
FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY COMMISSION
Department of Homeland Security

Written Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner

Interpretation #: CEB-2022-26-2020 IRC-R602.10.5

Building or Fire Safety Law Interpreted

[675 IAC 14-4.4](#) 2020 Indiana Residential Code, Section R602.10.5 Minimum length of a braced wall panel.

The minimum length of a *braced wall panel* shall comply with Table R602.10.5. For methods CS-WSP and CS-SFB, the minimum panel length shall be based on the adjacent clear opening height in accordance with Table R602.10.5 and Figure R602.10.5. Where a panel has an opening on either side of differing heights, the taller opening height shall be used to determine the panel length.

Issue

Whether, in a detached dwelling with a CS-PF-type braced wall line, Section R602.10.5 of the *2020 Indiana Residential Code* (IRC) requires the installation of a minimum 16 inch-long braced panel adjacent to a garage door portal with a header height of 8 feet or less.

Interpretation of the State Building Commissioner

No, in a detached dwelling with a CS-PF-type braced wall line, Section R602.10.5 of the *2020 IRC* does not require the installation of a minimum 16 inch-long braced panel adjacent to a garage door portal with a header height of 8 feet or less.

Rationale

Section R602.10.5 deals with one requirement only – the minimum required length of a braced wall panel when that panel is installed in a given set of design conditions. Nowhere in the section or its accompanying table does it say a braced wall panel is required to be installed in those specific conditions. If a panel is provided in one or more of those conditions, then the section and table list the panel's minimum required length, and nothing more.

The bracing requirements of the *2020 IRC* are many, and they can be complex and interrelated. They occur across Sections R602.10.1 through R602.10.10, with each section focusing on a specific area of regulation. They must all be considered when determining whether a given design is compliant. The bracing location requirements begin with Section R602.10.1 (where braced wall lines must occur within a structure) and Section R602.10.2 (where braced panels must occur within a braced wall line). Once those criteria are established, the section moves on to other areas of regulation, including the minimum required length of individual braced panels covered in Section R602.10.5.

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