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2024

Subject: ICF Reinforcement

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Building Code Reference(s): 9.15.4.2., Notes to Table 9.15.4.2.-A, 9.15.4.5.

## Questions:

If a single-storey basement foundation wall is constructed with a Concrete Core in a Flat Wall Insulating Concrete Form in accordance with Table 9.15.4.2.-A, can the concrete core be unreinforced?

## Interpretation:

Yes (but with conditions).

The 2024 BCBC has a new Note 3 to Table 9.15.4.2.-A as indicated below:

**A-Table 9.15.4.2.-A Flat Insulating Concrete Form Walls as Foundation Walls.** Article 9.15.4.2. allows insulating concrete forms (ICFs) to be used to form both laterally supported and laterally unsupported flat, plain (unreinforced) concrete foundation walls intended to support wood-frame walls, floors and roofs under the conditions stipulated in Table 9.15.4.2.-A. Where the limits stated in the Table are exceeded, or where the ICF foundation wall is intended to support one or two storeys of concrete walls formed with flat wall ICFs above ground, Article 9.15.4.5. applies.

There are 2 conditions where reinforcing would be required in the concrete core of a basement foundation wall in accordance with Article 9.15.4.5.:

1. Where the limits in Table 9.15.4.2.-A are exceeded, or
2. Where the basement ICF foundation wall supports an ICF concrete wall above the ground level on Levels 1 or 2 in a 1 or 2 storey building with basement.



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