

ASCE STANDARD

ASCE/SEI

7-16

Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures

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ASCE STANDARDS

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Tips for Using This Standard

The **standard provisions** are contained in chapters 1 to 31. Standard provisions are mandatory.

CHAPTER 8 RAIN LOADS

The **standard commentary** is contained in chapters C1 to C31. Standard commentary is intended to help you understand how the provisions were determined and how to apply them.

8.1 DEFINITIONS AND SYMBOLS

8.1.1 Definitions

CONTROLLED DRAINAGE: System intentionally regulating the rate of flow through the primary drains.

PONDING: The accumulation of water caused by the deflection of the roof structure, resulting in added load.

PONDING INSTABILITY: Member instability caused by progressive deflection due to ponding on roofs.

PRIMARY DRAINAGE SYSTEM: Roof drainage system through which water is normally conveyed off the roof.

PRIMARY MEMBERS: For the purposes of determining a susceptible bay, structural members having direct connection to the columns, including girders, beams, and trusses.

PARAPET: An opening in the side of a building (typically parapet wall) for the purpose of draining water off the roof.

SECONDARY DRAINAGE SYSTEM: Roof drainage system higher than the primary drainage system, through which drains off the roof when the primary system is blocked

8.3 DESIGN RAIN LOADS

Each portion of a roof shall be designed to sustain the load of rainwater that will accumulate on it if the primary drainage system for that portion is blocked plus the uniform load caused by water that rises above the inlet of the secondary drainage system at its design flow.

$$R = 5.2(d_s + d_p) \quad (8.3-1)$$

$$R = 0.0098(d_s + d_p) \quad (8.3-1.si)$$

If the secondary drainage systems contain drain lines, such lines and their point of discharge shall be separate from the primary drain lines. Rain loads shall be based on the total head (static head plus hydraulic head $[d_p]$) associated with the design flow rate of the specified secondary drains and drainage system corresponding to the design flow rate for the specified secondary drain based on hydraulic test data.

Gray bars down the side in the provisions (but not the commentary) indicate sections with substantive changes from the previous edition of this standard, ASCE/SEI 7-10, Third Printing.

This standard uses both **customary and metric (S.I.) units**. Customary units appear first, followed by S.I. units in parentheses.

When numbered display equations have customary and S.I. versions, the one in customary units is numbered like this: (Eq. 8.3-1). The one in S.I. units is numbered like this: (Eq. 8.3-1.si).

8.1 DEFINITIONS AND SYMBOLS

A = Tributary roof area, plus one-half the wall area that diverts rainwater onto the roof, serviced by a single drain outlet in the secondary drainage system, in ft² (m²).

D = Drain bowl diameter for a primary roof drain, or overflow dam or standpipe diameter for a secondary roof drain, in in. (mm).

Design rainfall intensity, in/h (mm/h).

Flow rate out of a single drainage system, in gal./min (m³/s).

Height of level roof edge that allows for free overflow drainwater when the roof edge is acting as the secondary drainage system, in ft (m).

Roof drainage system.

Roofs are not always designed to handle all the flow from short-duration rainfall events. For example, the International Building Code (ICC 2012) uses a 1-h duration storm for the design of both the primary and secondary drainage systems.

Roofs with internal gutters that have limited storage capacity and quickly fill with rainwater. Gutters are typically sized for 2- to 5-min duration storms since their storage capacity is much shorter than the critical duration for roof drains, gutters or internal drains.

Architecturally complex roofs with irregular shapes and significant gutter slopes. Significant gutter slopes are those that require a secondary drainage system.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service Precipitation Frequency Atlas (PFA) and the National Climatic Data Center provide meteorological Design Studies Center provide precipitation frequency data in inches per hour for the 15-min duration/100-year recurrence interval (<http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/plots/precipitation/>). Precipitation intensity (i in Eq. [8.3-1]) is in the units of inches per hour; if precipitation depth is provided, a conversion to intensity is required.

The following roof conditions adversely affect the critical duration, or increase the peak flow rate, and should be avoided or appropriately considered by the designer when determining the design rain load:

1. Roofs with internal gutters that have limited storage capacity and quickly fill with rainwater. Gutters are typically sized for 2- to 5-min duration storms since their storage capacity is much shorter than the critical duration for roof drains, gutters or internal drains.
2. Architecturally complex roofs with irregular shapes and significant gutter slopes. Significant gutter slopes are those that require a secondary drainage system.

Referenced consensus standards are listed at the end of each chapter of provisions, where they are listed by number with title, publisher, year of publication (and the sections that cite them). In text, they are mentioned only by number: ACI 318, ANSI/AISI S100, ASTM D1536.

Reference citations are listed at the end of each chapter of commentary, where they are listed by author and date with accompanying bibliographic information. In the text, these references are called out by author and date: ASHRAE (2000); Bachman and Dowty (2008); NEHRP (2009).

CONSENSUS STANDARDS AND OTHER REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

This section lists the consensus standards and other documents that shall be considered part of this standard to the extent referenced in this chapter.

ACI 318, *Building code requirements for structural concrete and commentary*. American Concrete Institute, 2014.

ANSI/AISI S100, *North American specification for the design of cold-formed steel structural members*. American Iron and Steel Institute, 2009.

ASTM D1536, *Method of test for color difference using the colormaster differential calorimeter*, 1964.

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American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). (2000). *Practical guide to seismic restraint, RP-812*. ASHRAE, Atlanta, GA.

Bachman, R. E., and Dowty, S. M. (2008). "Nonstructural component or nonbuilding structure?" *Bldg. Safety J.* (April-May).

National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). (2009). NEHRP recommended provisions for seismic regulations for new buildings and other structures, NEHRP, Washington, DC.

BRIEF CONTENTS

ASCE STANDARDS	iii
TIPS FOR USING THIS STANDARD	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xlvii
1 GENERAL	1
2 COMBINATIONS OF LOADS	7
3 DEAD LOADS, SOIL LOADS, AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE	11
4 LIVE LOADS	13
5 FLOOD LOADS	21
6 TSUNAMI LOADS AND EFFECTS	25
7 SNOW LOADS	51
8 RAIN LOADS	65
9 RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROVISIONS	67
10 ICE LOADS—ATMOSPHERIC ICING	69
11 SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA	77
12 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING STRUCTURES	89
13 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONSTRUCTURAL COMPONENTS	121
14 MATERIAL-SPECIFIC SEISMIC DESIGN AND DETAILING REQUIREMENTS	135
15 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONBUILDING STRUCTURES	145
16 NONLINEAR RESPONSE HISTORY ANALYSIS	163
17 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR SEISMICALLY ISOLATED STRUCTURES	167
18 SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURES WITH DAMPING SYSTEMS	181
19 SOIL–STRUCTURE INTERACTION FOR SEISMIC DESIGN	197
20 SITE CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR SEISMIC DESIGN	203

21	SITE-SPECIFIC GROUND MOTION PROCEDURES FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	205
22	SEISMIC GROUND MOTION, LONG-PERIOD TRANSITION, AND RISK COEFFICIENT MAPS	209
23	SEISMIC DESIGN REFERENCE DOCUMENTS	237
24	RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROVISIONS.	241
25	RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROVISIONS.	243
26	WIND LOADS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	245
27	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	273
28	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (ENVELOPE PROCEDURE). .	311
29	WIND LOADS ON BUILDING APPURTENANCES AND OTHER STRUCTURES: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	321
30	WIND LOADS: COMPONENTS AND CLADDING	333
31	WIND TUNNEL PROCEDURE.	389
	APPENDIX 11A QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (Deleted)	391
	APPENDIX 11B EXISTING BUILDING PROVISIONS	393
	APPENDIX C SERVICEABILITY CONSIDERATIONS.	395
	APPENDIX D BUILDINGS EXEMPTED FROM TORSIONAL WIND LOAD CASES	397
	APPENDIX E PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN PROCEDURES FOR FIRE EFFECTS ON STRUCTURES	401
 COMMENTARY TO STANDARD ASCE/SEI 7-16		
C1	GENERAL	405
C2	COMBINATIONS OF LOADS	417
C3	DEAD LOADS, SOIL LOADS, AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE.	425
C4	LIVE LOADS	433
C5	FLOOD LOADS	439
C6	TSUNAMI LOADS AND EFFECTS	447

C7	SNOW LOADS.	489
C8	RAIN LOADS	507
C9	RESERVED FOR FUTURE COMMENTARY.	515
C10	ICE LOADS—ATMOSPHERIC ICING.	517
C11	SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA	525
C12	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING STRUCTURES.	543
C13	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONSTRUCTURAL COMPONENTS.	593
C14	MATERIAL-SPECIFIC SEISMIC DESIGN AND DETAILING REQUIREMENTS	619
C15	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONBUILDING STRUCTURES.	631
C16	NONLINEAR RESPONSE HISTORY ANALYSIS	657
C17	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR SEISMICALLY ISOLATED STRUCTURES	673
C18	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURES WITH DAMPING SYSTEMS	693
C19	SOIL–STRUCTURE INTERACTION FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	703
C20	SITE CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR SEISMIC DESIGN	709
C21	SITE-SPECIFIC GROUND MOTION PROCEDURES FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	711
C22	SEISMIC GROUND MOTION, LONG-PERIOD TRANSITION, AND RISK COEFFICIENT MAPS	717
C23	SEISMIC DESIGN REFERENCE DOCUMENTS (No Commentary).	725
C24	RESERVED FOR FUTURE COMMENTARY.	727
C25	RESERVED FOR FUTURE COMMENTARY.	729
C26	WIND LOADS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	731
C27	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	767
C28	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (ENVELOPE PROCEDURE). .	771
C29	WIND LOADS ON BUILDING APPURTENANCES AND OTHER STRUCTURES: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE).	775

C30 WIND LOADS: COMPONENTS AND CLADDING	781
C31 WIND TUNNEL PROCEDURE.	793
APPENDIX C11A QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (Deleted)	797
APPENDIX C11B EXISTING BUILDING PROVISIONS (No Commentary).	799
APPENDIX CC SERVICEABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	801
APPENDIX CD BUILDINGS EXEMPTED FROM TORSIONAL WIND LOAD CASES	813
APPENDIX CE PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN PROCEDURES FOR FIRE EFFECTS ON STRUCTURES	815
INDEX	Index-1

CONTENTS

ASCE STANDARDS		iii
TIPS FOR USING THIS STANDARD		iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS		xlvii
1 GENERAL		1
1.1 Scope		1
1.2 Definitions and Symbols		1
1.2.1 Definitions		1
1.2.2 Symbols		2
1.3 Basic Requirements		2
1.3.1 Strength and Stiffness		2
1.3.1.1 Strength Procedures		2
1.3.1.2 Allowable Stress Procedures		2
1.3.1.3 Performance-Based Procedures		2
1.3.2 Serviceability		3
1.3.3 Functionality		3
1.3.4 Self-Straining Forces and Effects		3
1.3.5 Analysis		3
1.3.6 Counteracting Structural Actions		3
1.3.7 Fire Resistance		3
1.4 General Structural Integrity		3
1.4.1 Load Path Connections		4
1.4.2 Lateral Forces		4
1.4.3 Connection to Supports		4
1.4.4 Anchorage of Structural Walls		4
1.4.5 Extraordinary Loads and Events		4
1.5 Classification of Buildings and other Structures		4
1.5.1 Risk Categorization		4
1.5.2 Multiple Risk Categories		5
1.5.3 Toxic, Highly Toxic, and Explosive Substances		5
1.6 Additions and Alterations to Existing Structures		5
1.7 Load Tests		5
1.8 Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents		5
2 COMBINATIONS OF LOADS		7
2.1 General		7
2.2 Symbols		7
2.3 Load Combinations for Strength Design		7
2.3.1 Basic Combinations		7
2.3.2 Load Combinations Including Flood Load		7
2.3.3 Load Combinations Including Atmospheric Ice Loads		7
2.3.4 Load Combinations Including Self-Straining Forces and Effects		7
2.3.5 Load Combinations for Nonspecified Loads		8
2.3.6 Basic Combinations with Seismic Load Effects		8
2.4 Load Combinations for Allowable Stress Design		8
2.4.1 Basic Combinations		8
2.4.2 Load Combinations Including Flood Load		8
2.4.3 Load Combinations Including Atmospheric Ice Loads		8
2.4.4 Load Combinations Including Self-Straining Forces and Effects		9
2.4.5 Basic Combinations with Seismic Load Effects		9
2.5 Load Combinations for Extraordinary Events		9
2.5.1 Applicability		9
2.5.2 Load Combinations		9

	2.5.2.1	Capacity.	9
	2.5.2.2	Residual Capacity.	9
	2.5.3	Stability Requirements.	9
2.6		Load Combinations for General Structural Integrity Loads.	9
	2.6.1	Strength Design Notional Load Combinations.	9
	2.6.2	Allowable Stress Design Notional Load Combinations.	9
2.7		Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	9
3		DEAD LOADS, SOIL LOADS, AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE.	11
	3.1	Dead Loads.	11
		3.1.1 Definition.	11
		3.1.2 Weights of Materials and Constructions.	11
		3.1.3 Weight of Fixed Service Equipment.	11
		3.1.4 Vegetative and Landscaped Roofs.	11
		3.1.5 Solar Panels.	12
	3.2	Soil Loads and Hydrostatic Pressure	12
		3.2.1 Lateral Pressures.. . . .	12
		3.2.2 Uplift Loads on Floors and Foundations.	12
	3.3	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	12
4		LIVE LOADS	13
	4.1	Definitions	13
	4.2	Loads Not Specified	13
	4.3	Uniformly Distributed Live Loads.	13
		4.3.1 Required Live Loads.	13
		4.3.2 Provision for Partitions.	13
		4.3.3 Partial Loading.	13
	4.4	Concentrated Live Loads	13
	4.5	Loads on Handrail, Guardrail, Grab Bar, and Vehicle Barrier Systems, and on Fixed Ladders.	13
		4.5.1 Handrail and Guardrail Systems.	13
		4.5.1.1 Uniform Load.	13
		4.5.1.2 Guardrail System Component Loads.	16
		4.5.2 Grab Bar Systems.	16
		4.5.3 Vehicle Barrier Systems.. . . .	16
		4.5.4 Fixed Ladders.	16
	4.6	Impact Loads.	16
		4.6.1 General.. . . .	16
		4.6.2 Elevators.. . . .	16
		4.6.3 Machinery.	16
		4.6.4 Elements Supporting Hoists for Façade Access and Building Maintenance Equipment.	16
		4.6.5 Fall Arrest and Lifeline Anchorages.	16
	4.7	Reduction in Uniform Live Loads.	16
		4.7.1 General.. . . .	16
		4.7.2 Reduction in Uniform Live Loads.	16
		4.7.3 Heavy Live Loads.. . . .	17
		4.7.4 Passenger Vehicle Garages.	17
		4.7.5 Assembly Uses.	17
		4.7.6 Limitations on One-Way Slabs.	17
	4.8	Reduction in Roof Live Loads	17
		4.8.1 General.. . . .	17
		4.8.2 Ordinary Roofs, Awnings, and Canopies.. . . .	17
		4.8.3 Occupiable Roofs.	17
	4.9	Crane Loads	17
		4.9.1 General.. . . .	17
		4.9.2 Maximum Wheel Load.	18
		4.9.3 Vertical Impact Force.	18
		4.9.4 Lateral Force.. . . .	18
		4.9.5 Longitudinal Force.	18
	4.10	Garage Loads.	18
		4.10.1 Passenger Vehicle Garages.	18
		4.10.2 Truck and Bus Garages.	18

