

**STATE OF OREGON  
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

**STATEWIDE INTERPRETATION  
No. R403.1.4.1/R404.1.4  
OREGON DWELLING SPECIALTY CODE**

**SUBJECT:** Reinforcement Requirements in Footings and Foundation Walls

**CODE SECTION:** Oregon Dwelling Specialty Code (OTFDC) Sections R403.1.4.1 and R404.1.4

**CODE EDITION:** 2003 Edition of the Oregon Dwelling Specialty Code.

**DATE:** October 29, 2003

**QUESTION:** What are the reinforcement requirements for footings and foundation stem walls in Seismic Design Categories D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>?

**ANSWER:** When footings and foundation stem walls are poured monolithically and the height of un-balanced backfill is 4 feet or less, one No.4 horizontal bar shall be placed in the upper 12 inches of the stem wall and one No. 4 horizontal bar shall be placed in the footing located minimum 3 inches from the bottom.

When footings and foundation stem walls are poured at two separate times, creating a cold joint, all of the requirements for a monolithic pour as stated above are applicable, in addition to providing a vertical No.4 bar every 4 feet on center. Vertical bars shall be provided with a standard hook (minimum  $12d_b$  or 6 inches for No.4 bar, plus  $3d_b$  for curvature at the bend) and shall extend to within 3 inches of the bottom of the footing and a minimum 14 inches into the foundation stem wall.