

No. B26-02

February 2, 2026

Navigating Part 9 Lateral Load Requirements in the BC Building Code 2024 and the Illustrated Guide

This bulletin provides guidance on how code users can apply and navigate both the recently released 2025 Edition of the [Illustrated Guide: Lateral Bracing Requirements - Part 9 of the BC Building Code 2024](#) (Illustrated Guide or Guide) and the [British Columbia Building Code 2024](#) (BCBC 2024) including [Revision 6](#)¹. Bulletin [B24-02-R](#) provides information on the transition period for seismic provisions and which climatic data to use when applying the 2018 or 2024 edition of the British Columbia Building Code.

Background

The BCBC 2024 adopted new Part 9 requirements for wood frame construction based on updates developed for the [National Building Code of Canada 2025](#) (NBC 2025) that was published December 22, 2025. **Subsection 9.23.13. Bracing to Resist Lateral Loads Due to Wind and Earthquake** in Division B of the BCBC 2024 has been substantially revised. These updates reflect increased wind and seismic hazard values across many regions in British Columbia, informed by evolving climate patterns and new data related to seismic activity and active faults.

Following the publication of BCBC 2024, an updated version (2025 Edition) of the Illustrated Guide was created to include approved final versions of changes to be included in the NBC 2025. These changes, called proposed change forms or PCFs, including 1475, 1979, and 2048, were still in development at the time of publication of the BCBC 2024 which is why some differences appear. Information on the development process and PCF documents are available on the [Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes](#) website.

Figure 1 (shown below) provides an overview of the development timeline of the BCBC 2024 and the Illustrated Guide - and how these PCFs were incorporated based on where they were in development. For example, the BCBC 2024 includes content that was presented in the first version of PCF 1475 due to adoption timelines. After adoption of the BCBC 2024, PCF 1475 continued to be amended, and a subsequent version created. It is the second and final version of PCF 1475 and others that have since been included in the NBC 2025, and which are reflected in the Illustrated Guide and not in the BCBC 2024.

¹ Ministerial Order No. BA 2025 02, effective June 16, 2025, was the sixth revision to the BCBC 2024.

[Revision 6](#) amends some content to more closely align with the NBC 2025 but not all. This was based on industry feedback that some critical items needed to change right away but that a large amount of change, including editorial and organization of content changes, would be disruptive and better saved for the next edition of the BCBC.

The National Research Council has also published an [Illustrated User's Guide - NBC 2020: Part 9 of Division B, Housing and Small Buildings](#) which supplements the NBC 2020. The lateral loads content of this guide is not based on the NBC 2025 and is not relevant to the lateral load provisions of the BCBC 2024 nor the Illustrated Guide discussed in this bulletin.

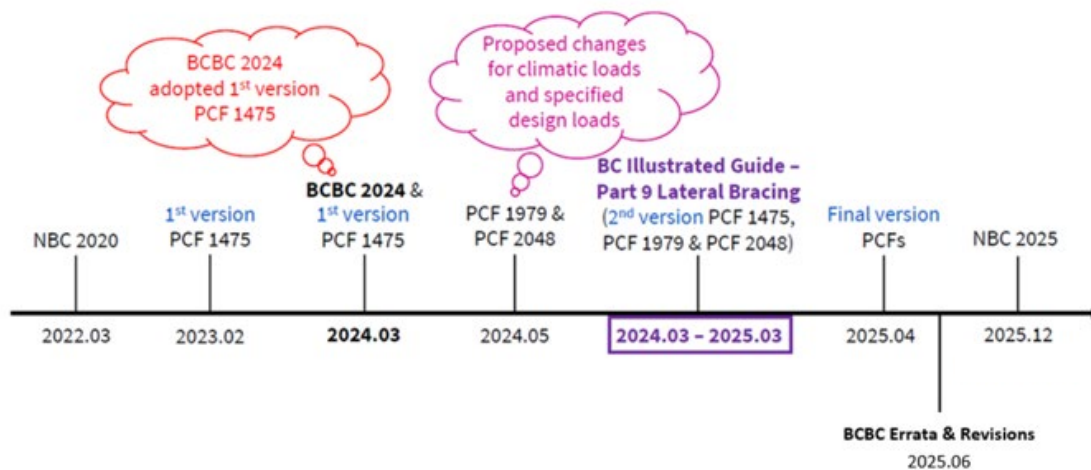


Figure 1. Development Timeline of the BCBC 2024 and Illustrated Guide

It is intended that the BCBC align with the seismic requirements of the NBC 2025, however differences occurred due to early adoption. This bulletin discusses why different content appears in the Illustrated Guide from the BCBC 2024 and what content to follow when applying the BCBC 2024 and Revision 6. The Illustrated Guide reflects the NBC 2025 which is expected to be adopted in whole in the next edition of the BCBC. This was intentional so that the Illustrated Guide would be applicable when the next edition of the BCBC is published. In the interim, where discrepancies occur, the BCBC 2024 governs.

