

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
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Maximum Foundation Wall Height Without Unbalanced Backfill

Code: 2012 Residential Code

Date: July 2, 2012

Section: R404.1.1.1

Question:

What is the maximum masonry foundation wall height for a wall that does not have unbalanced fill?

Answer:

Section R404.1.1.1 references you to Section R606. Section R606.9 references you to Table R606.9 for the maximum wall height to thickness ratio. Foundation walls would be load bearing; so, according to the table the maximum height for solid grouted walls would be 20:1 and for hollow masonry 18:1. The wall above must be anchored to the foundation wall in accordance with Section R403.1.6.

Keywords:

brick, block, concrete block, reinforcement, rebar, wire