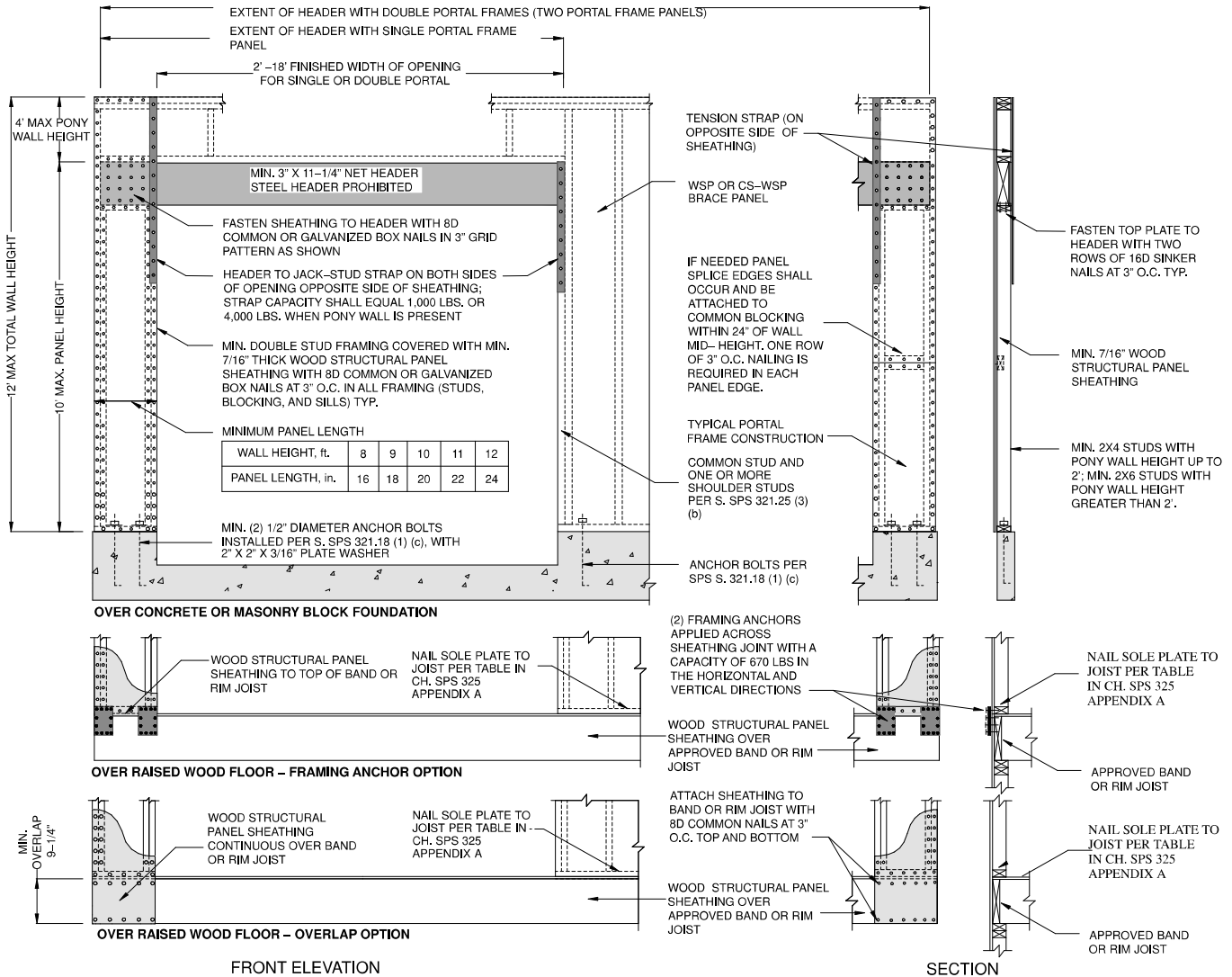


Figure 321.25-A

METHOD PF – PORTAL FRAME BRACE CONSTRUCTION



Note: Steel headers are permitted if designed by structural analysis.

Note: As shown in the above cross-section, 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard is not required on the interior side of the wall.

(c) *Bracing amount.* Bracing methods and materials complying with Table 321.25-G shall be applied to walls in accordance with all of the following requirements:

1. For the purpose of determining bracing amounts, the outermost extents of the building plan at each floor level shall be circumscribed with a rectangle to define the overall length of each building side as shown in Figure 321.25-B.
2. In no case may the amount of bracing be less than two braced wall panels on walls parallel to each rectangle side for each floor level of the building.
3. Where used, the number of intermittent brace panels applied to walls parallel to each rectangle side shall comply with Table 321.25-I.
4. Where used, the total length of continuous sheathed brace panels applied to walls parallel to each building side shall comply with Table 321.25-J.
5. The location of brace panels applied to walls parallel to

each building side shall comply with Figure 321.25-C.

6. Balloon-frame walls may be no longer than 21 feet and shall have a maximum height of two floors unless constructed in accordance with an approved design. Wall framing shall be continuous from the lowest floor to the wall top plate at the roof. All edges of sheathing shall be supported on and fastened to blocking or framing. Braced wall panels may not be required on the balloon-frame wall portion provided the bracing amount and brace spacing requirement are satisfied for the building side. Where brace panels are located on the balloon-frame wall portion, they shall have a height-to-width ratio of not more than 2.5:1.

7. For a gable end wall, if the brace-panel height does not exceed 12 feet at the highest portion and if the 12 1/2-foot and 21-foot spacing requirements in Figure 321.25-C are met, the wall is adequately braced. Where a brace panel exceeds 12 feet in height, it shall have a height-to-width ratio of not more than 2.5:1, and comply with Figure 21.25-C.