Key Differences between the BCBC 2024 and the Illustrated Guide

Content for the BCBC 2024 was finalized for adoption in late 2023, however code development on Part 9 lateral load requirements continued and was informed by national public review feedback. The final content has since been published in the NBC 2025 which means there are some differences when compared to the earlier versions of changes that were adopted in the BCBC 2024. The Illustrated Guide incorporated approved content for the NBC 2025 based on industry feedback. Some key differences in the Illustrated Guide from the BCBC 2024 include:

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- The use of the term “reference hourly wind pressure” (RHWP), which will be introduced as a new methodology to calculate specified wind load on structural members,
- Differences in code numbering and references,
- Variations in climatic data in Table C-2 of Appendix C, and
- Updates to lateral bracing methods.

When referencing the Illustrated Guide such as for the 1 in 1000 snow and rain loads or other climatic data, Code users are to use the loads and data in the BCBC 2024.

The following table provides a summary of key differences between the BCBC 2024 and the Illustrated Guide. Where Revision 6 is referenced, the corresponding item number of the adopting Ministerial Order is shown.

Key Differences Between the BCBC 2024² and the Illustrated Guide			
Illustrated Guide Reference	BCBC 2024 Reference	Issue	Comment
2.2 Braced Wall Panel, page 10	Article 9.23.13.5.	Figure 2.2 Illustration shows vertically applied exterior/interior sheathing/gypsum wall board (GWB).	Sheathing can be applied both vertically and horizontally.
2.2 Braced Wall Panel, page 12	Article 9.23.3.5. and Table 9.23.3.5.-C	For framing type GWB-C in Table 2.1, “or 12.5 mm gypsum board, blocked, for 600 mm stud spacing” in Column 2, and “or 200 mm o.c. for blocked” in Column 5 are deleted. For framing type GWB-D in Table 2.1 “blocked” is added.	Code users may use either assembly listed for GWB-C in Table 9.23.3.5.-C of the BCBC 2024. Although the BCBC 2024 permits GWB-D to be unblocked, it is recommended to add blocking. The next edition of the BCBC will reflect the assemblies as described in the Guide. Note: GWB-D maximum stud spacing should read 12.5 mm, not 2.5 mm in the BCBC 2024.
2.5 Construction Weight, page 13	Sentence 9.23.13.2.(3)	Footnote (vi) references Sentences 9.23.2.7.(4) and (5) which do not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Clauses 9.23.13.2.(3)(c) and (d) of the BCBC 2024.
3.1 Determination of Lateral Bracing	Appendix C Table C-2	The new terminology ‘Reference Hourly Wind	Code users should use 1/50 Hourly Wind Pressure (HWP) in Table C-2 of the BCBC 2024.

² BCBC 2024 references are to Division B unless otherwise stated.

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Method, pages 15 and 16		Pressure (RHWP) does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	
	Article 9.23.13.11.	Figure 3.1. The Simplified Bracing Method does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	BCBC 2024 Article 9.23.13.11. "Simplified Approach for Braced Wall Panel Length" should not be confused with the Simplified Bracing Method that was developed after adoption of the BCBC 2024. Code users should use Article 9.23.13.11. of the BCBC 2024.
	Article 9.23.13.11.	Figure 3.1. The Table Bracing Method does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should use Article 9.23.13.11. of the BCBC 2024.
	Article 9.23.13.7.	Figure 3.1. The Calculation Bracing Method does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	After adoption of the BCBC 2024, the Braced Wall Panel Length article was retitled "Calculation Bracing Method". When the Guide refers to the Calculation Bracing Method, Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.7. of the BCBC 2024.
	Article 9.23.13.7.	Footnote (viii) references Article 9.23.13.9. for the Calculation Bracing Method which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.7. of the BCBC 2024 titled "Braced Wall Panel Length."
	Article 9.23.13.11.	Footnote (ix) references Article 9.23.13.7. for the Simplified Bracing Method which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.11. of the BCBC 2024 titled "Simplified Approach for Braced Wall Panel Length."
	Article 9.23.13.11.	Footnote (x) references 9.23.13.8. for the Table Bracing Method which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.11. of the BCBC 2024 titled "Simplified Approach for Braced Wall Panel Length."
	Note A-9.23.13.7.(3) and Note A-9.23.13.7.(4)	Reference to Note A-9.23.13.9.(3) and Note A-9.23.13.9.(4) do not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Note A-9.23.13.7.(3) and Note A-9.23.13.7.(4) of the BCBC 2024. Revision 6 155. Notes to Part 9 Housing and Small Buildings, A-9.23.13.7.(4) Alternative Procedure to Calculate

