Northwest
Concrete Masonry Association

Building Code Requirements for Anchored Masonry Veneer

The prescriptive building code requirements for exterior anchored masonry veneer are found in the International Building Code (Chapter 14) and the referenced code ACI 530/ASCE 5/TMS 402 (MSJC) (Chapter 6). Northwest state code amendments also apply. A short summary of the basic code provisions follows. Please refer to the actual building codes for detailed requirements.

Veneer Support

The weight of anchored veneer shall be supported vertically on concrete or masonry foundations or other noncombustible structural supports.

Exceptions:

1. Anchored veneer is permitted to be supported by preservative-treated wood foundations to a maximum height of 18 feet above the support.
2. Exterior masonry veneer weighing 40 psf or less with a height of no more than 12 feet is permitted to be supported on wood construction with some installation restrictions.

Height Limitations

Anchored masonry veneer with a backing of wood framing shall not exceed a height limit of 30 feet above the foundation or 38 feet at a gable.

Anchored veneer with a steel backing can exceed the height limits above provided that the weight of the veneer is supported by noncombustible construction for each story above 30 (or 38) feet.

There are no restrictions on the height of anchored veneer backed by masonry or concrete, nor are there any code provisions requiring the weight of the veneer be carried by intermediate supports.

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2003 IBC / 2002 MSJC
Anchored Veneer Requirements

Design Issue	Seismic Design Category		
	SDC B	SDC C	SDC D
Wall Area Per Anchor (Max)	2.67 ft^2	2.67 ft^2	2.0 ft^2
Anchor Spacing (Max)	32 in. (h) x 18 in. (v)	32 in. (h) x 18 in. (v)	32 in. (h) x 18 in. (v)
Wire Reinforcement	None	None	Single 9 ga. wire at 18 in. o.c. max[1]
Additional Veneer Support	None	None	Support at each story[2]

[1] In Oregon, mechanically attach anchors to wire joint reinforcement for seismic use Groups II and III.

[2] Oregon and Washington IBC state amendments delete this requirement.

2006 IBC / 2005 MSJC
Anchored Veneer Requirements

Design Issue	Seismic Design Category		
	SDC B	SDC C	SDC D
Wall Area Per Anchor (Max)	2.67 ft^2	2.67 ft^2	2.0 ft^2
Anchor Spacing (Max)	32 in. (h) x 18 in. (v)	32 in. (h) x 18 in. (v)	32 in. (h) x 18 in. (v)
Wire Reinforcement	None	None	Single 9 ga. wire at 18 in. o.c. max and attach anchors to the wire reinforcement[1]
Additional Veneer Support	None	None	Support at each story[2]

[1] In Oregon, mechanically attach anchors to wire joint reinforcement for occupancy category III and IV. Washington state amendment deletes this requirement.

[2] Oregon and Washington IBC state amendments delete this requirement.

Additional requirements (applies to both tables):

Around openings larger than 16” in either dimension, space anchors around perimeter of opening at a maximum of 3’ on center and place anchors within 12” of opening.

When anchored veneer is laid in other than running bond, the veneer shall have wire joint reinforcement of at least one 9 ga. wire spaced at a maximum of 18” on center vertically.