4.11	Helipad Loads	18
4.11.1	General.. . . .	18
4.11.2	Concentrated Helicopter Loads.	18
4.12	Uninhabitable Attics	18
4.12.1	Uninhabitable Attics without Storage.. . . .	18
4.12.2	Uninhabitable Attics with Storage.	18
4.13	Library Stack Rooms.	18
4.14	Seating for Assembly Uses	18
4.15	Sidewalks, Vehicular Driveways, and Yards Subject to Trucking	19
4.15.1	Uniform Loads.	19
4.15.2	Concentrated Loads.	19
4.16	Stair Treads.	19
4.17	Solar Panel Loads	19
4.17.1	Roof Loads at Solar Panels.. . . .	19
4.17.2	Load Combination.. . . .	19
4.17.3	Open-Grid Roof Structures Supporting Solar Panels.. . . .	19
4.18	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	19
5	FLOOD LOADS	21
5.1	General	21
5.2	Definitions	21
5.3	Design Requirements.	21
5.3.1	Design Loads.	21
5.3.2	Erosion and Scour.. . . .	21
5.3.3	Loads on Breakaway Walls.. . . .	21
5.4	Loads during Flooding.	21
5.4.1	Load Basis.. . . .	21
5.4.2	Hydrostatic Loads.	21
5.4.3	Hydrodynamic Loads.	22
5.4.4	Wave Loads.	22
5.4.4.1	Breaking Wave Loads on Vertical Pilings and Columns.. . . .	22
5.4.4.2	Breaking Wave Loads on Vertical Walls.. . . .	22
5.4.4.3	Breaking Wave Loads on Nonvertical Walls.. . . .	23
5.4.4.4	Breaking Wave Loads from Obliquely Incident Waves.	23
5.4.5	Impact Loads.	23
5.5	Consensus Standards and Other Affiliated Criteria	23
6	TSUNAMI LOADS AND EFFECTS	25
6.1	General Requirements	25
6.1.1	Scope.	25
6.2	Definitions	25
6.3	Symbols and Notation	29
6.4	Tsunami Risk Categories	30
6.5	Analysis of Design Inundation Depth and Flow Velocity	30
6.5.1	Tsunami Risk Category II and III Buildings and Other Structures.	30
6.5.1.1	Runup Evaluation for Areas Where No Map Values Are Given.	30
6.5.2	Tsunami Risk Category IV Buildings and Other Structures.	30
6.5.3	Sea Level Change.. . . .	31
6.6	Inundation Depths and Flow Velocities Based on Runup	31
6.6.1	Maximum Inundation Depth and Flow Velocities Based on Runup.. . . .	31
6.6.2	Energy Grade Line Analysis of Maximum Inundation Depths and Flow Velocities.	31
6.6.3	Terrain Roughness.. . . .	32
6.6.4	Tsunami Bores.. . . .	32
6.6.5	Amplified Flow Velocities.	32
6.7	Inundation Depths and Flow Velocities Based on Site-Specific Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Analysis	32
6.7.1	Tsunami Waveform.	32
6.7.2	Tsunamigenic Sources.. . . .	32
6.7.3	Earthquake Rupture Unit Source Tsunami Functions for Offshore Tsunami Amplitude.	32
6.7.4	Treatment of Modeling and Natural Uncertainties.	35
6.7.5	Offshore Tsunami Amplitude.	35
6.7.5.1	Offshore Tsunami Amplitude for Distant Seismic Sources.	36
6.7.5.2	Direct Computation of Probabilistic Inundation and Runup.. . . .	36

6.7.6	Procedures for Determining Tsunami Inundation and Runup.	36
6.7.6.1	Representative Design Inundation Parameters.	36
6.7.6.2	Seismic Subsidence before Tsunami Arrival.	36
6.7.6.3	Model Macroroughness Parameter.	36
6.7.6.4	Nonlinear Modeling of Inundation.	36
6.7.6.5	Model Spatial Resolution.	36
6.7.6.6	Built Environment.	36
6.7.6.7	Inundation Model Validation	36
6.7.6.8	Determining Site-Specific Inundation Flow Parameters.	36
6.7.6.9	Tsunami Design Parameters for Flow over Land.	38
6.8	Structural Design Procedures for Tsunami Effects	38
6.8.1	Performance of Tsunami Risk Category II and III Buildings and Other Structures.	38
6.8.2	Performance of Tsunami Risk Category III Critical Facilities and Tsunami Risk Category IV Buildings and Other Structures.	38
6.8.3	Structural Performance Evaluation.	38
6.8.3.1	Load Cases.	38
6.8.3.2	Tsunami Importance Factors.	38
6.8.3.3	Load Combinations.	38
6.8.3.4	Lateral-Force-Resisting System Acceptance Criteria.	39
6.8.3.5	Structural Component Acceptance Criteria.	39
6.8.4	Minimum Fluid Density for Tsunami Loads.	40
6.8.5	Flow Velocity Amplification.	40
6.8.5.1	Upstream Obstructing Structures.	40
6.8.5.2	Flow Velocity Amplification by Physical or Numerical Modeling.	40
6.8.6	Directionality of Flow	40
6.8.6.1	Flow Direction.	40
6.8.6.2	Site-Specific Directionality.	41
6.8.7	Minimum Closure Ratio for Load Determination.	41
6.8.8	Minimum Number of Tsunami Flow Cycles.	41
6.8.9	Seismic Effects on the Foundations Preceding Local Subduction Zone Maximum Considered Tsunami.	41
6.8.10	Physical Modeling of Tsunami Flow, Loads, and Effects.	41
6.9	Hydrostatic Loads	41
6.9.1	Buoyancy.	41
6.9.2	Unbalanced Lateral Hydrostatic Force.	41
6.9.3	Residual Water Surcharge Load on Floors and Walls.	42
6.9.4	Hydrostatic Surcharge Pressure on Foundation.	42
6.10	Hydrodynamic Loads	42
6.10.1	Simplified Equivalent Uniform Lateral Static Pressure.	42
6.10.2	Detailed Hydrodynamic Lateral Forces	42
6.10.2.1	Overall Drag Force on Buildings and Other Structures.	42
6.10.2.2	Drag Force on Components.	42
6.10.2.3	Tsunami Loads on Vertical Structural Components, F_w	42
6.10.2.4	Hydrodynamic Load on Perforated Walls, F_{pw}	43
6.10.2.5	Walls Angled to the Flow.	43
6.10.3	Hydrodynamic Pressures Associated with Slabs	43
6.10.3.1	Flow Stagnation Pressure.	43
6.10.3.2	Hydrodynamic Surge Uplift at Horizontal Slabs.	43
6.10.3.3	Tsunami Bore Flow Entrapped in Structural Wall-Slab Recesses.	43
6.11	Debris Impact Loads	44
6.11.1	Alternative Simplified Debris Impact Static Load.	44
6.11.2	Wood Logs and Poles.	44
6.11.3	Impact by Vehicles.	44
6.11.4	Impact by Submerged Tumbling Boulder and Concrete Debris.	45
6.11.5	Site Hazard Assessment for Shipping Containers, Ships, and Barges.	45
6.11.6	Shipping Containers.	45
6.11.7	Extraordinary Debris Impacts.	46
6.11.8	Alternative Methods of Response Analysis.	46
6.12	Foundation Design	46
6.12.1	Resistance Factors for Foundation Stability Analyses.	46
6.12.2	Load and Effect Characterization.	46
6.12.2.1	Uplift and Underseepage Forces.	47
6.12.2.2	Loss of Strength.	47
6.12.2.3	General Erosion.	47
6.12.2.4	Scour.	47

	6.12.2.5	Horizontal Soil Loads.	48
	6.12.2.6	Displacements.	48
6.12.3		Alternative Foundation Performance-Based Design Criteria.	48
6.12.4		Foundation Countermeasures.	48
	6.12.4.1	Fill.	48
	6.12.4.2	Protective Slab on Grade.	48
	6.12.4.3	Geotextiles and Reinforced Earth Systems.	48
	6.12.4.4	Facing Systems.	48
	6.12.4.5	Ground Improvement.	49
6.13		Structural Countermeasures for Tsunami Loading	49
	6.13.1	Open Structures.	49
	6.13.2	Tsunami Barriers.	49
	6.13.2.1	Information on Existing Buildings and Other Structures to Be Protected.	49
	6.13.2.2	Site Layout.	49
6.14		Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Refuge Structures	49
	6.14.1	Minimum Inundation Elevation and Depth.	49
	6.14.2	Refuge Live Load.	49
	6.14.3	Laydown Impacts.	49
	6.14.4	Information on Construction Documents.	49
	6.14.5	Peer Review.	49
6.15		Designated Nonstructural Components and Systems	50
	6.15.1	Performance Requirements.	50
6.16		Nonbuilding Tsunami Risk Category III and IV Structures	50
	6.16.1	Requirements for Tsunami Risk Category III Nonbuilding Structures.	50
	6.16.2	Requirements for Tsunami Risk Category IV Nonbuilding Structures.	50
6.17		Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	50
7		SNOW LOADS	51
	7.1	Definitions and Symbols.	51
	7.1.1	Definitions	51
	7.1.2	Symbols	51
	7.2	Ground Snow Loads, p_g	51
	7.3	Flat Roof Snow Loads, p_f	51
	7.3.1	Exposure Factor, C_e	52
	7.3.2	Thermal Factor, C_t	52
	7.3.3	Importance Factor, I_s	52
	7.3.4	Minimum Snow Load for Low-Slope Roofs, p_m	52
	7.4	Sloped Roof Snow Loads, p_s	54
	7.4.1	Warm Roof Slope Factor, C_s	54
	7.4.2	Cold Roof Slope Factor, C_s	54
	7.4.3	Roof Slope Factor for Curved Roofs.	54
	7.4.4	Roof Slope Factor for Multiple Folded Plate, Sawtooth, and Barrel Vault Roofs.	54
	7.4.5	Ice Dams and Icicles along Eaves.	54
	7.4.6	Sloped Roof Snow Loads for Air-Supported Structures.	54
	7.5	Partial Loading.	54
	7.5.1	Continuous Beam Systems.	54
	7.5.2	Other Structural Systems.	57
	7.6	Unbalanced Roof Snow Loads.	57
	7.6.1	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Hip and Gable Roofs.	57
	7.6.2	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Curved Roofs.	58
	7.6.3	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Multiple Folded Plate, Sawtooth, and Barrel Vault Roofs.	59
	7.6.4	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Dome Roofs.	59
	7.7	Drifts on Lower Roofs (Aerodynamic Shade).	59
	7.7.1	Lower Roof of a Structure.	59
	7.7.2	Adjacent Structures.	59
	7.7.3	Intersecting Drifts at Low Roofs.	60
	7.8	Roof Projections and Parapets.	61
	7.9	Sliding Snow.	61
	7.10	Rain-On-Snow Surcharge Load	62
	7.11	Ponding Instability	62
	7.12	Existing Roofs	62

7.13	Snow on Open-Frame Equipment Structures	63
7.13.1	Snow at Top Level.	63
7.13.2	Snow at Levels below the Top Level.. . . .	63
7.13.3	Snow Loads on Pipes and Cable Trays.. . . .	64
7.13.4	Snow Loads on Equipment and Equipment Platforms.	64
7.14	Consensus Standards and other Referenced Documents	64
8	RAIN LOADS	65
8.1	Definitions and Symbols.	65
8.1.1	Definitions	65
8.1.2	Symbols	65
8.2	Roof Drainage	65
8.3	Design Rain Loads.	65
8.4	Ponding Instability and Ponding Load	65
8.5	Controlled Drainage	65
8.6	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	65
9	RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROVISIONS.	67
10	ICE LOADS—ATMOSPHERIC ICING	69
10.1	General	69
10.1.1	Site-Specific Studies.. . . .	69
10.1.2	Dynamic Loads.	69
10.1.3	Exclusions.	69
10.2	Definitions	69
10.3	Symbols	69
10.4	Ice Loads Caused by Freezing Rain.	70
10.4.1	Ice Weight.	70
10.4.2	Nominal Ice Thickness.	70
10.4.3	Height Factor.	70
10.4.4	Importance Factors.	70
10.4.5	Topographic Factor.	70
10.4.6	Design Ice Thickness for Freezing Rain.	71
10.5	Wind on Ice-Covered Structures.	71
10.5.1	Wind on Ice-Covered Chimneys, Tanks, and Similar Structures.	71
10.5.2	Wind on Ice-Covered Solid Freestanding Walls and Solid Signs.	71
10.5.3	Wind on Ice-Covered Open Signs and Lattice Frameworks.	71
10.5.4	Wind on Ice-Covered Trussed Towers.	71
10.5.5	Wind on Ice-Covered Guys and Cables.	71
10.6	Design Temperatures for Freezing Rain.	71
10.7	Partial Loading.	71
10.8	Design Procedure.	71
10.9	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	71
11	SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA	77
11.1	General	77
11.1.1	Purpose.	77
11.1.2	Scope.	77
11.1.3	Applicability.	77
11.1.4	Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.	77
11.1.5	Quality Assurance.	77
11.2	Definitions	77
11.3	Symbols	81
11.4	Seismic Ground Motion Values	83
11.4.1	Near-Fault Sites.	83
11.4.2	Mapped Acceleration Parameters.	83
11.4.3	Site Class.	84
11.4.4	Site Coefficients and Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE _R) Spectral Response Acceleration Parameters.	84
11.4.5	Design Spectral Acceleration Parameters.	84
11.4.6	Design Response Spectrum.	84
11.4.7	Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE _R) Response Spectrum.	85

