



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**

TECHNICAL ADVISORY T2-23

CODE and SECTION: IBC 2021- SECTION 1809.5  
IRC 2021- SECTION R403.1.4.1

COMMON NAME: Shallow Foundation Frost Protection

Date: **August 10, 2023**

Name of Requestor: **Mr. Rusty Christensen**

Title and edition of the model code and code sections(s) to be considered for this Technical Advisory:  
**2021 IBC Section 1809.5 and 2021 IRC Section R403.1.4.1**

**Question one of one: Seeking clarification of frost protection at shallow foundations for unheated buildings and structures.**

**Summary of Code Section(s):**

**Frost Protection:** Except where otherwise protected from frost, foundations shall be protected from frost by one or more of the prescriptive methods listed.

**Answer:** Shallow foundations shall be protected from frost by either the prescriptive requirements listed in the code(s) or otherwise protected by any method approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

This Code Technical Advisory is produced by the Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau of the Montana Department of Labor and industry by Skip Gee, Section Manager.

---

Skip Gee, Section Manager  
Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau  
Department of Labor and Industry  
State of Montana  
skip.gee@mt.gov  
406-438-7687

Cc: Rusty Christensen, requestor, via email  
Certified Cities (Local Building Code Jurisdictions in Montana) via email