



## **BUILDING BULLETIN 16-02**

Subject to reevaluation no later than next code adoption

**Subject: Special Inspection Requirements**  
**Code: 2019 California Building Code**  
**Section: Chapter 17**

**Date: January 1, 2020**

Chapter 17 - *Structural Tests and Special inspections* - Chapter 1, Section 104.1 authorizes the building official to render interpretations and adopt policies and procedures to clarify the application of the code provisions. Section 1704.2 Exception 1 authorizes the building official to waive special inspection requirements for work of a minor nature.

1. Section 1704.2, Exception 2 states "Unless otherwise required by the building official, special inspections and tests are not required for Group U occupancies that are accessory to a residential occupancy..."

### **Policy**

Special inspection is required for Group U occupancies accessory to a residence when required by Chapter 17 of the CBC and the Kern County Code of Building Regulations.

Exceptions:

- a. Periodic inspection for nailing, bolting, etc. required by 1705.12.2 (Structural Wood) shall not be required unless determined otherwise by the building official or the Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge.
  - b. Special inspection required by 1705.3 (Concrete) shall not be required for swimming pools when designed with a minimum compressive strength,  $f'_c$ , of not less than 2500 psi unless determined otherwise by the building official or the Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge.
2. Section 1705.4 requires special inspection for masonry with very few exceptions.

### **Policy**

In addition to the Exceptions listed in 1705.4, unless required by the Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge, special inspection may not be required for masonry construction of a minor nature, such as:

- a. Masonry foundation walls for Occupancy Category I and II structures not exceeding four (4) feet in height.
  - b. Masonry basement walls not more than eight (8) feet in height and part of a Group R-3, or a Group U occupancy accessory to a Group R-3, and not situated in Seismic Design Category E.
  - c. Masonry retaining walls not exceeding six (6) feet in height measured from the top of the footing and not supporting a surcharge.
  - d. Masonry fences not over seven (7) feet in height.
3. Special Inspector Approval: The Building Inspection Division maintains a list of individuals approved to perform special inspections. Special inspectors must submit their qualifications and certifications to the building official for review and be authorized to perform special inspections prior to performing any inspections. Approved inspectors shall possess photo identification and their certification cards when conducting inspections. When special inspection is required per 1705.12.2 (Structural Wood) a structural observation per Section 1704.6 may be performed by a Registered Design Professional in lieu of a special inspection.