	11.4.8	Site-Specific Ground Motion Procedures	85
11.5		Importance Factor and Risk Category	85
	11.5.1	Importance Factor	85
	11.5.2	Protected Access for Risk Category IV.. . . .	85
11.6		Seismic Design Category	85
11.7		Design Requirements for Seismic Design Category A	86
11.8		Geologic Hazards and Geotechnical Investigation	86
	11.8.1	Site Limitation for Seismic Design Categories E and F.	86
	11.8.2	Geotechnical Investigation Report Requirements for Seismic Design Categories C through F.	86
	11.8.3	Additional Geotechnical Investigation Report Requirements for Seismic Design Categories D through F.. . . .	86
11.9		Vertical Ground Motions For Seismic Design	87
	11.9.1	General.. . . .	87
	11.9.2	MCE_R Vertical Response Spectrum.	87
	11.9.3	Design Vertical Response Spectrum.	87
11.10		Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	87
12		SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING STRUCTURES	89
12.1		Structural Design Basis	89
	12.1.1	Basic Requirements	89
	12.1.2	Member Design, Connection Design, and Deformation Limit	89
	12.1.3	Continuous Load Path and Interconnection	89
	12.1.4	Connection to Supports	89
	12.1.5	Foundation Design.	89
	12.1.6	Material Design and Detailing Requirements	89
12.2		Structural System Selection	89
	12.2.1	Selection and Limitations	89
	12.2.1.1	Alternative Structural Systems.	93
	12.2.1.2	Elements of Seismic Force-Resisting Systems	93
	12.2.2	Combinations of Framing Systems in Different Directions.	93
	12.2.3	Combinations of Framing Systems in the Same Direction	93
	12.2.3.1	R , C_d , and Ω_0 Values for Vertical Combinations.	93
	12.2.3.2	Two-Stage Analysis Procedure	93
	12.2.3.3	R , C_d , and Ω_0 Values for Horizontal Combinations	94
	12.2.4	Combination Framing Detailing Requirements	94
	12.2.5	System-Specific Requirements.	94
	12.2.5.1	Dual System	94
	12.2.5.2	Cantilever Column Systems	94
	12.2.5.3	Inverted Pendulum-Type Structures	94
	12.2.5.4	Increased Structural Height Limit for Steel Eccentrically Braced Frames, Steel Special Concentrically Braced Frames, Steel Buckling-Restrained Braced Frames, Steel Special Plate Shear Walls, and Special Reinforced Concrete Shear Walls.	94
	12.2.5.5	Special Moment Frames in Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories D through F	94
	12.2.5.6	Steel Ordinary Moment Frames	94
	12.2.5.7	Steel Intermediate Moment Frames	95
	12.2.5.8	Shear Wall–Frame Interactive Systems	96
12.3		Diaphragm Flexibility, Configuration Irregularities, and Redundancy	96
	12.3.1	Diaphragm Flexibility	96
	12.3.1.1	Flexible Diaphragm Condition.	96
	12.3.1.2	Rigid Diaphragm Condition	96
	12.3.1.3	Calculated Flexible Diaphragm Condition.	96
	12.3.2	Irregular and Regular Classification	96
	12.3.2.1	Horizontal Irregularity	96
	12.3.2.2	Vertical Irregularity	96
	12.3.3	Limitations and Additional Requirements for Systems with Structural Irregularities	97
	12.3.3.1	Prohibited Horizontal and Vertical Irregularities for Seismic Design Categories D through F	97
	12.3.3.2	Extreme Weak Stories	97
	12.3.3.3	Elements Supporting Discontinuous Walls or Frames	97
	12.3.3.4	Increase in Forces Caused by Irregularities for Seismic Design Categories D through F	97

12.3.4	Redundancy	98
12.3.4.1	Conditions Where Value of α is 1.0.	98
12.3.4.2	Redundancy Factor, α , for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	98
12.4	Seismic Load Effects and Combinations	98
12.4.1	Applicability	98
12.4.2	Seismic Load Effect	98
12.4.2.1	Horizontal Seismic Load Effect	99
12.4.2.2	Vertical Seismic Load Effect	99
12.4.3	Seismic Load Effects Including Overstrength.	99
12.4.3.1	Horizontal Seismic Load Effect Including Overstrength	99
12.4.3.2	Capacity-Limited Horizontal Seismic Load Effect	99
12.4.4	Minimum Upward Force for Horizontal Cantilevers for Seismic Design Categories D through F	99
12.5	Direction of Loading.	99
12.5.1	Direction of Loading Criteria	99
12.5.2	Seismic Design Category B	99
12.5.3	Seismic Design Category C	100
12.5.3.1	Structures with Nonparallel System Irregularities.	100
12.5.4	Seismic Design Categories D through F	100
12.6	Analysis Procedure Selection	100
12.7	Modeling Criteria	100
12.7.1	Foundation Modeling	100
12.7.2	Effective Seismic Weight	100
12.7.3	Structural Modeling	101
12.7.4	Interaction Effects	101
12.8	Equivalent Lateral Force (ELF) Procedure	101
12.8.1	Seismic Base Shear	101
12.8.1.1	Calculation of Seismic Response Coefficient	101
12.8.1.2	Soil–Structure Interaction Reduction	101
12.8.1.3	Maximum S_{DS} Value in Determination of C_s and E_v	101
12.8.2	Period Determination.	102
12.8.2.1	Approximate Fundamental Period	102
12.8.3	Vertical Distribution of Seismic Forces	102
12.8.4	Horizontal Distribution of Forces	102
12.8.4.1	Inherent Torsion	103
12.8.4.2	Accidental Torsion.	103
12.8.4.3	Amplification of Accidental Torsional Moment.	103
12.8.5	Overturning.	103
12.8.6	Story Drift Determination	103
12.8.6.1	Minimum Base Shear for Computing Drift	104
12.8.6.2	Period for Computing Drift	104
12.8.7	P-Delta Effects	104
12.9	Linear Dynamic Analysis	104
12.9.1	Modal Response Spectrum Analysis	104
12.9.1.1	Number of Modes	104
12.9.1.2	Modal Response Parameters.	104
12.9.1.3	Combined Response Parameters.	104
12.9.1.4	Scaling Design Values of Combined Response.	104
12.9.1.5	Horizontal Shear Distribution	105
12.9.1.6	P-Delta Effects	105
12.9.1.7	Soil–Structure Interaction Reduction	105
12.9.1.8	Structural Modeling	105
12.9.2	Linear Response History Analysis.	105
12.9.2.1	General Requirements	105
12.9.2.2	General Modeling Requirements.	105
12.9.2.3	Ground Motion Selection and Modification.	105
12.9.2.4	Application of Ground Acceleration Histories	105
12.9.2.5	Modification of Response for Design	105
12.9.2.6	Enveloping of Force Response Quantities.	106
12.9.2.7	Enveloping of Displacement Response Quantities	106
12.10	Diaphragms, Chords, and Collectors	106
12.10.1	Diaphragm Design	106
12.10.1.1	Diaphragm Design Forces	106

12.10.2	Collector Elements	106
12.10.2.1	Collector Elements Requiring Load Combinations Including Overstrength for Seismic Design Categories C through F.	106
12.10.3	Alternative Design Provisions for Diaphragms, Including Chords and Collectors.	107
12.10.3.1	Design	107
12.10.3.2	Seismic Design Forces for Diaphragms, Including Chords and Collectors.	107
12.10.3.3	Transfer Forces in Diaphragms	108
12.10.3.4	Collectors—Seismic Design Categories C through F.	108
12.10.3.5	Diaphragm Design Force Reduction Factor.	108
12.11	Structural Walls and Their Anchorage	108
12.11.1	Design for Out-of-Plane Forces	108
12.11.2	Anchorage of Structural Walls and Transfer of Design Forces into Diaphragms or Other Supporting Structural Elements	108
12.11.2.1	Wall Anchorage Forces	108
12.11.2.2	Additional Requirements for Anchorage of Concrete or Masonry Structural Walls to Diaphragms in Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories C through F	109
12.12	Drift and Deformation	109
12.12.1	Story Drift Limit.	109
12.12.1.1	Moment Frames in Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories D through F	109
12.12.2	Diaphragm Deflection	109
12.12.3	Structural Separation.	109
12.12.4	Members Spanning between Structures	110
12.12.5	Deformation Compatibility for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	110
12.13	Foundation Design	110
12.13.1	Design Basis	110
12.13.2	Materials of Construction	110
12.13.3	Foundation Load-Deformation Characteristics	110
12.13.4	Reduction of Foundation Overturning.	110
12.13.5	Strength Design for Foundation Geotechnical Capacity	110
12.13.5.1	Nominal Strength.	110
12.13.5.2	Resistance Factors	111
12.13.5.3	Acceptance Criteria	111
12.13.6	Allowable Stress Design for Foundation Geotechnical Capacity.	111
12.13.7	Requirements for Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Category C.	111
12.13.7.1	Pole-Type Structures	111
12.13.7.2	Foundation Ties	111
12.13.7.3	Pile Anchorage Requirements	111
12.13.8	Requirements for Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories D through F.	111
12.13.8.1	Pole-Type Structures	111
12.13.8.2	Foundation Ties	111
12.13.8.3	General Pile Design Requirement	112
12.13.8.4	Batter Piles	112
12.13.8.5	Pile Anchorage Requirements	112
12.13.8.6	Splices of Pile Segments.	112
12.13.8.7	Pile–Soil Interaction	112
12.13.8.8	Pile Group Effects	112
12.13.9	Requirements for Foundations on Liquefiable Sites	112
12.13.9.1	Foundation Design.	112
12.13.9.2	Shallow Foundations.	112
12.13.9.3	Deep Foundations	113
12.14	Simplified Alternative Structural Design Criteria for Simple Bearing Wall or Building Frame Systems	114
12.14.1	General	114
12.14.1.1	Simplified Design Procedure.	114
12.14.1.2	Reference Documents	114
12.14.1.3	Definitions	114
12.14.1.4	Notation	114
12.14.2	Design Basis	116
12.14.3	Seismic Load Effects.	116
12.14.3.1	Seismic Load Effect	116
12.14.3.2	Seismic Load Effect Including Overstrength	116
12.14.4	Seismic Force-Resisting System.	117
12.14.4.1	Selection and Limitations	117

	12.14.4.2	Combinations of Framing Systems	117
12.14.5		Diaphragm Flexibility	117
12.14.6		Application of Loading	117
12.14.7		Design and Detailing Requirements	117
	12.14.7.1	Connections	117
	12.14.7.2	Openings or Reentrant Building Corners	118
	12.14.7.3	Collector Elements	118
	12.14.7.4	Diaphragms.	118
	12.14.7.5	Anchorage of Structural Walls.	118
	12.14.7.6	Bearing Walls and Shear Walls	118
	12.14.7.7	Anchorage of Nonstructural Systems	118
12.14.8		Simplified Lateral Force Analysis Procedure	118
	12.14.8.1	Seismic Base Shear	118
	12.14.8.2	Vertical Distribution	119
	12.14.8.3	Horizontal Shear Distribution	119
	12.14.8.4	Overtuning.	119
	12.14.8.5	Drift Limits and Building Separation	119
12.15		Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	119
13		SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONSTRUCTURAL COMPONENTS.	121
13.1		General	121
	13.1.1	Scope.	121
	13.1.2	Seismic Design Category.	121
	13.1.3	Component Importance Factor.	121
	13.1.4	Exemptions.	121
	13.1.5	Premanufactured Modular Mechanical and Electrical Systems.	121
	13.1.6	Application of Nonstructural Component Requirements to Nonbuilding Structures.	121
	13.1.7	Reference Documents.	121
	13.1.8	Reference Documents Using Allowable Stress Design.	122
13.2		General Design Requirements	122
	13.2.1	Applicable Requirements for Architectural, Mechanical, and Electrical Components, Supports, and Attachments.	122
	13.2.2	Special Certification Requirements for Designated Seismic Systems.	122
	13.2.3	Consequential Damage.	122
	13.2.3.1	Clearances between Equipment, Distribution Systems, Supports, and Sprinkler System Drops and Sprigs.	122
	13.2.4	Flexibility.	122
	13.2.5	Testing Alternative for Seismic Capacity Determination.	122
	13.2.6	Experience Data Alternative for Seismic Capacity Determination.	123
	13.2.7	Construction Documents.	123
13.3		Seismic Demands on Nonstructural Components	123
	13.3.1	Seismic Design Force	123
	13.3.1.1	Horizontal Force.	123
	13.3.1.2	Vertical Force.	123
	13.3.1.3	Nonseismic Loads.	123
	13.3.1.4	Dynamic Analysis.	123
	13.3.2	Seismic Relative Displacements.	124
	13.3.2.1	Displacements within Structures.	124
	13.3.2.2	Displacements between Structures.	124
	13.3.3	Component Period.	124
13.4		Nonstructural Component Anchorage	125
	13.4.1	Design Force in the Attachment.	125
	13.4.2	Anchors in Concrete or Masonry	125
	13.4.2.1	Anchors in Concrete.	125
	13.4.2.2	Anchors in Masonry.	125
	13.4.2.3	Post-Installed Anchors in Concrete and Masonry.	125
	13.4.3	Installation Conditions.	125
	13.4.4	Multiple Attachments.	125
	13.4.5	Power-Actuated Fasteners.	125
	13.4.6	Friction Clips.	125
13.5		Architectural Components	125
	13.5.1	General.	125
	13.5.2	Forces and Displacements.	125
	13.5.3	Exterior Nonstructural Wall Elements and Connections.	125

