

CHAPTER 6 WALL CONSTRUCTION

SECTION R602.10.1 IRC Interpretation No. 81-05 2003 Edition Issued: 01-11-06

R602.10.1 Braced wall lines. Braced wall lines shall consist of braced wall panel construction methods in accordance with Section R602.10.3. The amount and location of bracing shall be in accordance with Table R602.10.1 and the amount of bracing shall be the greater of that required by the Seismic Design Category or the design wind speed. Braced wall panels shall begin no more than 12.5 feet (3810 mm) from each end of a braced wall line. Braced wall panels that are counted as part of a braced wall line shall be in line, except that offsets out-of-plane of up to 4 feet (1219 mm) shall be permitted provided that the total out-to-out offset dimension in any braced wall line is not more than 8 feet (2438 mm).

A designed collector shall be provided if the bracing begins more than 12 feet (3658 mm) from each end of a braced wall line.

REFERENCED CODE SECTION:

R602.10.4 Length of braced panels. For Methods 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 above, each braced wall panel shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) in length, covering a minimum of three stud spaces where studs are spaced 16 inches (406 mm) on center and covering a minimum of two stud spaces where studs are spaced 24 inches (610 mm) on center. For Method 5 above, each braced wall panel shall be at least 96 inches (2438 mm) in length where applied to one face of a braced wall panel and at least 48 inches (1219 mm) where applied to both faces.

Exceptions:

1. Lengths of braced wall panels for continuous wood structural panel sheathing shall be in accordance with Section R602.10.5.
2. Lengths of alternate braced wall panels shall be in accordance with Section R602.10.6.



Q: Table R602.10.1 requires wall bracing to be located at each end and at least every 25 feet on center but not less than 16% of the braced wall line. When Methods 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are used, each braced wall panel must be at least 48 inches in length. Is the total amount of wall bracing provided in a braced wall line permitted to be less than 8 feet in length?

A: Yes. The amount and location of braced wall panels must comply with Table R602.10.1. The table requires, as a minimum, the wall bracing to be located at each end and at least every 25 feet on center. Section R602.10.1 modifies this by allowing the braced wall panel to "begin" up to 12.5 feet from the end of the braced wall line. Table R602.10.1 specifies the minimum amount of bracing to be provided as a percentage of the wall length based upon the basic wind speed, the seismic design category as well as the condition (location within the structure). If a single braced wall panel is not more than 12.5 feet from each end of the braced wall line and provides the required amount of bracing based on wind speed, seismic design category and condition, then it complies with this section of the code.
