

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0164

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	March 10, 2026
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2024
Subject:	Combining Parts 4 & 9 for Seismic Design of Houses
Keywords:	Combining, Part 4, Part 9, Seismic
Building Code Reference(s):	9.23.13.1.(2), 9.23.13.2.(2), 9.23.13.3.(2)

Questions:

For the seismic design of a Part 9 house, is it acceptable to use a combination of Part 4 and Part 9.

Interpretation:

No.

Sentences 9.23.13.1.(2), 9.23.13.2.(2), 9.23.13.3.(2) provide the various acceptable options for seismic design of Part 9 buildings for various severity of seismic loads.

For low to moderate wind and seismic forces, Sentence 9.23.13.1.(2) provides 4 different options for seismic design.

For high wind and seismic forces, Sentence 9.23.13.2.(2) provides 3 different options for seismic design.

For extreme wind and seismic forces, Sentence 9.23.13.3.(2) provides 2 different options for seismic design.

All 3 Sentences permit the use of Part 4 as one acceptable option, but they do not permit combining the various distinct options for seismic design of a Part 9 building.



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.