13.5.4	Glass.	126
13.5.5	Out-of-Plane Bending.	126
13.5.6	Suspended Ceilings.	127
13.5.6.1	Seismic Forces.	127
13.5.6.2	Industry Standard Construction for Acoustical Tile or Lay-In Panel Ceilings.	127
13.5.6.3	Integral Construction.	127
13.5.7	Access Floors	127
13.5.7.1	General.	127
13.5.7.2	Special Access Floors.	127
13.5.8	Partitions	128
13.5.8.1	General.	128
13.5.8.2	Glass.	128
13.5.9	Glass in Glazed Curtain Walls, Glazed Storefronts, and Glazed Partitions	128
13.5.9.1	General.	128
13.5.9.2	Seismic Drift Limits for Glass Components.	128
13.5.10	Egress Stairs and Ramps.	128
13.6	Mechanical and Electrical Components	129
13.6.1	General.	129
13.6.2	Mechanical Components.	130
13.6.2.1	HVACR Equipment.	130
13.6.3	Electrical Components.	130
13.6.4	Component Supports.	130
13.6.4.1	Design Basis.	130
13.6.4.2	Design for Relative Displacement.	130
13.6.4.3	Support Attachment to Component.	130
13.6.4.4	Material Detailing Requirements.	130
13.6.4.5	Additional Requirements.	131
13.6.5	Distribution Systems: Conduit, Cable Tray, and Raceways.	131
13.6.6	Distribution Systems: Duct Systems.	131
13.6.7	Distribution Systems: Piping and Tubing Systems.	132
13.6.7.1	ASME Pressure Piping Systems.	132
13.6.7.2	Fire Protection Sprinkler Piping Systems.	132
13.6.7.3	Exceptions.	132
13.6.8	Distribution Systems: Trapezes with a Combination of Systems.	133
13.6.9	Utility and Service Lines.	133
13.6.10	Boilers and Pressure Vessels.	133
13.6.11	Elevator and Escalator Design Requirements.	133
13.6.11.1	Escalators, Elevators, and Hoistway Structural Systems.	133
13.6.11.2	Elevator Equipment and Controller Supports and Attachments.	133
13.6.11.3	Seismic Controls for Elevators.	133
13.6.11.4	Retainer Plates.	133
13.6.12	Rooftop Solar Panels.	133
13.6.13	Other Mechanical and Electrical Components.	134
13.7	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	134
14	MATERIAL-SPECIFIC SEISMIC DESIGN AND DETAILING REQUIREMENTS	135
14.0	Scope	135
14.1	Steel	135
14.1.1	Reference Documents.	135
14.1.2	Structural Steel	135
14.1.2.1	General.	135
14.1.2.2	Seismic Requirements for Structural Steel Structures.	135
14.1.3	Cold-Formed Steel	135
14.1.3.1	General.	135
14.1.3.2	Seismic Requirements for Cold-Formed Steel Structures.	135
14.1.4	Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction	135
14.1.4.1	General.	135
14.1.4.2	Seismic Requirements for Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction.	135
14.1.4.3	Prescriptive Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction.	135
14.1.5	Cold-Formed Steel Deck Diaphragms.	136
14.1.6	Open Web Steel Joists and Joist Girders.	136
14.1.7	Steel Cables.	136
14.1.8	Additional Detailing Requirements for Steel Piles in Seismic Design Categories D through F.	136

14.2	Concrete	136
14.2.1	Reference Documents.	136
14.2.2	Modifications to ACI 318.	136
14.2.2.1	Definitions.	136
14.2.2.2	ACI 318, Section 10.7.6.	136
14.2.2.3	Scope.	136
14.2.2.4	Intermediate Precast Structural Walls.	136
14.2.2.5	Special Precast Structural Walls.	136
14.2.2.6	Foundations.	136
14.2.2.7	Detailed Plain Concrete Shear Walls.	136
14.2.3	Additional Detailing Requirements for Concrete Piles.	137
14.2.3.1	Concrete Pile Requirements for Seismic Design Category C.	137
14.2.3.2	Concrete Pile Requirements for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	137
14.2.4	Additional Design and Detailing Requirements for Precast Concrete Diaphragms.	139
14.2.4.1	Diaphragm Seismic Demand Levels.	139
14.2.4.2	Diaphragm Design Options.	139
14.2.4.3	Diaphragm Connector or Joint Reinforcement Deformability.	139
14.2.4.4	Precast Concrete Diaphragm Connector and Joint Reinforcement Qualification Procedure.	140
14.3	Composite Steel and Concrete Structures	142
14.3.1	Reference Documents.	142
14.3.2	General.	142
14.3.3	Seismic Requirements for Composite Steel and Concrete Structures.	142
14.3.4	Metal-Cased Concrete Piles.	142
14.4	Masonry	142
14.4.1	Reference Documents.	142
14.4.2	<i>R</i> Factors.	142
14.4.3	Modifications to Chapter 7 of TMS 402	142
14.4.3.1	Separation Joints.	142
14.4.4	Modifications to Chapter 6 of TMS 402	142
14.4.4.1	Reinforcement Requirements and Details	142
14.4.5	Modifications to Chapter 9 of TMS 402	143
14.4.5.1	Anchoring to Masonry.	143
14.4.5.2	Coupling Beams.	143
14.4.5.3	Walls with Factored Axial Stress Greater Than $0.05 f'_m$	143
14.4.5.4	Shear Keys.	143
14.4.6	Modifications to Chapter 12 of TMS 402.	143
14.4.6.1	Corrugated Sheet Metal Anchors.	143
14.4.7	Modifications to TMS 602.	143
14.4.7.1	Construction Procedures.	143
14.5	Wood	143
14.5.1	Reference Documents.	143
14.6	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	143
15	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONBUILDING STRUCTURES	145
15.1	General	145
15.1.1	Nonbuilding Structures.	145
15.1.2	Design.	145
15.1.3	Structural Analysis Procedure Selection.	145
15.1.4	Nonbuilding Structures Sensitive to Vertical Ground Motions.	145
15.1.4.1	Direction of Loading Criteria for Nonbuilding Structures Sensitive to Vertical Ground Motions.	146
15.2	This section intentionally left blank; see section 15.8	146
15.3	Nonbuilding Structures Supported by Other Structures.	146
15.3.1	Less Than 25% Combined Weight Condition.	146
15.3.2	Greater Than or Equal to 25% Combined Weight Condition.	146
15.3.3	Architectural, Mechanical, and Electrical Components.	146
15.4	Structural Design Requirements	146
15.4.1	Design Basis.	146
15.4.1.1	Importance Factor.	149
15.4.2	Rigid Nonbuilding Structures.	149
15.4.3	Loads.	149
15.4.4	Fundamental Period.	149
15.4.5	Drift Limit.	150

15.4.6	Materials Requirements.	150
15.4.7	Drift, Deflection, and Structure Separation.	150
15.4.8	Site-Specific Response Spectra.	150
15.4.9	Anchors in Concrete or Masonry	150
	15.4.9.1 Anchors in Concrete.	150
	15.4.9.2 Anchors in Masonry.	150
	15.4.9.3 Post-installed Anchors in Concrete and Masonry.	150
	15.4.9.4 ASTM F1554 Anchors.	150
15.4.10	Requirements for Nonbuilding Structure Foundations on Liquefiable Sites.	150
	15.4.10.1 Nonbuilding Structures on Shallow Foundations.	150
15.5	Nonbuilding Structures Similar to Buildings	150
15.5.1	General.	150
15.5.2	Pipe Racks	150
	15.5.2.1 Design Basis.	150
15.5.3	Storage Racks.	150
	15.5.3.1 Steel Storage Racks.	150
	15.5.3.2 Steel Cantilevered Storage Racks.	151
	15.5.3.2 Steel Cantilevered Storage Racks.	151
	15.5.3.3 Alternative.	151
	15.5.3.3 Alternative.	151
15.5.4	Electrical Power-Generating Facilities.	151
	15.5.4.1 General.	151
	15.5.4.2 Design Basis.	151
15.5.5	Structural Towers for Tanks and Vessels	151
	15.5.5.1 General.	151
15.5.6	Piers and Wharves	152
	15.5.6.1 General.	152
	15.5.6.2 Design Basis.	152
15.6	General Requirements for Nonbuilding Structures Not Similar to Buildings	152
15.6.1	Earth-Retaining Structures.	152
15.6.2	Chimneys and Stacks.	152
	15.6.2.1 General.	152
	15.6.2.2 Concrete Chimneys and Stacks.	152
	15.6.2.3 Steel Chimneys and Stacks.	152
15.6.3	Amusement Structures.	152
15.6.4	Special Hydraulic Structures.	153
	15.6.4.1 Design Basis.	153
15.6.5	Secondary Containment Systems.	153
	15.6.5.1 Freeboard.	153
15.6.6	Telecommunication Towers.	153
15.6.7	Steel Tubular Support Structures for Onshore Wind Turbine Generator Systems.	153
15.6.8	Ground-Supported Cantilever Walls or Fences	153
	15.6.8.1 General.	153
	15.6.8.2 Design Basis.	153
15.7	Tanks and Vessels	153
15.7.1	General.	153
15.7.2	Design Basis.	153
15.7.3	Strength and Ductility.	154
15.7.4	Flexibility of Piping Attachments.	154
15.7.5	Anchorage.	155
15.7.6	Ground-Supported Storage Tanks for Liquids	155
	15.7.6.1 General.	155
15.7.7	Water Storage and Water Treatment Tanks and Vessels	158
	15.7.7.1 Welded Steel.	158
	15.7.7.2 Bolted Steel.	158
	15.7.7.3 Reinforced and Prestressed Concrete.	158
15.7.8	Petrochemical and Industrial Tanks and Vessels Storing Liquids	158
	15.7.8.1 Welded Steel.	158
	15.7.8.2 Bolted Steel.	158
	15.7.8.3 Reinforced and Prestressed Concrete.	158
15.7.9	Ground-Supported Storage Tanks for Granular Materials	158
	15.7.9.1 General.	158
	15.7.9.2 Lateral Force Determination.	158
	15.7.9.3 Force Distribution to Shell and Foundation.	158
	15.7.9.4 Welded Steel Structures.	158

	15.7.9.5	Bolted Steel Structures.	158
	15.7.9.6	Reinforced Concrete Structures.	158
	15.7.9.7	Prestressed Concrete Structures.	158
15.7.10		Elevated Tanks and Vessels for Liquids and Granular Materials.	159
	15.7.10.1	General.	159
	15.7.10.2	Effective Mass.	159
	15.7.10.3	P-Delta Effects.	159
	15.7.10.4	Transfer of Lateral Forces into Support Tower.	159
	15.7.10.5	Evaluation of Structures Sensitive to Buckling Failure.	159
	15.7.10.6	Welded Steel Water Storage Structures.	159
	15.7.10.7	Concrete Pedestal (Composite) Tanks.	159
15.7.11		Boilers and Pressure Vessels	159
	15.7.11.1	General.	159
	15.7.11.2	ASME Boilers and Pressure Vessels.	159
	15.7.11.3	Attachments of Internal Equipment and Refractory.	159
	15.7.11.4	Coupling of Vessel and Support Structure.	160
	15.7.11.5	Effective Mass.	160
	15.7.11.6	Other Boilers and Pressure Vessels.	160
	15.7.11.7	Supports and Attachments for Boilers and Pressure Vessels.	160
15.7.12		Liquid and Gas Spheres	160
	15.7.12.1	General.	160
	15.7.12.2	ASME Spheres.	160
	15.7.12.3	Attachments of Internal Equipment and Refractory.	160
	15.7.12.4	Effective Mass.	160
	15.7.12.5	Post- and Rod-Supported Spheres.	160
	15.7.12.6	Skirt-Supported Spheres.	160
15.7.13		Refrigerated Gas Liquid Storage Tanks and Vessels	160
	15.7.13.1	General.	160
15.7.14		Horizontal, Saddle-Supported Vessels for Liquid or Vapor Storage	161
	15.7.14.1	General.	161
	15.7.14.2	Effective Mass.	161
	15.7.14.3	Vessel Design.	161
15.8		Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	161
16		NONLINEAR RESPONSE HISTORY ANALYSIS	163
16.1		General Requirements	163
	16.1.1	Scope.	163
	16.1.2	Linear Analysis.	163
	16.1.3	Vertical Response Analysis.	163
	16.1.4	Documentation.	163
16.2		Ground Motions	163
	16.2.1	Target Response Spectrum.	163
	16.2.1.1	Method 1.	164
	16.2.1.2	Method 2.	164
	16.2.2	Ground Motion Selection.	164
	16.2.3	Ground Motion Modification.	164
	16.2.3.1	Period Range for Scaling or Matching.	164
	16.2.3.2	Amplitude Scaling.	164
	16.2.3.3	Spectral Matching.	164
	16.2.4	Application of Ground Motions to the Structural Model.	164
16.3		Modeling and Analysis	164
	16.3.1	Modeling.	164
	16.3.2	Gravity Load.	165
	16.3.3	P-Delta Effects.	165
	16.3.4	Torsion.	165
	16.3.5	Damping.	165
	16.3.6	Explicit Foundation Modeling.	165
16.4		Analysis Results and Acceptance Criteria	165
	16.4.1	Global Acceptance Criteria	165
	16.4.1.1	Unacceptable Response.	165
	16.4.1.2	Story Drift.	165
	16.4.2	Element-Level Acceptance Criteria.	165
	16.4.2.1	Force-Controlled Actions.	165
	16.4.2.2	Deformation-Controlled Actions.	166

