

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Continuous Footings at Garage Door Openings

Code: 2012 Residential Code

Date: July 2, 2012

Section: R403.1

Question:

Are footings required to be continuous under garage door openings?

Answer:

No. Section R403.1 states that "all exterior walls shall be supported on continuous...footings." If there is no exterior wall, such as at a garage door opening, there is no requirement for a footing. Please note however that, if the opening is in a bearing wall, and the continuous footing is omitted, a properly designed spread footing must be provided at each side of the opening. This also applies to structures built in the 110, 120, and 130 mph Wind Zones.