



## Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention

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|                  |   |                            |            |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>Division:</b> | Building Division                                 | <b>Code Interpretation</b> | BD-CI-020  |
| <b>Subject:</b>  | PROPRIETARY MODULAR CONCRETE BLOCK RETAINING WALL | <b>Effective Date:</b>     | 05/01/2007 |
| <b>Code:</b>     | 2012 IBC N 103.4                                  | <b>Reviewed Date:</b>      | 07/13/2016 |

### A. CODE REQUIREMENT

The Southern Nevada Amendments to the International Building Code Section N 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 chapter 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, 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.

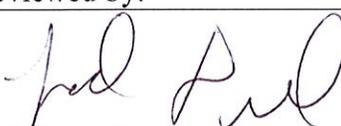
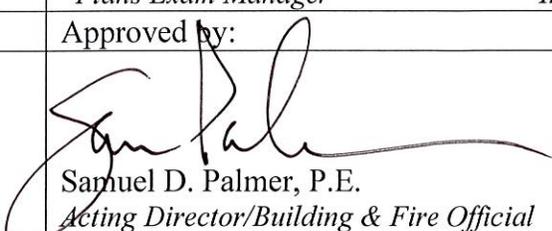
### C. RATIONALE

The Clark County Building Administrative Code (section 22.02.190) 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.

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| <b>Code:</b>     | IBC L 103.4                                       | <b>Revised Date:</b>       | 07/13/2016 |

**Revision History:**

| POLICY #      | TITLE   | Effective Date | Revised    | Reviewed   |
|---------------|---|----------------|------------|------------|
| AD-CI-IBC-017 | Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall | 05/01/2008     |            |            |
| BD-CI-020     | Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall |                |            | 08/15/2008 |
| BD-CI-020     | Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall |                |            | 05/09/2012 |
| BD-CI-020     | Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall |                | 06/20/2014 | 06/18/2015 |
| BD-CI-020     | Proprietary Modular Concrete Block Retaining Wall |                |            | 07/13/2016 |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Developed by:  | Reviewed by:  |
| <i>Building Division (2008)</i>  | <br>Kevin McOsker<br><i>Plans Exam Manager</i>                                     |
|  | <br>Brenda Thompson<br><i>Inspection Manager</i>                                 |
| Reviewed by:   | Approved by:  |
| <br>Ted Droessler<br><i>Engineering Manager</i> | <br>Samuel D. Palmer, P.E.<br><i>Acting Director/Building &amp; Fire Official</i> |