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			the Seismic-related Braced Wall Panel Length is amended by striking the portion of the equation for L_s , $(CS_{storey}C_{walls}C_{roofS})$, and substituting $(CS_{storey}C_{walls} + C_{roofS})$
3.3.1. Placement of Braced Wall Panels, page 21	Sentence 9.23.13.10.(8)	Footnote (xvi) references Sentence 9.23.13.12.(8) which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.10.(8) of the BCBC 2024.
3.3.3.2. Minimum Total Length of Braced Wall Panels in a Braced Wall Band, pages 23 to 25	Articles 9.23.13.7. and 9.23.13.11.	References to the Calculation Bracing Method, Simplified Bracing Method, and Table Bracing Method do not exist in BCBC 2024.	When the Guide refers to the Calculation Bracing Method, Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.7., and when the Guide refers to the Simplified Bracing Method or Table Bracing Method, Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.11. of the BCBC 2024.
	Sentence 9.23.13.7.(5)	Footnote (xxi) references Sentence 9.23.13.9.(5) which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.7.(5) of the BCBC 2024.
3.5 Foundation Cripple Walls, pages 29 and 30	Clause 9.23.13.8.(2)(d)	Footnote (xxvi) references Clause 9.23.13.10.(2)(d) which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Clause 9.23.13.8.(2)(d) of the BCBC 2024.
	Clause 9.23.13.8.(2)(c)	Footnote (xxvii) references Clause 9.23.13.10.(2)(c) which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Clause 9.23.13.8.(2)(c) of the BCBC 2024.
	Clauses 9.23.13.8.(2)(a) and (b)	Footnote (xxviii) references Clauses 9.23.13.10.(2)(a) and (b) which do not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Clauses 9.23.13.8.(2)(a) and (b) of the BCBC 2024.
	Sentence 9.23.13.8.(3)	Footnote (xxix) references Sentence 9.23.13.10.(3) which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.8.(3) of the BCBC 2024.
3.7 Fastening and Anchorage Requirements, Page 33	Sentence 9.23.6.1.(3)	The Guide discusses anchor bolts (at least two, one at each end of a braced wall panel) but doesn't limit the discussion to only where	Revision 6 94. Sentence 9.23.6.1.(3) is repealed and the following substituted:

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		<p>S_{max} for Site Class C is greater than 0.47.</p>	<p>“3) Except as provided in Sentence (5), anchorage of <i>braced wall panels</i> shall be provided by fastening the sill plate to the <i>foundation</i> with</p> <p>a) not less than two anchor bolts per <i>braced wall panel</i>, located at opposite ends within 0.3 m from the edge of the <i>braced wall panel</i>, and where possible, located within 0.5 m from the end of the <i>foundation</i> wall, and</p> <p>b) anchor bolts spaced in accordance with Table 9.23.6.1. (See Note A-9.23.6.1.(3).)”</p> <p>Revision 6 establishes that Sentence 9.23.6.1.(3) can be applied when S_{max} for Site Class C is less than or equal to 0.47 and also for other Site Classes. It also provides flexibility for alternative placement of anchor bolts where it is not possible to locate them within 0.5 m from the end of a foundation wall.</p> <p>Revision 6 also corrects the numbering of sentences within Article 9.23.6.1. (see also items 93, 96, and 97).</p>
	<p>Table 9.23.6.1.-A</p>	<p>Table 3.2 of the Guide appears applicable when S_{max} for Site Class C is less than or equal to 0.47 and to other Site Classes which are excluded in the BCBC 2024. It also uses RHWP for application.</p>	<p>Revision 6</p> <p>95. Table 9.23.6.1.-A is renumbered to “9.23.6.1.” and the Table title is amended by deleting “, S_{max} for Site Class C > 0.47”.</p> <p>Revision 6 establishes that Table 9.23.6.1.-A [Table 9.23.6.1.] can be used when S_{max} for Site Class C is less than or equal to 0.47 and also for other Site Classes. Revision 6 also corrects the numbering of Table 9.23.6.1.-A which should be Table 9.23.6.1.</p>