	16.4.2.3	Elements of the Gravity Force-Resisting System..	166
16.5		Design Review	166
	16.5.1	Reviewer Qualifications..	166
	16.5.2	Review Scope.	166
16.6		Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	166
17		SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR SEISMICALLY ISOLATED STRUCTURES	167
17.1		General	167
	17.1.1	Definitions..	167
	17.1.2	Symbols.	167
17.2		General Design Requirements	168
	17.2.1	Importance Factor.	168
	17.2.2	Configuration.	168
	17.2.3	Redundancy.	168
	17.2.4	Isolation System	168
	17.2.4.1	Environmental Conditions..	168
	17.2.4.2	Wind Forces.	168
	17.2.4.3	Fire Resistance..	168
	17.2.4.4	Lateral Restoring Force.	169
	17.2.4.5	Displacement Restraint.	169
	17.2.4.6	Vertical-Load Stability.	169
	17.2.4.7	Overturning.	169
	17.2.4.8	Inspection and Replacement..	169
	17.2.4.9	Quality Control.	169
	17.2.5	Structural System.	169
	17.2.5.1	Horizontal Distribution of Force.	169
	17.2.5.2	Minimum Building Separations..	169
	17.2.5.3	Nonbuilding Structures.	169
	17.2.5.4	Steel Ordinary Concentrically Braced Frames.	169
	17.2.5.5	Isolation System Connections..	169
	17.2.6	Elements of Structures and Nonstructural Components.	169
	17.2.6.1	Components at or above the Isolation Interface.	169
	17.2.6.2	Components Crossing the Isolation Interface..	170
	17.2.6.3	Components below the Isolation Interface.	170
	17.2.7	Seismic Load Effects and Load Combinations.	170
	17.2.7.1	Isolator Unit Vertical Load Combinations.	170
	17.2.8	Isolation System Properties	170
	17.2.8.1	Isolation System Component Types.	170
	17.2.8.2	Isolator Unit Nominal Properties.	170
	17.2.8.3	Bounding Properties of Isolation System Components..	170
	17.2.8.4	Property Modification Factors..	170
	17.2.8.5	Upper Bound and Lower Bound Force-Deflection Behavior of Isolation System Components..	171
	17.2.8.6	Isolation System Properties at Maximum Displacements.	171
	17.2.8.7	Upper Bound and Lower Bound Isolation System Properties at Maximum Displacement.	171
17.3		Seismic Ground Motion Criteria.	171
	17.3.1	Site-Specific Seismic Hazard.	171
	17.3.2	MCE _R Response Spectra and Spectral Response Acceleration Parameters, S_{MS} , S_{M1}	171
	17.3.3	MCE _R Ground Motion Records.	171
17.4		Analysis Procedure Selection	172
	17.4.1	Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure..	172
	17.4.2	Dynamic Procedures..	172
	17.4.2.1	Response Spectrum Analysis Procedure.	172
	17.4.2.2	Response History Analysis Procedure.	172
17.5		Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure	172
	17.5.1	General..	172
	17.5.2	Deformation Characteristics of the Isolation System..	172
	17.5.3	Minimum Lateral Displacements Required for Design	172
	17.5.3.1	Maximum Displacement..	172
	17.5.3.2	Effective Period at the Maximum Displacement.	173
	17.5.3.3	Total Maximum Displacement.	173

17.5.4	Minimum Lateral Forces Required for Design	173
17.5.4.1	Isolation System and Structural Elements below the Base Level.	173
17.5.4.2	Structural Elements above the Base Level.	174
17.5.4.3	Limits on V_s	174
17.5.5	Vertical Distribution of Force.	174
17.5.6	Drift Limits.	174
17.6	Dynamic Analysis Procedures	175
17.6.1	General.	175
17.6.2	Modeling.	175
17.6.2.1	Isolation System.	175
17.6.2.2	Isolated Structure.	175
17.6.3	Description of Procedures	175
17.6.3.1	General.	175
17.6.3.2	MCE_R Ground Motions.	175
17.6.3.3	Response Spectrum Analysis Procedure.	175
17.6.3.4	Response History Analysis Procedure.	175
17.6.4	Minimum Lateral Displacements and Forces	175
17.6.4.1	Isolation System and Structural Elements below the Base Level.	175
17.6.4.2	Structural Elements above the Base Level.	176
17.6.4.3	Scaling of Results.	176
17.6.4.4	Drift Limits.	176
17.7	Design Review	176
17.8	Testing	176
17.8.1	General.	176
17.8.1.1	Qualification Tests.	176
17.8.2	Prototype Tests.	176
17.8.2.1	Record.	176
17.8.2.2	Sequence and Cycles.	176
17.8.2.3	Dynamic Testing.	177
17.8.2.4	Units Dependent on Bilateral Load.	177
17.8.2.5	Maximum and Minimum Vertical Load.	177
17.8.2.6	Sacrificial Wind-Restraint Systems.	177
17.8.2.7	Testing Similar Units.	177
17.8.3	Determination of Force-Deflection Characteristics.	178
17.8.4	Test Specimen Adequacy.	178
17.8.5	Production Tests.	178
17.9	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	179
18	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURES WITH DAMPING SYSTEMS	181
18.1	General	181
18.1.1	Scope.	181
18.1.2	Definitions.	181
18.1.3	Symbols.	181
18.2	General Design Requirements	183
18.2.1	System Requirements.	183
18.2.1.1	Seismic Force-Resisting System.	183
18.2.1.2	Damping System.	184
18.2.2	Seismic Ground Motion Criteria.	184
18.2.2.1	Design Earthquake and MCR_R Response Spectra.	184
18.2.2.2	Design Earthquake and MCE_R Ground Motion Records.	184
18.2.3	Procedure Selection.	184
18.2.3.1	Response Spectrum Procedure.	184
18.2.3.2	Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure.	184
18.2.4	Damping System.	185
18.2.4.1	Device Design.	185
18.2.4.2	Multiaxis Movement.	185
18.2.4.3	Inspection and Periodic Testing.	185
18.2.4.4	Nominal Design Properties.	185
18.2.4.5	Maximum and Minimum Damper Properties.	185
18.2.4.6	Damping System Redundancy.	185
18.3	Nonlinear Response History Procedure	186
18.3.1	Damping Device Modeling.	186
18.3.2	Accidental Mass Eccentricity.	186

18.3.3	Response Parameters.	186
18.4	Seismic Load Conditions and Acceptance Criteria for Nonlinear Response History Procedure.	186
18.4.1	Seismic Force-Resisting System.	186
18.4.2	Damping System.	186
18.4.3	Combination of Load Effects.	186
18.4.4	Acceptance Criteria for the Response Parameters of Interest.	187
18.5	Design Review	187
18.6	Testing	187
18.6.1	Prototype Tests.	187
18.6.1.1	Data Recording.	187
18.6.1.2	Sequence and Cycles of Testing.	187
18.6.1.3	Testing Similar Devices.	188
18.6.1.4	Determination of Force-Velocity-Displacement Characteristics.	188
18.6.1.5	Device Adequacy.	188
18.6.2	Production Tests.	189
18.7	Alternate Procedures and Corresponding Acceptance Criteria	189
18.7.1	Response Spectrum Procedure.	189
18.7.1.1	Modeling.	189
18.7.1.2	Seismic Force-Resisting System	189
18.7.1.3	Damping System.	190
18.7.2	Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure.	191
18.7.2.1	Modeling.	191
18.7.2.2	Seismic Force-Resisting System	191
18.7.2.3	Damping System.	192
18.7.3	Damped Response Modification.	193
18.7.3.1	Damping Coefficient.	193
18.7.3.2	Effective Damping.	193
18.7.3.3	Effective Ductility Demand.	194
18.7.3.4	Maximum Effective Ductility Demand.	195
18.7.4	Seismic Load Conditions and Acceptance Criteria for RSA and ELF Procedures.	195
18.7.4.1	Seismic Force-Resisting System.	195
18.7.4.2	Damping System.	195
18.7.4.3	Combination of Load Effects.	195
18.7.4.4	Modal Damping System Design Forces.	195
18.7.4.5	Seismic Load Conditions and Combination of Modal Responses.	195
18.7.4.6	Inelastic Response Limits.	196
18.8	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	196
19	SOIL-STRUCTURE INTERACTION FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	197
19.1	General	197
19.1.1	Scope.	197
19.1.2	Definitions.	197
19.1.3	Symbols.	197
19.2	SSI Adjusted Structural Demands	198
19.2.1	Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure.	198
19.2.2	Linear Dynamic Analysis.	198
19.2.2.1	SSI Modified General Design Response Spectrum.	198
19.2.2.2	SSI Site-Specific Response Spectrum.	199
19.2.3	Nonlinear Response History Procedure.	199
19.3	Foundation Damping Effects.	199
19.3.1	Foundation Damping Requirements.	199
19.3.2	Effective Damping Ratio.	199
19.3.3	Radiation Damping for Rectangular Foundations.	199
19.3.4	Radiation Damping for Circular Foundations.	200
19.3.5	Soil Damping.	201
19.4	Kinematic SSI Effects	201
19.4.1	Base Slab Averaging.	201
19.4.2	Embedment.	201
19.5	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	202
20	SITE CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR SEISMIC DESIGN	203
20.1	Site Classification	203
20.2	Site Response Analysis for Site class F Soil	203

20.3	Site Class Definitions	203
20.3.1	Site Class F.	203
20.3.2	Soft Clay Site Class E.	203
20.3.3	Site Classes C, D, and E.	203
20.3.4	Shear Wave Velocity for Site Class B.	203
20.3.5	Shear Wave Velocity for Site Class A.	203
20.4	Definitions of Site Class Parameters.	204
20.4.1	\bar{v}_s , Average Shear Wave Velocity.	204
20.4.2	\bar{N} , Average Field Standard Penetration Resistance and \bar{N}_{ch} , Average Standard Penetration Resistance for Cohesionless Soil Layers.	204
20.4.3	\bar{s}_u , Average Undrained Shear Strength.	204
20.5	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	204
21	SITE-SPECIFIC GROUND MOTION PROCEDURES FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	205
21.1	Site Response Analysis	205
21.1.1	Base Ground Motions.	205
21.1.2	Site Condition Modeling.	205
21.1.3	Site Response Analysis and Computed Results.	205
21.2	Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE_R) Ground Motion Hazard Analysis.	205
21.2.1	Probabilistic (MCE_R) Ground Motions.	205
21.2.1.1	Method 1.	206
21.2.1.2	Method 2.	206
21.2.2	Deterministic (MCE_R) Ground Motions.	206
21.2.3	Site-Specific MCE_R	206
21.3	Design Response Spectrum	206
21.4	Design Acceleration Parameters	206
21.5	Maximum Considered Earthquake Geometric Mean (MCE_G) Peak Ground Acceleration.	206
21.5.1	Probabilistic MCE_G Peak Ground Acceleration.	206
21.5.2	Deterministic MCE_G Peak Ground Acceleration.	207
21.5.3	Site-Specific MCE_G Peak Ground Acceleration.	207
21.6	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	207
22	SEISMIC GROUND MOTION, LONG-PERIOD TRANSITION, AND RISK COEFFICIENT MAPS	209
	References	209
22.1	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	236
23	SEISMIC DESIGN REFERENCE DOCUMENTS	237
23.1	Consensus Standards and Other Reference Documents.	237
24	RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROVISIONS.	241
25	RESERVED FOR FUTURE PROVISIONS.	243
26	WIND LOADS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	245
26.1	Procedures	245
26.1.1	Scope.	245
26.1.2	Permitted Procedures.	245
26.1.2.1	Main Wind Force Resisting System.	245
26.1.2.2	Components and Cladding.	245
26.2	Definitions	245
26.3	Symbols	247
26.4	General	249
26.4.1	Sign Convention.	249
26.4.2	Critical Load Condition.	249
26.4.3	Wind Pressures Acting on Opposite Faces of Each Building Surface.	249
26.5	Wind Hazard Map	249
26.5.1	Basic Wind Speed.	249
26.5.2	Special Wind Regions.	249
26.5.3	Estimation of Basic Wind Speeds from Regional Climatic Data.	249
26.6	Wind Directionality	266
26.7	Exposure	266

26.7.1	Wind Directions and Sectors.	266
26.7.2	Surface Roughness Categories.	266
26.7.3	Exposure Categories.	266
26.7.4	Exposure Requirements.	266
26.7.4.1	Directional Procedure (Chapter 27).	266
26.7.4.2	Envelope Procedure (Chapter 28).	266
26.7.4.3	Directional Procedure for Building Appurtenances and Other Structures (Chapter 29).	266
26.7.4.4	Components and Cladding (Chapter 30).	266
26.8	Topographic Effects	266
26.8.1	Wind Speed-Up over Hills, Ridges, and Escarpments.	266
26.8.2	Topographic Factor.	268
26.9	Ground Elevation Factor.	268
26.10	Velocity Pressure.	268
26.10.1	Velocity Pressure Exposure Coefficient.	268
26.10.2	Velocity Pressure.	268
26.11	Gust Effects	269
26.11.1	Gust-Effect Factor.	269
26.11.2	Frequency Determination.	269
26.11.2.1	Limitations for Approximate Natural Frequency.	269
26.11.3	Approximate Natural Frequency.	269
26.11.4	Rigid Buildings or Other Structures.	269
26.11.5	Flexible or Dynamically Sensitive Buildings or Other Structures.	270
26.11.6	Rational Analysis.	270
26.11.7	Limitations.	270
26.12	Enclosure Classification	270
26.12.1	General.	270
26.12.2	Openings.	270
26.12.3	Protection of Glazed Openings.	270
26.12.3.1	Wind-Borne Debris Regions.	270
26.12.3.2	Protection Requirements for Glazed Openings.	270
26.12.4	Multiple Classifications.	271
26.13	Internal Pressure Coefficients	271
26.13.1	Reduction Factor for Large-Volume Buildings, R_i	271
26.14	Tornado Limitation.	271
26.15	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	271
27	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	273
27.1	Scope	273
27.1.1	Building Types.	273
27.1.2	Conditions.	273
27.1.3	Limitations.	273
27.1.4	Shielding.	273
27.1.5	Minimum Design Wind Loads.	273
Part 1: Enclosed, Partially Enclosed, and Open Buildings of All Heights		273
27.2	General Requirements	273
27.2.1	Wind Load Parameters Specified in Chapter 26.	274
27.3	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	274
27.3.1	Enclosed and Partially Enclosed Rigid and Flexible Buildings.	274
27.3.2	Open Buildings with Monoslope, Pitched, or Troughed Free Roofs.	274
27.3.3	Roof Overhangs.	274
27.3.4	Parapets.	274
27.3.5	Design Wind Load Cases.	274
Part 2: Enclosed Simple Diaphragm Buildings with $h \leq 160$ ft ($x_h \leq 48.8$ m)		284
27.4	General Requirements	284
27.4.1	Design Procedure.	284
27.4.2	Conditions.	284
27.4.3	Wind Load Parameters Specified in Chapter 26.	284
27.4.4	Topographic Effects.	284
27.4.5	Diaphragm Flexibility.	284

