



Clark County Building Department

4701 West Russell Road • Las Vegas NV 89118

(702) 455-3000 • Fax (702) 221-0630

Division:	Engineering Division	Code Interpretation	BD-CI-220
Subject:	Special Inspection of Masonry Construction	Effective Date:	03/04/2021
Code:	2024 SNBCA Section 1705.4 Exception #4	Revised Date:	03/19/2026

A. CODE REQUIREMENT

Section 1705.4

Add new Exception #4 to Section 1705.4 as follows:

1705.4 Masonry construction. *Special inspections* and tests of *masonry* construction shall be performed in accordance with the quality assurance program requirements of TMS 402 and TMS 602.

Exceptions: *Special inspections* and tests shall not be required for:

...

- Masonry fences less than or equal to 8'-0" in height, retaining walls less than or equal to 6'-0" in height, or a combined masonry fence and retaining wall less than or equal to 14'-0" in overall height and the fence portion is less than or equal to 8'-0" in height, provided that the walls are designed in accordance with TMS 402-22 Chapter 8 for Allowable Stress Design or Chapter 9 for Strength Design of masonry with a demand to capacity (D/C) ratio of not more than 0.50 and f'm does not exceed 2,000 psi. Wall heights shall be measured from the top of footing to the top of wall.

B. INTERPRETATION

Masonry fences and retaining walls meeting the height limitations of the exception must reduce the allowable masonry stresses by one-half. The allowable stresses for steel and the modulus of elasticity and shear modulus for masonry and steel are not reduced. It is acceptable to consider a f'm of 1,000 psi and exceed a demand to capacity ratio exceeding 0.5 regardless of whether the Allowable Stress Design or Strength Design method is used.

C. RATIONALE

This interpretation is intended to provide consistency in regional interpretation and application of the amendment to the exception to the special inspection of masonry construction as it relates to masonry fences. The intent is to continue the half stress exception for masonry fences and retaining walls that was previously included in Section 2107.1.2 of the UBC 1997. Masonry site walls have not been damaged in past earthquakes and high wind events in the Southern Nevada region. Clark County Building inspections are still conducted on masonry walls that meet the exception to the special inspection requirement. Therefore, the lack of special inspections does not pose a public hazard.

Prepared By: Engineering

Date Prepared: 03/08/2026

Revision History:

Title	Revision/Approved Date	Effective Date
CMU Fence and Retaining Walls BD-CI-220		03/04/2021
Special Inspection of Masonry Construction BD-CI-220	03/19/2026	

Reviewed by:

Jake Mizrahi
Jake Mizrahi
Engineering Manager

Terry Kozlowski
Terry Kozlowski
Manager of Plans Exam.

Lisa Mohit
Lisa Mohit
Senior Management Analyst

Matthew Brewer
Matthew Brewer
Manager of Inspections

Zach Gharibian
Zach Gharibian
ACET Manager

James Oleniczak
James Oleniczak
Senior Management Analyst

Theresa Atimalala
Theresa Atimalala
Senior Management Analyst

Werner Hellmer
Werner Hellmer, P.E., CBO
Deputy Director

Scott Telford
Scott Telford, P.E., CBO
Deputy Director

Approved by:

James Gerren
James Gerren, P.E., C.B.O.
Director & Building Official