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			<p>Code users should use HWP for application.</p> <p>Note: Revision 6 also corrects the numbering of sentences within Article 9.23.6.1. as such: 93. Sentence 9.23.6.1.(2) is amended by striking out “(6)” and substituting “(5)”. 96. Sentence 9.23.6.1.(5) is renumbered to “9.23.6.1.(4)”. 97. Sentence 9.23.6.1.(6) is renumbered to “9.23.6.1.(5)”.</p>
	Sentence 9.23.13.3.(1)	The Guide discusses buildings subject to Extreme Seismic Forces (must be designed to Part 4) but the BCBC 2024 appears to be missing a clause.	<p>Revision 6 101. Clause 9.23.13.3.(1)(d) (numbering) is amended by striking out “d)” and substituting “c)”.</p> <p>Revision 6 corrects the numbering of clauses in Sentence 9.23.13.3.(1). (There is no missing clause.) The online BCBC 2024 already reflects this change.</p>
	Table 9.23.11.4.-A	Table 3.3 of the Guide is consistent with BCBC 2024 but differs from Revision 6 amendment.	<p>Revision 6 98. Sentence 9.23.11.4.(5) is amended by striking out “9.23.11.4.-C” and substituting “9.23.11.4.-B”, by striking out “, S_{max}, for Site Class C is greater than 0.47 and” in Clause (a), and by striking out “equal to or greater than 0.6 kPa but” in Clause (b). 99. Table 9.23.11.4.-A is amended by striking out “S_{max} for Site Class C > 0.47 and” in the title. 100. Table 9.23.11.4.-C is renumbered to “9.23.11.4.-B”, the title is amended by striking out “0.6 kPa <”, and note (3) is amended by striking out the first “Table” in “Table Table 9.23.13.7-B”.</p>

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			<p>Revision 6 establishes that Table 9.23.11.4.-A can be used when S_{max} for Site Class C is less than or equal to 0.47 and also for other Site Classes and that Table 9.23.11.4.-C [Table 9.23.11.4.-B] can be used where HWP is less than or equal to 0.6 kPa. It is expected that the NBC will also be amended as such. Revision 6 also corrects the numbering of Table 9.23.11.4.-C which should be Table 9.23.11.4.-B and deletes the duplication in the notes.</p>
4.1 Exceptions, page 35	Article 9.23.13.10.	The Guide seems to indicate that the exemptions for certain structural elements are limited to locations where $S_{max} \leq 1.2$ and $RHWP \leq 1.2$ kPa.	<p>When applying the exceptions of the Additional System Considerations, the entire Article 9.23.13.10. must be taken into consideration, including Sentence (1) for application. Application of Article 9.23.13.10. may be limited for buildings in Haida Gwaii and some southern portions of Vancouver Island.</p> <p>Code users should use HWP for application.</p>
4.1.1. Open or Enclosed Space, page 35	Sentence 9.23.13.10.(2)	<p>The Guide discusses projections in relation to the perpendicular plan dimension but seems to allow the full perpendicular plan dimension not just half as is stated in Subclause 9.23.13.10.(2)(a)(ii) of the BCBC 2024.</p> <p>Footnote (xxx) references Clauses 9.23.13.12.(2)(a) and (b) which do not exist in the BCBC 2024.</p>	<p>Revision 6 102. Subclause 9.23.13.10.(2)(a)(ii) is amended by striking out “half”.</p> <p>Revision 6 corrects Subclause 9.23.13.10.(2)(a)(ii) to allow the full perpendicular plan dimension to be considered.</p> <p>Code users looking for the reference in footnote (xxx) of the Guide should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.10.(2) of the BCBC 2024.</p>

