Maximum Foundation Wall Height Without Unbalanced Backfill

Code: 2018 Residential Code  Date: April 10, 2019
Section: R404.1.2.1

Question:
What is the maximum masonry foundation wall height for a wall that does not have unbalanced fill?

Answer:
Section R404.1.2.1 references Section R606. Section R606.6.4 references Table R606.6.4 for the maximum wall height to thickness ratio. Foundation walls would be load bearing; so, according to the table the maximum height for solid grouted walls would be 20:1 and for hollow masonry 18:1. The wall above must be anchored to the foundation wall in accordance with Section R403.1.6.

Keywords:
brick, block, concrete block, reinforcement, rebar, wire