



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	May 16, 2007	Interpretation #	06-009
Topic	Structural Frame		
Code Section(s)	601.4, 603.3.1		
Requested by	Todd Behrns Hensel Phelps Construction Co. Inc. 2000 S Vermont Ave. Los Angeles CA 90007 (323)-373-0373		

Code Background & Question=2001 California Building Code (Chapter 6 Types of Construction).

Section 601.4 Structural Frame.

"The structural frame shall be considered to be the columns and the girders, beams, trusses and spandrels having direct connections to the columns and bracing members designed to carry gravity loads."

We ascertain this to mean that only (columns, girders, beams, trusses and spandrels) are part of the structural frame. The mention of the columns and bracing members mentioned after "direct connection" refers to these members as only to be part of the structural frame (IF) they are designed to carry gravity loads. Bracing that is designed to carry (seismic or wind loads) are not part of the "Structural Frame".

In Section 603 Type II Buildings, reference 603.3.1. Exterior walls and all structural members shall comply with the requirements specified in section 503 and table 5A (and the fire resistive provisions set forth in Table 6-A.

Using the previous description of (Structural Frame) we ascertain that bracing not designed to carry gravity loads is not part of the Structural Frame and therefore would not fall under the requirement of fireproofing shown under "Structural Frame" in Table 6A.

No. Lateral force bracing in the exterior wall or in the interior of the building is not considered to be part of the structural frame where the bracing serves no other purpose but to resist the lateral loads. In this case, lateral load bracing in the exterior walls would be protected in accordance with Tables 5-A and 6-A by the exterior nonbearing walls. In the case of the secondary members in the floor and roof assemblies, the protection required would be protected the same as required in Table 6-A by the floor or roof assemblies.