27.5	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	284
27.5.1	Wall and Roof Surfaces: Class 1 and 2 Buildings.	284
27.5.2	Parapets.	284
27.5.3	Roof Overhangs.	285
27.6	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	285
28	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (ENVELOPE PROCEDURE)	311
28.1	Scope	311
28.1.1	Building Types.	311
28.1.2	Conditions.	311
28.1.3	Limitations.	311
28.1.4	Shielding.	311
Part 1: Enclosed and Partially Enclosed Low-Rise Buildings.		311
28.2	General Requirements	311
28.2.1	Wind Load Parameters Specified in Chapter 26.	311
28.3	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	311
28.3.1	Design Wind Pressure for Low-Rise Buildings.	311
28.3.1.1	External Pressure Coefficients (GC_{pf}).	314
28.3.2	Parapets.	314
28.3.3	Roof Overhangs.	314
28.3.4	Minimum Design Wind Loads.	314
28.3.5	Horizontal Wind Loads on Open or Partially Enclosed Buildings with Transverse Frames and Pitched Roofs.	314
Part 2: Enclosed Simple Diaphragm Low-Rise Buildings.		315
28.4	General Requirements	315
28.4.1	Wind Load Parameters Specified in Chapter 26.	315
28.5	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	315
28.5.1	Scope.	315
28.5.2	Conditions.	315
28.5.3	Design Wind Loads.	315
28.5.4	Minimum Design Wind Loads.	315
28.6	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	315
29	WIND LOADS ON BUILDING APPURTENANCES AND OTHER STRUCTURES: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	321
29.1	Scope	321
29.1.1	Structure Types.	321
29.1.2	Conditions.	321
29.1.3	Limitations.	321
29.1.4	Shielding.	321
29.2	General Requirements	322
29.2.1	Wind Load Parameters Specified in Chapter 26.	322
29.3	Design Wind Loads: Solid Freestanding Walls and Solid Signs	322
29.3.1	Solid Freestanding Walls and Solid Freestanding Signs.	322
29.3.2	Solid Attached Signs.	322
29.4	Design Wind Loads: Other Structures.	322
29.4.1	Rooftop Structures and Equipment for Buildings.	322
29.4.2	Design Wind Loads: Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks with $h \leq 120$ ft ($h \leq 36.5$ m), $D \leq 120$ ft ($D \leq 36.5$ m), and $0.25 \leq H/D \leq 4$	322
29.4.2.1	External Walls of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	322
29.4.2.2	Roofs of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	327
29.4.2.3	Undersides of Isolated Elevated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	327
29.4.2.4	Roofs and Walls of Grouped Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	327
29.4.3	Rooftop Solar Panels for Buildings of All Heights with Flat Roofs or Gable or Hip Roofs with Slopes Less Than 7°	327
29.4.4	Rooftop Solar Panels Parallel to the Roof Surface on Buildings of All Heights and Roof Slopes.	327
29.5	Parapets.	331
29.6	Roof Overhangs	332
29.7	Minimum Design Wind Loading	332
29.8	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	332

30	WIND LOADS: COMPONENTS AND CLADDING	333
30.1	Scope	333
30.1.1	Building Types.	333
30.1.2	Conditions.	333
30.1.3	Limitations.	333
30.1.4	Shielding.	333
30.1.5	Air-Permeable Cladding.	333
30.2	General Requirements	333
30.2.1	Wind Load Parameters Specified in Chapter 26.	333
30.2.2	Minimum Design Wind Pressures.	333
30.2.3	Tributary Areas Greater than 700 ft ² (65 m ²).	333
30.2.4	External Pressure Coefficients.	333
Part 1: Low-Rise Buildings		334
30.3	Building Types.	334
30.3.1	Conditions.	334
30.3.2	Design Wind Pressures.	334
Part 2: Low-Rise Buildings (Simplified).		334
30.4	Building Types.	334
30.4.1	Conditions.	334
30.4.2	Design Wind Pressures.	334
Part 3: Buildings with $h > 60$ ft ($h > 18.3$ m)		350
30.5	Building Types.	350
30.5.1	Conditions.	350
30.5.2	Design Wind Pressures.	350
Part 4: Buildings with 60 ft $< h \leq 160$ ft (18.3 m $< h \leq 48.8$ m) (Simplified).		364
30.6	Building Types.	364
30.6.1	Wind Load: Components and Cladding.	364
30.6.1.1	Wall and Roof Surfaces.	364
30.6.1.2	Parapets.	364
30.6.1.3	Roof Overhangs.	364
Part 5: Open Buildings.		375
30.7	Building Types.	375
30.7.1	Conditions.	375
30.7.2	Design Wind Pressures.	375
Part 6: Building Appurtenances and Rooftop Structures and Equipment.		375
30.8	Parapets.	375
30.9	Roof Overhangs	380
30.10	Rooftop Structures and Equipment for Buildings.	380
30.11	Attached Canopies on Buildings with $h \leq 60$ ft ($h \leq 18.3$ m)	380
Part 7: Nonbuilding Structures.		380
30.12	Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks with $h \leq 120$ ft ($h \leq 36.6$ m)	381
30.12.1	Design Wind Pressure.	381
30.12.2	External Walls of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	382
30.12.3	Internal Surface of Exterior Walls of Isolated Open-Topped Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	382
30.12.4	Roofs of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	385
30.12.5	Undersides of Isolated Elevated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	385
30.12.6	Roofs and Walls of Grouped Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	385
30.13	Rooftop Solar Panels for Buildings of All Heights with Flat Roofs or Gable or Hip Roofs with Slopes Less than 7°	385
30.14	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	385
31	WIND TUNNEL PROCEDURE.	389
31.1	Scope.	389
31.2	Test Conditions.	389
31.3	Dynamic Response.	389
31.4	Load Effects	389
31.4.1	Mean Recurrence Intervals of Load Effects.	389
31.4.2	Limitations on Wind Speeds.	389
31.4.3	Wind Directionality.	389
31.4.4	Limitations on Loads.	389
31.5	Wind-Borne Debris.	389

31.6	Roof-Mounted Solar Collectors for Roof Slopes Less than 7 Degrees.	389
31.6.1	Wind Tunnel Test Requirements	390
31.6.1.1	Limitations on Wind Loads for Rooftop Solar Collectors.	390
31.6.1.2	Peer Review Requirements for Wind Tunnel Tests of Roof-Mounted Solar Collectors.	390
31.7	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	390
APPENDIX 11A QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (Deleted)		393
APPENDIX 11B EXISTING BUILDING PROVISIONS		393
11B.1	Scope	393
11B.2	Structurally Independent Additions	393
11B.3	Structurally Dependent Additions	393
11B.4	Alterations	393
11B.5	Change of Use	393
APPENDIX C SERVICEABILITY CONSIDERATIONS		395
C.1	Serviceability Considerations	395
C.2	Deflection, Drift, and Vibration	395
C.2.1	Vertical Deflections.	395
C.2.2	Drift of Walls and Frames.	395
C.2.3	Vibrations.	395
C.3	Design for Long-Term Deflection	395
C.4	Camber	395
C.5	Expansion and Contraction	395
C.6	Durability.	395
APPENDIX D BUILDINGS EXEMPTED FROM TORSIONAL WIND LOAD CASES		397
D.1	Scope	397
D.2	One- and Two-Story Buildings Meeting the Following Requirements	397
D.3	Buildings Controlled by Seismic Loading.	397
D.3.1	Buildings with Diaphragms at Each Level That Are Not Flexible.	397
D.3.2	Buildings with Diaphragms at Each Level That Are Flexible.	397
D.4	Buildings Classified as Torsionally Regular under Wind Load.	397
D.5	Buildings with Diaphragms That Are Flexible and Designed for Increased Wind Loading.	397
D.6	Class 1 and Class 2 Simple Diaphragm Buildings $h \leq 160$ ft (48.8 m) Meeting the Following Requirements (Refer to Section 27.5.2).	397
D.6.1	Case A—Class 1 and Class 2 Buildings.	397
D.6.2	Case B—Class 1 and Class 2 Buildings.	397
D.6.3	Case C—Class 1 and Class 2 Buildings.	398
D.6.4	Case D—Class 1 and Class 2 Buildings.	398
D.6.5	Case E—Class 1 and Class 2 Buildings.	399
D.6.6	Case F—Class 1 Buildings.	399
APPENDIX E PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN PROCEDURES FOR FIRE EFFECTS ON STRUCTURES.		401
E.1	Scope	401
E.2	Definitions	401
E.3	General Requirements	401
E.4	Performance Objectives	401
E.4.1	Structural Integrity.	401
E.4.2	Project-Specific Performance Objectives.	401
E.5	Thermal Analysis of Fire Effects	402
E.5.1	Fuel Load.	402
E.5.2	Structural Design Fires.	402
E.5.3	Heat Transfer Analysis.	402
E.6	Structural Analysis of Fire Effects.	402
E.6.1	Temperature History for Structural Members and Connections.	402
E.6.2	Temperature-Dependent Properties.	402
E.6.3	Load Combinations.	402

COMMENTARY TO STANDARD ASCE/SEI 7-16

Commentary contents appear in second book

C1	GENERAL	405
	C1.1 Scope	405
	C1.3 Basic Requirements	405
	C1.3.1 Strength and Stiffness.	405
	C1.3.1.3 Performance-Based Procedures.	405
	C1.3.2 Serviceability.	409
	C1.3.3 Functionality.	409
	C1.3.4 Self-Straining Forces and Effects.	410
	C1.3.7 Fire Resistance.	410
	C1.4 General Structural Integrity	410
	C1.5 Classification of Buildings and Other Structures	412
	C1.5.1 Risk Categorization.	412
	C1.5.3 Toxic, Highly Toxic, and Explosive Substances.	414
	C1.7 Load Tests	415
	References	415
	Other References (Not Cited)	416
C2	COMBINATIONS OF LOADS	417
	C2.1 General	417
	C2.2 Symbols	417
	C2.3 Load Combinations for Strength Design	417
	C2.3.1 Basic Combinations.	417
	C2.3.2 Load Combinations Including Flood Load.	418
	C2.3.3 Load Combinations Including Atmospheric Ice Loads.	418
	C2.3.4 Load Combinations Including Self-Straining Forces and Effects.	419
	C2.3.5 Load Combinations for Nonspecified Loads.	419
	C2.3.6 Basic Combinations with Seismic Load Effects.	420
	C2.4 Load Combinations for Allowable Stress Design	420
	C2.4.1 Basic Combinations.	420
	C2.4.2 Load Combinations Including Flood Load.	421
	C2.4.3 Load Combinations Including Atmospheric Ice Loads.	421
	C2.4.4 Load Combinations Including Self-Straining Forces and Effects.	421
	C2.5 Load Combinations for Extraordinary Events.	421
	References	423
C3	DEAD LOADS, SOIL LOADS, AND HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE.	425
	C3.1 Dead Loads.	425
	C3.1.2 Weights of Materials and Constructions.	425
	C3.1.3 Weight of Fixed Service Equipment.	425
	C3.1.4 Vegetative and Landscaped Roofs.	425
	C3.1.5 Solar Panels.	425
	C3.2 Soil Loads and Hydrostatic Pressure	425
	C3.2.1 Lateral Pressures.	425
	C3.2.2 Uplift Loads on Floors and Foundations.	431
	Reference	431
C4	LIVE LOADS	433
	C4.3 Uniformly Distributed Live Loads.	433
	C4.3.1 Required Live Loads.	433
	C4.3.2 Provision for Partitions.	435
	C4.3.3 Partial Loading.	435
	C4.4 Concentrated Live Loads	435
	C4.5 Loads on Handrail, Guardrail, Grab Bar, and Vehicle Barrier Systems, and on Fixed Ladders.	435
	C4.5.1 Handrail and Guardrail Systems.	435
	C4.5.2 Grab Bar Systems.	435
	C4.5.3 Vehicle Barrier Systems.	435
	C4.5.4 Fixed Ladders.	435

C4.6	Impact Loads	435
	C4.6.4 Elements Supporting Hoists for Façade Access and Building Maintenance Equipment.	435
	C4.6.5 Fall Arrest and Lifeline Anchorages.	436
C4.7	Reduction in Uniform Live Loads.	436
	C4.7.1 General.	436
	C4.7.3 Heavy Live Loads.	437
	C4.7.4 Passenger Vehicle Garages.	437
	C4.7.6 Limitations on One-Way Slabs.	437
C4.8	Reduction in Roof Live Loads	437
	C4.8.2 Ordinary Roofs, Awnings, and Canopies.	437
	C4.8.3 Occupiable Roofs.	437
C4.9	Crane Loads	437
C4.11	Helipad Loads	437
	C4.11.1 General.	437
	C4.11.2 Concentrated Helicopter Loads.	438
C4.13	Library Stack Rooms.	438
C4.14	Seating For Assembly Uses	438
C4.17	Solar Panel Loads	438
	C4.17.1 Roof Loads at Solar Panels.	438
	C4.17.3 Open-Grid Roof Structures Supporting Solar Panels.	438
	References	438
C5	FLOOD LOADS	439
	C5.1 General	439
	C5.2 Definitions	439
	C5.3 Design Requirements.	440
	C5.3.1 Design Loads.	440
	C5.3.2 Erosion and Scour.	440
	C5.3.3 Loads on Breakaway Walls.	440
C5.4	Loads during Flooding	440
	C5.4.1 Load Basis.	440
	C5.4.2 Hydrostatic Loads.	440
	C5.4.3 Hydrodynamic Loads.	440
	C5.4.4 Wave Loads.	441
	C5.4.4.2 Breaking Wave Loads on Vertical Walls.	441
	C5.4.5 Impact Loads.	441
	References	444
C6	TSUNAMI LOADS AND EFFECTS	447
	C6.1 General Requirements	447
	C6.1.1 Scope.	447
	C6.2 Definitions	456
	C6.3 Symbols and Notation	456
	C6.4 Tsunami Risk Categories	457
	C6.5 Analysis of Design Inundation Depth and Flow Velocity	458
	C6.5.3 Sea Level Change.	460
C6.6	Inundation Depths and Flow Velocities Based on Runup	461
	C6.6.1 Maximum Inundation Depth and Flow Velocities Based on Runup.	461
	C6.6.2 Energy Grade Line Analysis of Maximum Inundation Depths and Flow Velocities.	461
	C6.6.3 Terrain Roughness.	462
	C6.6.4 Tsunami Bores.	462
C6.7	Inundation Depths and Flow Velocities Based on Site-Specific Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Analysis	462
	C6.7.1 Tsunami Waveform.	465
	C6.7.2 Tsunamigenic Sources.	466
	C6.7.3 Earthquake Rupture Unit Source Tsunami Functions for Offshore Tsunami Amplitude.	466
	C6.7.4 Treatment of Modeling and Natural Uncertainties.	466
	C6.7.5 Offshore Tsunami Amplitude.	466
	C6.7.5.1 Offshore Tsunami Amplitude for Distant Seismic Sources.	466
	C6.7.5.2 Direct Computation of Probabilistic Inundation and Runup.	466
	C6.7.6 Procedures for Determining Tsunami Inundation and Runup	466
	C6.7.6.1 Representative Design Inundation Parameters.	466
	C6.7.6.2 Seismic Subsidence before Tsunami Arrival.	466

