Maximum Foundation Wall Height Without Unbalanced Backfill

Code: 2006 Residential Code
Section: R404.1.1

Date: October 1, 2007

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

Answer:
Section R404.1.1 references you to Section 606. Section 606.8 references you to Table 606.8 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.

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