

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

Proposed amendment submitted by:

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Date: January 5, 2016

Company /Organization: NH Home Builders Association

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**RE-15-25-16**

Applicable code: IRC 2015

Applicable code section: R404

**Current language (including section numbers and include prior adopted amendments):**

**TABLE R404.1.2(3) MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT FOR 8-INCH NOMINAL FLAT CONCRETE BASEMENT WALLS.**

Footnote g. – Where walls will retain 4 feet or more of unbalanced backfill, they shall be laterally supported at the top and bottom before backfilling.

**TABLE R404.1.2(4) MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT FOR 10-INCH NOMINAL FLAT CONCRETE BASEMENT WALLS.**

Footnote g. – Where walls will retain 4 feet or more of unbalanced backfill, they shall be laterally supported at the top and bottom before backfilling.

**Check one:**     Delete without substitution:                      \_\_\_ Add new section to read as follows:  
                  \_\_\_ Delete section and substitute the following:     Revise section to read as follows:  
                  ~~Show Line through material to be deleted.~~                      Underline material to be added.

**Proposed code language:**

**TABLE R404.1.2(3) MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT FOR 8-INCH NOMINAL FLAT CONCRETE BASEMENT WALLS.**

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**Reason / Justification:**

This requirement in the existing NH state building code is only sporadically enforced. In a few jurisdictions, contractors are surprised to find that they can't backfill foundations until a deck is framed and a concrete slab floor is poured, or some other temporary means of support is installed. This is a major interruption of the typical building sequence. It forces framing crews to mobilize for a few days, then leave the job while the excavating contractor re-mobilizes to complete the backfill. This is costly and a major

disruption of schedules which contractors rely upon for efficiency. By deleting footnote g in both of these tables, the code would reflect the building practices and historical enforcement in this subject area.

**Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:**

Typical mobilization charges for excavation contractors are \$250. This cost would be added to the construction costs; however, the true impact to construction cost in terms of time lost and difficulty in scheduling cannot easily be estimated. Delays can range from a week to over a month in the building schedule.

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**For Building Code Review Board Use:**

Not approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved with modifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Scheduled Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_