



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION  
Based on the 2011 LACBC**

**#97  
J103  
Article 1  
08-16-11  
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**GRADING PERMIT – EXCAVATION TO CONSTRUCT A RETAINING WALL**

A grading permit is not required for excavation work to construct a retaining wall structure authorized by a valid building permit provided such structure does not obstruct a natural drainage course. The excavation or removal of soil on the un-retained side may extend beyond the footing of such wall provided the excavation is related to the construction of such wall, and the work is not a part of a total grading project nor combined with other earthwork requiring a grading permit.

Special attention should be given to the back cut and resulting slope behind the wall. If the back cut results in slopes steeper than 2:1, then a slope stability analysis complying with minimum County standards should be required prior to issuance of the building permit. Additionally, issuance of the retaining wall permit does not exempt the applicant from gross stability analysis in areas of known geologic hazard (see Section 110.2)


Supersedes BCM 7003 1 Article 1 dated 04-24-01


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