


Adding a Single Course to an Existing Masonry Wall

No:	BS-PE-4.0-06.14.21	Type:	Policy
Department:	Building and Safety		
Original Effective Date:		Approval Signature:	
Revision Date:		Expiration Date:	

Purpose

To establish policy regarding the exemption from the requirement for a building permit to add a single course to an existing free-standing Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) wall.

Scope

This policy applies to plans examiners, permit technicians, plan examination supervisor, permits supervisor, combination inspectors, and inspections supervisor

Definitions

Free-Standing Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) Wall – A wall typically constructed as a privacy/security wall at the perimeter property lines of residential and commercial properties and does not provide structural support to any building or structure.

Policy

A single horizontal course may be added to any existing free-standing concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall provided the height of the wall, after the installation, does not exceed the maximum allowable height as specified in Title 19 (Development Code) of the City of Las Vegas Municipal Code. The attached guideline detailing how to add a single course to an existing concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall may be provided to homeowners or contractors.

References

City of Las Vegas Administrative Code, 2019 Edition
Guideline for Adding a Single Course to an Existing Masonry Wall



BUILDING AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT GUIDELINE FOR ADDING A SINGLE COURSE TO AN EXISTING MASONRY WALL

THIS GUIDELINE IS TO ASSIST HOMEOWNERS WHO MAY WANT TO INCREASE THE HEIGHT OF AN EXISTING MASONRY WALL. A BUILDING PERMIT IS *NOT* REQUIRED FOR ADDING A SINGLE COURSE TO AN EXISTING MASONRY WALL, PROVIDED NO OTHER COURSES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE WALL (I.E. THE NEW COURSE WILL REST ON ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION). ADDITIONS TO EXISTING MASONRY WALLS THAT EXCEED ONE COURSE REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT AND STRUCTURAL CALCULATIONS PREPARED BY A NEVADA LICENSED CIVIL OR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER SHOWING THAT THE EXISTING WALL IS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THE VERTICAL AND LATERAL LOADS OF THE ADDED COURSES.

