

**CHAPTER 6
WALL CONSTRUCTION**

**SECTION R602.10.3
2006 Edition**

**IRC Interpretation 30-08
Issued 2-20-2009**

RE_06_30_08

R602.10.3 Braced wall panel construction methods. The construction of braced wall panels shall be in accordance with one of the following methods:

1. Nominal 1-inch-by-4-inch (25 mm by 102 mm) continuous diagonal braces let in to the top and bottom plates and the intervening studs or approved metal strap devices installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. The let-in bracing shall be placed at an angle not more than 60 degrees (1.06 rad) or less than 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from the horizontal.

RELATED SECTION:

BRACED WALL PANEL. A section of a braced wall line constructed in accordance with Section R602.10 for wood framing or Section R603.7 or R301.1.1 for cold-formed steel framing, which extend the full height of the wall.



Q: In accordance with the criteria for continuous diagonal let-in wall bracing as defined for Method 1 in Section R602.10.3 of the *International Residential Code*, is an opening prohibited within the height of the braced wall panel defined by where the continuous diagonal brace is let-in at the top and bottom wall plates?

A: Yes. A braced wall panel using wall bracing Method 1 as described in Section R602.10.3 is based on the portion of wall extending the full height of the continuous diagonal bracing member at the top and bottom wall plates. A "braced wall panel" is a section of a braced wall line which extends the full height of the wall. Openings, such as windows and doors, are prohibited within the height of a braced wall panel.

The length of a braced wall panel as described in Section R602.10.4 of the *International Residential Code* does not apply to wall bracing Method 1.