4.1.2. Garages, pages 37 and 38	Sentence 9.23.13.10.(3)	Footnote reference (xxxii) 9.23.13.12.(3) does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.10.(3) of the BCBC 2024.
	Sentence 9.23.13.10.(4)	Footnote reference (xxxiii) 9.23.13.12.(4) does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.10.(4) of the BCBC 2024.
4.2 Trade Offs, page 39	Sentence 9.23.13.10.(6)	Footnote reference (xxxiiii) 9.23.13.12.(6) does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Sentence 9.23.13.10.(6) of the BCBC 2024.
4.3 Connection of Wood-sheathed Braced Wall Panels to Roof Framing, page 40	Sentences 9.23.13.5.(3) and (4) And Note A-9.23.13.5.(3) and (4)	Illustrations in Figure 4.8 of the Guide does not properly show the continuation of the wood-sheathed braced wall panel extension to the roof framing.	These illustrations require updating and the Province is working with industry, including experts with the Canadian Wood Council and the Western Wood Truss Association of British Columbia on lateral load design parameters for truss manufacturers. The Province intends to update Figure A-9.23.13.5.(3) and (4) when this work is complete.
6.1 Single-storey House with Normal-weight Construction, page 44	Appendix C Table C-2	The terminology “annual probability of exceedance” and references to RHWP and the calculation methodology associated with Article 9.4.2.3. does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	The BCBC 2024 does not use RHWP but instead uses 1/50 Hourly Wind Pressure (HWP). Code users should use 1/50 HWP (and 1/50 snow loads) in Table C-2 of the BCBC 2024 instead.
	Appendix C Table C-2	The Guide discusses 1/1000 snow loads and 1/1000 rain loads which do not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should use 1/50 snow loads and 1/50 rain loads in Table C-2 of the BCBC 2024 instead.
Area-Weighted Average Method, page 75	Note A-9.23.13.2.(3)	The Guide references Note A-9.23.2.7. of the BCBC 2024 which does not exist.	Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.2. and Note A-9.23.13.2.(3) Weights of Construction in the BCBC 2024.
B.1 Simplified Bracing Method, page 77	Article 9.23.13.11.	The Simplified Bracing Method does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.11. of the BCBC 2024 titled “Simplified Approach for Braced Wall Panel Length.”
B.2 Table Bracing Method, page 78	Table 9.23.13.11.-A	The Guide references Tables 9.23.13.8.-A through	Code users should refer to Article 9.23.13.11. and Tables 9.23.13.11.-

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	through Table 9.23.13.11.-D	9.23.13.8.-D which do not exist in the BCBC 2024.	A through 9.23.13.11.-D of the BCBC 2024. Note: Revision 6 (items 105 and 106) corrects the images for DWB 3.89 of Table 9.23.13.11.-A and DWB 4.66 of Table 9.23.13.11.-B to illustrate the first (lower) storey of a two-storey house and the second (middle) storey of a three storey house the same as shown in the Guide.
Unadjusted Minimum Total Lengths of Braced Wall Panels Within Braced Wall Bands, page 81	Table 9.23.13.7.-C	The Guide references Table 9.23.13.9.-C which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Table 9.23.13.7.-C of the BCBC 2024.
Adjustment Factors for Braced Wall Panels Within Braced Wall Bands in Each Storey, page 89	Table 9.23.13.7.-D	The Guide references Table 9.23.13.9.-D which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should refer to Table 9.23.13.7.-D of the BCBC 2024.
List of Part 9 Provisions for Wind Design and Calculations, page 97	Appendix C Table C-2	The Guide references Article 9.4.2.3. of the BCBC 2024 for Reference Hourly Wind Pressure which does not exist in the BCBC 2024.	Code users should use 1/50 HWP in Table C-2 of the BCBC 2024.

Other Applicable Revision 6 Items

Revision 6 included two other housekeeping items amending Section 9.23. which correct a text error and a misnumbered Clause as such:

103. Sentence 9.23.13.10.(6) is amended by striking out “a72djaacent” and substituting “adjacent”.

104. Sentence 9.23.13.11.(1) (numbering) is amended by striking out “h)” of the second Clause numbered as “h)” and substituting “i)”.

Other Resources

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The [Canadian Wood Council](#) released an [The Wind and Seismic Bracing Calculator](#) intended to aid in the design of the minimum braced wall panel length required for houses based on seismic and wind forces. The tool is intended for use by builders and designers who are experienced and familiar with wall bracing. The calculator is based for the NBC 2025.

PCFs, including PCF 1475, 1979, and 2048, can be reviewed on the [Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes](#) website.