BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 24-0164 **INTERPRETATION**

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