CHAPTER 6
WALL CONSTRUCTION

SECTION R602.6.1
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R602.6.1 Drilling and notching of top plate. When piping or ductwork is placed in or partly in an exterior wall or interior, braced or load-bearing wall, necessitating a cutting of the top plate by more than 50 percent of its width, a galvanized metal tie not less than 0.054 inch thick (1.37 mm) (16 gage) and 1.5 inches (38 mm) wide shall be fastened to each plate across and to each side of the opening with not less than six 16d nails. See Figure R602.6.1.

**Exception:** When the entire side of the wall with the notch or cut is covered by wood structural panel sheathing.

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**Q1:** Where a wood stud wall is capped with a double top plate, is the 1.5-inch metal tie as described required on both of the top plates?

**A1:** No. Where a double top plate is used, a single 1.5-inch metal tie is required on the uppermost plate only. No tie is required at the notched lower plate. This is illustrated in Figure R602.3(2) and Figure R602.6.1.

**Q2:** Where a wood stud wall is capped with a double top plate, can a 3-inch wide metal tie with six 16d nails on each side of the notch, equally distributed to both top plates, be used in lieu of the 1.5-inch metal tie prescribed?

**A2:** Yes. The minimum required width of the metal tie is 1.5-inches. A metal tie that exceeds the required minimum width is not prohibited. It is not necessary to exceed the minimum number of required fasteners because the width of the metal tie exceeds the required minimum.

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**FIGURE R602.6.1**
TOP PLATE FRAMING TO ACCOMMODATE PIPING

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**FIGURE R602.3(2)**
FRAMING DETAILS