

Procedure to Challenge Unreinforced Masonry Building Designation

January 2013

The following process is available to owners who wish to remove their buildings from the list of potential URM bearing wall buildings.

1. Owner hires WA State licensed structural engineer.
2. Engineer evaluates building to determine if it is a URM building. Potential resources include:
 - a. DPD-approved plans (e.g., via microfilm research)
 - b. Visual survey
 - c. Other methods (open up walls, minor demo, etc.)
3. Engineer writes report and submits to DPD:
 - a. Evaluation must be accompanied by information that supports the engineer's conclusions.
 - i. Microfilm research should include copies of microfiche
 - ii. Visual surveys and other methods may be accompanied by photos
 - b. Report must bear the engineer's stamp
 - c. DPD Review Fee must be paid at submittal = flat rate of 1 hour (standard DPD hourly review rate at time of report submission; for 2013 this is \$181.00)
4. DPD reviews report and will make one of the following determinations based on submitted materials only:
 - a. Confirm that the building is not a URM bearing wall building, or
 - b. Request further information for clarification
 - c. Deny removal from list
5. DPD notifies owner of decision whether the building will be removed from the list.
6. Challenges that have been denied may be re-filed if new supporting information is provided. This additional review will be charged the DPD hourly rate.
7. Owners may request decisions be administratively reviewed, first by the Principal Engineer, then the Construction Codes Advisory Board, in accordance with the Seattle Building Code.

NOTE: DPD may consider information other than an engineering report to document lack of URM bearing walls. Documentation will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with DPD engineering staff.