	C6.7.6.3	Model Macroroughness Parameter.	466
	C6.7.6.4	Nonlinear Modeling of Inundation.	466
	C6.7.6.5	Model Spatial Resolution.	467
	C6.7.6.6	Built Environment.	467
	C6.7.6.7	Inundation Model Validation.	467
	C6.7.6.8	Determining Site-Specific Inundation Flow Parameters.	467
	C6.7.6.9	Tsunami Design Parameters for Flow over Land.	467
C6.8	Structural	Design Procedures for Tsunami Effects	467
	C6.8.1	Performance of Tsunami Risk Category II and III Buildings and Other Structures.	468
	C6.8.2	Performance of Tsunami Risk Category III Critical Facilities and Tsunami Risk Category IV Buildings and Other Structures.	468
	C6.8.3	Structural Performance Evaluation.	468
		C6.8.3.1 Load Cases.	468
		C6.8.3.2 Tsunami Importance Factors.	469
		C6.8.3.3 Load Combinations.	469
		C6.8.3.4 Lateral-Force-Resisting System Acceptance Criteria.	469
		C6.8.3.5 Structural Component Acceptance Criteria.	469
	C6.8.4	Minimum Fluid Density for Tsunami Loads.	470
	C6.8.5	Flow Velocity Amplification.	470
		C6.8.5.2 Flow Velocity Amplification by Physical or Numerical Modeling.	471
	C6.8.6	Directionality of Flow	471
		C6.8.6.1 Flow Direction.	471
		C6.8.6.2 Site-Specific Directionality.	471
	C6.8.7	Minimum-Closure-Ratio-for-Load-Determination.	471
	C6.8.8	Minimum-Number-of-Tsunami-Flow-Cycles.	472
	C6.8.9	Seismic Effects on the Foundations Preceding Local Subduction Zone Maximum Considered Tsunami.	472
	C6.8.10	Physical Modeling of Tsunami Flow, Loads, and Effects.	472
C6.9	Hydrostatic	Loads	473
	C6.9.1	Buoyancy.	473
	C6.9.2	Unbalanced Lateral Hydrostatic Force.	473
	C6.9.3	Residual Water Surcharge Load on Floors and Walls.	473
	C6.9.4	Hydrostatic-Surcharge-Pressure-on-Foundation.	473
C6.10	Hydrodynamic	Loads	473
	C6.10.1	Simplified Equivalent Uniform Lateral Static Pressure.	473
		C6.10.2.1 Overall Drag Force on Buildings and Other Structures.	474
		C6.10.2.2 Drag Force on Components.	474
		C6.10.2.3 Tsunami-Loads-on-Vertical-Structural-Components, F_w	474
		C6.10.2.4 Hydrodynamic Load on Perforated Walls, F_{pw}	475
		C6.10.2.5 Walls Angled to the Flow.	475
		C6.10.3.1 Flow Stagnation Pressure.	475
		C6.10.3.2 Hydrodynamic Surge Uplift at Horizontal Slabs	475
		C6.10.3.3 Tsunami Bore Flow Entrapped in Structural Wall-Slab Recesses	475
C6.11	Debris Impact	Loads	477
	C6.11.1	Alternative Simplified Debris Impact Static Load.	477
	C6.11.2	Wood Logs and Poles.	478
	C6.11.3	Impact by Vehicles.	478
	C6.11.4	Impact by Submerged Tumbling Boulder and Concrete Debris.	478
	C6.11.5	Site Hazard Assessment for Shipping Containers, Ships, and Barges.	478
	C6.11.6	Shipping Containers.	479
	C6.11.7	Extraordinary Debris Impacts.	479
	C6.11.8	Alternative Methods of Response Analysis.	479
C6.12	Foundation	Design	480
	C6.12.1	Resistance Factors for Foundation Stability Analyses.	480
	C6.12.2	Load and Effect Characterization.	481
		C6.12.2.1 Uplift and Underseepage Forces.	481
		C6.12.2.2 Loss of Strength.	481
		C6.12.2.3 General Erosion.	482
		C6.12.2.4 Scour.	483
		C6.12.2.6 Displacements.	483
	C6.12.3	Alternative Foundation Performance-Based Design Criteria.	483
	C6.12.4	Foundation Countermeasures	483
		C6.12.4.1 Fill.	483
		C6.12.4.2 Protective Slab on Grade.	483
		C6.12.4.3 Geotextiles and Reinforced Earth Systems.	483

	C6.12.4.4	Facing Systems.	484
	C6.12.4.5	Ground Improvement.	484
C6.13	Structural Countermeasures for Tsunami Loading		484
	C6.13.2	Tsunami Barriers.	484
	C6.13.2.2	Site Layout.	484
C6.14	Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Refuge Structures		484
C6.15	Designated Nonstructural Components and Systems		485
C6.16	Nonbuilding Tsunami Risk Category III and IV Structures		485
	References		485
	Other References (Not Cited)		488
C7	SNOW LOADS		489
	C7.0	Snow Loads	489
	C7.2	Ground Snow Loads, p_g	489
	C7.3	Flat Roof Snow Loads, p_f	493
	C7.3.1	Exposure Factor, C_e	493
	C7.3.2	Thermal Factor, C_t	494
	C7.3.3	Importance Factor, I_s	494
	C7.3.4	Minimum Snow Load for Low-Slope Roofs, p_m	495
	C7.4	Sloped Roof Snow Loads, p_s	495
	C7.4.3	Roof Slope Factor for Curved Roofs.	495
	C7.4.4	Roof Slope Factor for Multiple Folded Plate, Sawtooth, and Barrel Vault Roofs.	495
	C7.4.5	Ice Dams and Icicles along Eaves.	495
	C7.5	Partial Loading.	495
	C7.6	Unbalanced Roof Snow Loads.	496
	C7.6.1	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Hip and Gable Roofs.	496
	C7.6.2	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Curved Roofs.	497
	C7.6.3	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Multiple Folded Plate, Sawtooth, and Barrel Vault Roofs.	497
	C7.6.4	Unbalanced Snow Loads for Dome Roofs.	497
	C7.7	Drifts on Lower Roofs (Aerodynamic Shade).	497
	C7.7.2	Adjacent Structures.	498
	C7.7.3	Intersecting Drifts at Low Roofs.	498
	C7.8	Roof Projections and Parapets	498
	C7.9	Sliding Snow	500
	C7.10	Rain-on-Snow Surcharge Load	500
	C7.11	Ponding Instability	501
	C7.12	Existing Roofs	501
	C7.13	Snow on Open-Frame Equipment Structures	501
	C7.13.3	Snow Loads on Pipes and Cable Trays.	501
	C7.13.2	Snow at Levels below the Top Level.	501
	C7.13.4	Snow Loads on Equipment and Equipment Platforms.	501
	C7.14	Other Roofs and Sites	501
	References		504
	Other References (Not Cited)		505
C8	RAIN LOADS		507
	C8.1	Definitions and Symbols.	507
	C8.2	Roof Drainage	507
	C8.3	Design Rain Loads.	507
	C8.4	Ponding Instability and Ponding Load	512
	C8.5	Controlled Drainage	512
	References		513
C9	RESERVED FOR FUTURE COMMENTARY.		515
C10	ICE LOADS—ATMOSPHERIC ICING		517
	C10.1	General	517
	C10.1.1	Site-Specific Studies.	517
	C10.1.2	Dynamic Loads.	518
	C10.1.3	Exclusions.	518
	C10.2	Definitions	518

C10.4	Ice Loads Caused by Freezing Rain.	519
C10.4.1	Ice Weight.	519
C10.4.2	Nominal Ice Thickness.	519
C10.4.4	Importance Factors.	521
C10.4.6	Design Ice Thickness for Freezing Rain.	521
C10.5	Wind on Ice-Covered Structures.	521
C10.5.5	Wind on Ice-Covered Guys and Cables.	521
C10.6	Design Temperatures for Freezing Rain.	522
C10.7	Partial Loading.	522
References	. . . . .	522
C11	SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA	525
C11.1	General	525
C11.1.1	Purpose.	526
C11.1.2	Scope.	526
C11.1.3	Applicability.	526
C11.1.4	Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.	526
C11.1.5	Quality Assurance.	526
C11.2	Definitions	526
C11.3	Symbols	530
C11.4	Seismic Ground Motion Values	530
C11.4.1	Near-Fault Sites.	531
C11.4.2	Mapped Acceleration Parameters.	531
C11.4.3	Site Class.	531
C11.4.4	Site Coefficients and Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE _R) Spectral Response Acceleration Parameters.	531
C11.4.5	Design Spectral Acceleration Parameters.	532
C11.4.6	Design Response Spectrum.	532
C11.4.8	Site-Specific Ground Motion Procedures.	533
C11.5	Importance Factor and Risk Category	535
C11.5.1	Importance Factor.	535
C11.5.2	Protected Access for Risk Category IV.	535
C11.6	Seismic Design Category	535
C11.7	Design Requirements for Seismic Design Category A	537
C11.8	Geologic Hazards and Geotechnical Investigation	537
C11.8.1	Site Limitation for Seismic Design Categories E and F.	537
C11.8.2	Geotechnical Investigation Report Requirements for Seismic Design Categories C through F.	537
C11.8.3	Additional Geotechnical Investigation Report Requirements for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	537
C11.9	Vertical Ground Motions for Seismic Design.	539
C11.9.2	MCE _R Vertical Response Spectrum.	539
References	. . . . .	540
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	541
C12	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING STRUCTURES	543
C12.1	Structural Design Basis	543
C12.1.1	Basic Requirements.	543
C12.1.2	Member Design, Connection Design, and Deformation Limit.	546
C12.1.3	Continuous Load Path and Interconnection.	546
C12.1.4	Connection to Supports.	546
C12.1.5	Foundation Design.	546
C12.1.6	Material Design and Detailing Requirements.	546
C12.2	Structural System Selection	546
C12.2.1	Selection and Limitations.	546
C12.2.1.1	Alternative Structural Systems.	547
C12.2.1.2	Elements of Seismic Force-Resisting Systems.	547
C12.2.2	Combinations of Framing Systems in Different Directions.	548
C12.2.3	Combinations of Framing Systems in the Same Direction.	548
C12.2.3.1	R, C _d , and Ω ₀ Values for Vertical Combinations.	548
C12.2.3.2	Two-Stage Analysis Procedure.	548
C12.2.3.3	R, C _d , and Ω ₀ Values for Horizontal Combinations.	548
C12.2.4	Combination Framing Detailing Requirements.	548

C12.2.5	System-Specific Requirements	548
C12.2.5.1	Dual System.	548
C12.2.5.2	Cantilever Column Systems.	548
C12.2.5.3	Inverted Pendulum-Type Structures.	548
C12.2.5.4	Increased Structural Height Limit for Steel Eccentrically Braced Frames, Steel Special Concentrically Braced Frames, Steel Buckling-Restrained Braced Frames, Steel Special Plate Shear Walls, and Special Reinforced Concrete Shear Walls.	549
C12.2.5.5	Special Moment Frames in Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories D through F.	549
C12.2.5.6	Steel Ordinary Moment Frames.	549
C12.2.5.7	Steel Intermediate Moment Frames.	549
C12.2.5.8	Shear Wall–Frame Interactive Systems.	550
C12.3	Diaphragm Flexibility, Configuration Irregularities, and Redundancy	550
C12.3.1	Diaphragm Flexibility.	550
C12.3.1.1	Flexible Diaphragm Condition.	551
C12.3.1.2	Rigid Diaphragm Condition.	551
C12.3.1.3	Calculated Flexible Diaphragm Condition.	551
C12.3.2	Irregular and Regular Classification.	551
C12.3.2.1	Horizontal Irregularity.	551
C12.3.2.2	Vertical Irregularity.	551
C12.3.3	Limitations and Additional Requirements for Systems with Structural Irregularities	552
C12.3.3.1	Prohibited Horizontal and Vertical Irregularities for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	552
C12.3.3.2	Extreme Weak Stories.	552
C12.3.3.3	Elements Supporting Discontinuous Walls or Frames.	552
C12.3.3.4	Increase in Forces Caused by Irregularities for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	554
C12.3.4	Redundancy.	554
C12.3.4.1	Conditions Where Value of ρ is 1.0.	554
C12.3.4.2	Redundancy Factor, ρ , for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	554
C12.4	Seismic Load Effects and Combinations	555
C12.4.1	Applicability.	555
C12.4.2	Seismic Load Effect.	555
C12.4.2.1	Horizontal Seismic Load Effect.	556
C12.4.2.2	Vertical Seismic Load Effect.	556
C12.4.3	Seismic Load Effects Including Overstrength.	556
C12.4.3.1	Horizontal Seismic Load Effect Including Overstrength.	556
C12.4.3.2	Capacity-Limited Horizontal Seismic Load Effect.	556
C12.4.4	Minimum Upward Force for Horizontal Cantilevers for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	556
C12.5	Direction of Loading.	557
C12.5.1	Direction of Loading Criteria.	557
C12.5.2	Seismic Design Category B.	557
C12.5.3	Seismic Design Category C.	557
C12.5.4	Seismic Design Categories D through F.	557
C12.6	Analysis Procedure Selection	557
C12.7	Modeling Criteria	558
C12.7.1	Foundation Modeling.	558
C12.7.2	Effective Seismic Weight.	558
C12.7.3	Structural Modeling.	559
C12.7.4	Interaction Effects.	559
C12.8	Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure	560
C12.8.1	Seismic Base Shear.	560
C12.8.1.1	Calculation of Seismic Response Coefficient.	560
C12.8.1.2	Soil–Structure Interaction Reduction.	560
C12.8.1.3	Maximum SDS Value in Determination of C_s and E_v	560
C12.8.2	Period Determination.	561
C12.8.2.1	Approximate Fundamental Period.	561
C12.8.3	Vertical Distribution of Seismic Forces.	562
C12.8.4	Horizontal Distribution of Forces.	562
C12.8.4.1	Inherent Torsion.	562
C12.8.4.2	Accidental Torsion.	563
C12.8.4.3	Amplification of Accidental Torsional Moment.	563
C12.8.5	Overturning.	564

