



Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention

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Division:	Building Division	Policy & Procedure:	BD-CI-211
Subject:	PROPRIETARY MODULAR CONCRETE BLOCK RETAINING WALL	Effective Date:	05/01/2007
Code:	2018 IBC Q 103.4	Revised Date:	01/01/2021

A. CODE REQUIREMENT

The Southern Nevada Amendments to the International Building Code Section Q 103.4 states that “the drawing and specification required for retaining walls shall be prepared by a registered design professional. The design shall be in accordance with the applicable chapters of the IBC.”

B. INTERPRETATION

1. Proprietary modular concrete block retaining wall systems (i.e. Keystone) that have current ICC-ES reports will be permitted in the Clark County jurisdictional area without structural calculations and soils report up to a height of 3 feet, measured from the top of footing or bottom of lowest block to the top of wall, provided these walls are not installed with sloping backfill and/or surcharge loading and it is in compliance with the ICC-ES report.
2. Special Inspections typically required for these systems will not be required for walls up to three feet provided these walls are not installed with sloping backfill and/or surcharge loading.
3. Walls over three feet in height shall fully comply with their ICC-ES report “Conditions of Approval.”
4. Where specific ICC-ES reports have less restrictive requirements for calculations, soils report, and special inspections, the ES report will govern.

C. RATIONALE

The Clark County Building Administrative Code (section 22.02.190 (L)) does not require permits for walls including retaining walls not exceeding 24 inches. In addition, the Southern Nevada Building Code Amendment defines a retaining wall, if the grade differential exceeds 24 inches. It is reasonable not to require an engineering analysis for these structures when it nominally exceeds permit exemption. Special Inspection may be waived by the Building Official pursuant to exception #1 of Section 1704.2 of the IBC when the work is of minor nature.

Prepared By: Building Division

Date Prepared: 2008

Revision History:

Title	Revision/Approved Date	Effective Date
Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall AD-CI-IBC-017		05/01/2008
Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall BD-CI-020	08/15/2008	
Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall BD-CI-020	05/06/2012	
Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall BD-CI-020	06/20/2014	
Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall BD-CI-020	06/18/2015	
Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall BD-CI-211	01/01/2021	

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