

**Richard O. Albright, P. E.**  
**Consulting Engineer**

1089 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW, Suite 101 (46032-7583)  
P O Box 742  
Carmel, Indiana 46082-0742  
317-581-8877 Phone and Fax

**ralbright@AlbrightPE.com**

May 22, 2015

Pamela M. Walters, Esq.; Staff Attorney  
Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
302 West Washington Street  
Indiana Government Center South, Room W246  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Request for Clarification, Section 403.1.6, Indiana Residential Code,

I am writing to request clarification of **Section 403.1.6; foundation anchorage**, of the Indiana Residential Code. I have received inquiries that suggest there are serious questions about what this section requires for securing interior, bearing wall partitions on concrete slab floors.

Indiana amended the second paragraph in this section (Eff. September 11, 2005) in the *2003 International Residential Code* to clarify it (in a two paragraph format) and to make it more applicable to Indiana. That amendment (a) changed the fourth sentence of the second paragraph to clarify how bolts should extend into masonry units and concrete; and (b) changed the fifth sentence “to read as follows; **interior bearing wall sole plates on monolithic slab foundations shall be positively anchored with anchor bolts or approved fasteners in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions**”. (emphasis added)

A subsequent amendment to the Indiana Code, filed with the Secretary of State March 6, 2008; and readopted and filed with the Secretary of State August 4, 2011, inserted an amended sentence from the International Code that reads as follows: **“Interior bearing wall sole plates on concrete slab foundations shall be positively anchored with approved fasteners.”** This sentence is placed between requirements for 7-inch anchor bolts and requirements for nuts and washers to go on the bolts. Consequently, some people infer that the interior bearing walls require 7-inch bolts. As a Professional Engineer, I do not believe the intent is to require 7-inch bolts in 4-inch concrete slabs, and that is the basis for my requests.

My first request is to consider again separating requirements for fastening interior bearing wall sole plates to concrete slabs from the entirely different subject of anchoring exterior walls to foundation walls with 7-inch bolts with nuts and washers.

My second request is to consider adding some wording to clarify what is meant by “positively anchored”, and “approved anchors” for fixing interior wall plates to four-inch concrete slabs.

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There are a variety of ways that these partitions are being fastened to concrete slabs, but in some places questions of what is acceptable persist.

Please let me know if you wish additional information or have any questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard O Albright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Richard O Albright, F ACI, F. ASCE  
Professional Engineer IN Reg. #60007659