LATERAL SUPPORT

SLIDE SHOW
Fully unsupported beams. The unbraced length is equal to the entire length of the member.
These beams are continually supported with the deck that is mechanically attached with screws or welds.
These girders are fully unsupported temporarily during construction.

Once the joists are placed in position and attached, the unbraced length is reduced to the joist spacing.
Bracing is not only accomplished by joists. Here, beams are used as blocking and spaced to provide the necessary lateral support.
Lateral bracing must be used for any member loaded in bending. It could be curved or in any orientation.