



Building and Safety Division • Public Information

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Special Inspection Exemptions For Masonry Retaining Wall Construction (R and U OCCUPANCIES ONLY)

Discussion

2007 California Building code section 1702.1 defines SPECIAL INSPECTION as Inspection required of the materials, installation, fabrication, erection or placement of components and connections requiring special expertise to ensure compliance with approved construction documents and referenced standards.

Section 1704.1 exception-1 of the 2007 Ventura County Building Code (VCBC), provides the Building Official authority to waive the provisions of Special Inspections when the proposed work is "...of a minor nature or as warranted by the conditions in the jurisdiction as approved by the Building Official."


The purpose of this policy is to outline those elements of minor nature of the work which could qualify for this exception from Special Inspection.

Policy Statement

The provisions of Chapter 17 of the 2007 California Building Code, including Ventura County Amendments, shall be followed when determining the requirements for Special Inspection and Testing.

Exception: When one half allowable stresses are used for design in Seismic Design Category "D" or "E", the value of f'_m shall be limited to 1500 psi for concrete masonry and 2600 psi for clay masonry, the following building structural elements are exempt from Special Inspection.

- i. Detached Cantilevered Retaining Walls constructed of masonry without surcharge not exceeding 8 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall.
- ii. Attached laterally supported basement walls constructed of masonry without surcharge of maximum of 8'-0" in height measured from the top of footing to the top of the wall.
- iii. Masonry foundation walls for building and structures of occupancy category I and II of not exceeding 4'-0" in height measured from the top of footing to the top of the wall.
- iv. Attached laterally supported walls constructed of masonry of 8'-0" in height measured from the top of footing to the top of the wall.
- v. Free standing walls or columns constructed of masonry of 8'-0" in height measured from the top of footing to the top of the wall or column.

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