Maximum Foundation Wall Height Without Unbalanced Backfill

**Code:** 2012 Residential Code  
**Section:** R404.1.1.1  
**Date:** July 2, 2012

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

**Answer:**  
Section R404.1.1.1 references you to Section R606. Section R606.9 references you to Table R606.9 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