	C12.8.6	Story Drift Determination.	564
		C12.8.6.1 Minimum Base Shear for Computing Drift.	565
		C12.8.6.2 Period for Computing Drift.	565
	C12.8.7	P-Delta Effects.	565
C12.9		Linear Dynamic Analysis	567
	C12.9.1	Modal Response Spectrum Analysis.	567
		C12.9.1.1 Number of Modes.	567
		C12.9.1.2 Modal Response Parameters.	568
		C12.9.1.3 Combined Response Parameters.	568
		C12.9.1.4 Scaling Design Values of Combined Response.	568
		C12.9.1.5 Horizontal Shear Distribution.	568
		C12.9.1.6 P-Delta Effects.	569
		C12.9.1.7 Soil–Structure Interaction Reduction.	569
		C12.9.1.8 Structural Modeling.	569
	C12.9.2	Linear Response History Analysis.	569
		C12.9.2.1 General Requirements.	569
		C12.9.2.2 General Modeling Requirements.	569
		C12.9.2.3 Ground Motion Selection and Modification.	570
		C12.9.2.4 Application of Ground Acceleration Histories.	571
		C12.9.2.5 Modification of Response for Design.	571
		C12.9.2.6 Enveloping of Force Response Quantities.	571
C12.10		Diaphragms, Chords, and Collectors	571
	C12.10.1	Diaphragm Design.	571
		C12.10.1.1 Diaphragm Design Forces.	572
		C12.10.2.1 Collector Elements Requiring Load Combinations Including Overstrength for Seismic Design Categories C through F.	572
	C12.10.3	Alternative Design Provisions for Diaphragms, Including Chords and Collectors.	572
		C12.10.3.1 Design.	572
		C12.10.3.2 Seismic Design Forces for Diaphragms, Including Chords and Collectors.	573
		C12.10.3.3 Transfer Forces in Diaphragms.	574
		C12.10.3.4 Collectors—Seismic Design Categories C through F.	575
		C12.10.3.5 Diaphragm Design Force Reduction Factor.	576
C12.11		Structural Walls and Their Anchorage	580
	C12.11.1	Design for Out-of-Plane Forces.	580
	C12.11.2	Anchorage of Structural Walls and Transfer of Design Forces into Diaphragms or Other Supporting Structural Elements.	580
		C12.11.2.1 Wall Anchorage Forces.	580
		C12.11.2.2 Additional Requirements for Anchorage of Concrete or Masonry Structural Walls to Diaphragms in Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories C through F	580
C12.12		Drift and Deformation	581
	C12.12.3	Structural Separation.	582
	C12.12.4	Members Spanning between Structures.	582
	C12.12.5	Deformation Compatibility for Seismic Design Categories D through F.	582
C12.13		Foundation Design	583
	C12.13.1	Design Basis.	583
	C12.13.3	Foundation Load-Deformation Characteristics.	583
	C12.13.4	Reduction of Foundation Overturning.	584
	C12.13.5	Strength Design for Foundation Geotechnical Capacity.	584
		C12.13.5.2 Resistance Factors.	584
		C12.13.5.3 Acceptance Criteria.	584
	C12.13.6	Allowable Stress Design for Foundation Geotechnical Capacity.	584
	C12.13.7	Requirements for Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Category C.	585
		C12.13.7.1 Pole-Type Structures.	585
		C12.13.7.2 Foundation Ties.	585
		C12.13.7.3 Pile Anchorage Requirements.	585
	C12.13.8	Requirements for Structures Assigned to Seismic Design Categories D through F	585
		C12.13.8.1 Pole-Type Structures.	585
		C12.13.8.2 Foundation Ties.	585
		C12.13.8.3 General Pile Design Requirement.	585
		C12.13.8.4 Batter Piles.	585
		C12.13.8.5 Pile Anchorage Requirements.	585
		C12.13.8.6 Splices of Pile Segments.	585
		C12.13.8.7 Pile–Soil Interaction.	585
		C12.13.8.8 Pile Group Effects.	586

	C12.13.9	Requirements for Foundations on Liquefiable Sites.	586
		C12.13.9.1 Foundation Design.	587
		C12.13.9.2 Shallow Foundations.	587
		C12.13.9.3 Deep Foundations.	587
C12.14		Simplified Alternative Structural Design Criteria for Simple Bearing Wall or Building Frame Systems.	588
	C12.14.1	General.	588
		C12.14.1.1 Simplified Design Procedure.	588
	C12.14.3	Seismic Load Effects and Combinations.	589
	C12.14.7	Design and Detailing Requirements.	589
	C12.14.8	Simplified Lateral Force Analysis Procedure	589
		C12.14.8.1 Seismic Base Shear.	589
		C12.14.8.2 Vertical Distribution.	589
		C12.14.8.5 Drift Limits and Building Separation.	589
	References		589
	Other References (Not Cited)		591
C13		SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONSTRUCTURAL COMPONENTS.	593
	C13.1	General	593
		C13.1.1 Scope.	593
		C13.1.2 Seismic Design Category.	595
		C13.1.3 Component Importance Factor.	595
		C13.1.4 Exemptions.	595
		C13.1.5 Premanufactured Modular Mechanical and Electrical Systems.	596
		C13.1.6 Application of Nonstructural Component Requirements to Nonbuilding Structures.	596
		C13.1.7 Reference Documents.	596
		C13.1.8 Reference Documents Using Allowable Stress Design.	597
	C13.2	General Design Requirements	597
		C13.2.1 Applicable Requirements for Architectural, Mechanical, and Electrical Components, Supports, and Attachments.	597
		C13.2.2 Special Certification Requirements for Designated Seismic Systems.	597
		C13.2.3 Consequential Damage.	598
		C13.2.4 Flexibility.	598
		C13.2.5 Testing Alternative for Seismic Capacity Determination.	599
		C13.2.6 Experience Data Alternative for Seismic Capacity Determination.	599
		C13.2.7 Construction Documents.	600
	C13.3	Seismic Demands on Nonstructural Components	600
		C13.3.1 Seismic Design Force.	600
		C13.3.1.4 Dynamic Analysis	601
		C13.3.2 Seismic Relative Displacements.	602
		C13.3.2.1 Displacements within Structures.	602
		C13.3.2.2 Displacements between Structures.	602
		C13.3.3 Component Period.	602
	C13.4	Nonstructural Component Anchorage	603
		C13.4.1 Design Force in the Attachment.	604
		C13.4.2 Anchors in Concrete or Masonry.	604
		C13.4.3 Installation Conditions.	605
		C13.4.4 Multiple Attachments.	605
		C13.4.5 Power-Actuated Fasteners.	605
		C13.4.6 Friction Clips.	605
	C13.5	Architectural Components	605
		C13.5.1 General.	606
		C13.5.2 Forces and Displacements.	606
		C13.5.3 Exterior Nonstructural Wall Elements and Connections.	606
		C13.5.4 Glass.	607
		C13.5.5 Out-of-Plane Bending.	607
		C13.5.6 Suspended Ceilings.	607
		C13.5.6.1 Seismic Forces.	607
		C13.5.6.2 Industry Standard Construction for Acoustical Tile or Lay-In Panel Ceilings.	607
		C13.5.6.3 Integral Construction.	610
		C13.5.7 Access Floors	610
		C13.5.7.1 General.	610
		C13.5.7.2 Special Access Floors.	610

	C13.5.8	Partitions..	610
	C13.5.9	Glass in Glazed Curtain Walls, Glazed Storefronts, and Glazed Partitions.	610
		C13.5.9.1 General..	611
		C13.5.9.2 Seismic Drift Limits for Glass Components.	611
	C13.5.10	Egress Stairs and Ramps.	611
C13.6		Mechanical and Electrical Components	611
	C13.6.1	General..	612
	C13.6.2	Mechanical Components and C13.6.3 Electrical Components..	612
	C13.6.4	Component Supports.	613
		C13.6.4.1 Design Basis..	613
		C13.6.4.2 Design for Relative Displacement.	613
		C13.6.4.3 Support Attachment to Component.	613
		C13.6.4.5 Additional Requirements.	613
	C13.6.5	Distribution Systems: Conduit, Cable Tray, and Raceways.	614
	C13.6.6	Distribution Systems: Duct Systems.	614
	C13.6.7	Distribution Systems: Piping and Tubing Systems..	614
		C13.6.7.1 ASME Pressure Piping Systems.	615
		C13.6.7.2 Fire Protection Sprinkler Piping Systems..	616
		C13.6.7.3 Exceptions.	616
	C13.6.9	Utility and Service Lines.	616
	C13.6.10	Boilers and Pressure Vessels.	616
	C13.6.11	Elevator and Escalator Design Requirements..	616
		C13.6.11.3 Seismic Controls for Elevators.	616
		C13.6.11.4 Retainer Plates..	616
	C13.6.12	Rooftop Solar Panels.	616
	C13.6.13	Other Mechanical and Electrical Components.	617
	References		617
	Other References (Not Cited)		618

C14		MATERIAL-SPECIFIC SEISMIC DESIGN AND DETAILING REQUIREMENTS	619
	C14.0	Scope	619
	C14.1	Steel	619
		C14.1.1 Reference Documents.	619
		C14.1.2 Structural Steel.	619
		C14.1.2.1 General..	619
		C14.1.2.2 Seismic Requirements for Structural Steel Structures.	619
		C14.1.3 Cold-Formed Steel	619
		C14.1.3.1 General..	619
		C14.1.3.2 Seismic Requirements for Cold-Formed Steel Structures.	619
		C14.1.4 Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction	620
		C14.1.4.1 General..	620
		C14.1.4.2 Seismic Requirements for Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction.	620
		C14.1.4.3 Prescriptive Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction.	620
		C14.1.5 Cold-Formed Steel Deck Diaphragms.	620
		C14.1.7 Steel Cables.	620
		C14.1.8 Additional Detailing Requirements for Steel Piles in Seismic Design Categories D through F.	620
	C14.2	Concrete	620
		C14.2.2.1 Definitions.	620
		C14.2.2.2 ACI 318, Section 10.7.6.	621
		C14.2.2.3 Scope.	621
		C14.2.2.4 Intermediate Precast Structural Walls..	621
		C14.2.2.6 Foundations.	621
		C14.2.2.7 Detailed Plain Concrete Shear Walls.	621
		C14.2.3 Additional Detailing Requirements for Concrete Piles.	621
		C14.2.4 Additional Design and Detailing Requirements for Precast Concrete Diaphragms.	622
		C14.2.4.1 Diaphragm Seismic Demand Levels.	622
		C14.2.4.2 Diaphragm Design Options.	623
		C14.2.4.3 Diaphragm Connector or Joint Reinforcement Deformability.	625
		C14.2.4.4 Precast Concrete Diaphragm Connector and Joint Reinforcement Qualification Procedure.	625
	C14.3	Composite Steel and Concrete Structures	627
		C14.3.1 Reference Documents.	627
		C14.3.4 Metal-Cased Concrete Piles.	627

C14.4	Masonry	628
C14.5	Wood	628
	C14.5.1 Reference Documents	628
References	. . . . .	628
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	628
C15	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR NONBUILDING STRUCTURES	631
C15.1	General	631
	C15.1.1 Nonbuilding Structures.	631
	C15.1.2 Design.	631
	C15.1.3 Structural Analysis Procedure Selection.	631
	C15.1.4 Nonbuilding Structures Sensitive to Vertical Ground Motions.	634
C15.2	This section intentionally left blank; see section C15.8.	634
C15.3	Nonbuilding Structures Supported by Other Structures.	634
	C15.3.1 Less Than 25% Combined Weight Condition.	635
	C15.3.2 Greater Than or Equal to 25% Combined Weight Condition.	635
C15.4	Structural Design Requirements	636
	C15.4.1 Design Basis.	636
	C15.4.2 Rigid Nonbuilding Structures.	637
	C15.4.3 Loads.	637
	C15.4.4 Fundamental Period.	637
	C15.4.7 Drift, Deflection, and Structure Separation.	637
	C15.4.8 Site-Specific Response Spectra.	637
	C15.4.9 Anchors in Concrete or Masonry.	637
	C15.4.10 Requirements for Nonbuilding Structure Foundations on Liquefiable Sites.	638
C15.5	Nonbuilding Structures Similar to Buildings	638
	C15.5.1 General.	638
	C15.5.2 Pipe Racks.	638
	C15.5.3.1 Steel Storage Racks.	638
	C15.5.3.2 Steel Cantilevered Storage Racks.	638
	C15.5.4 Electrical Power-Generating Facilities.	639
	C15.5.5 Structural Towers for Tanks and Vessels.	639
	C15.5.6 Piers and Wharves.	639
C15.6	General Requirements for Nonbuilding Structures Not Similar to Buildings	640
	C15.6.1 Earth-Retaining Structures.	640
	C15.6.2 Chimneys and Stacks	640
	C15.6.2.1 General.	640
	C15.6.2.2 Concrete Chimneys and Stacks.	640
	C15.6.2.3 Steel Chimneys and Stacks.	640
	C15.6.4 Special Hydraulic Structures.	640
	C15.6.5 Secondary Containment Systems.	640
	C15.6.5.1 Freeboard.	641
	C15.6.6 Telecommunication Towers.	641
	C15.6.7 Steel Tubular Support Structures for Onshore Wind Turbine Generator Systems.	641
	C15.6.8 Ground-Supported Cantilever Walls or Fences.	641
C15.7	Tanks and Vessels	642
	C15.7.1 General.	642
	C15.7.2 Design Basis.	642
	C15.7.3 Strength and Ductility.	643
	C15.7.4 Flexibility of Piping Attachments.	644
	C15.7.5 Anchorage.	644
	C15.7.6 Ground-Supported Storage Tanks for Liquids	644
	C15.7.6.1 General.	644
	C15.7.7 Water Storage and Water Treatment Tanks and Vessels.	646
	C15.7.7.1 Welded Steel.	646
	C15.7.7.2 Bolted Steel.	646
	C15.7.7.3 Reinforced and Prestressed Concrete.	646
	C15.7.8 Petrochemical and Industrial Tanks and Vessels Storing Liquids	646
	C15.7.8.1 Welded Steel.	646
	C15.7.8.2 Bolted Steel.	647
	C15.7.9 Ground-Supported Storage Tanks for Granular Materials	647
	C15.7.9.1 General.	647
	C15.7.9.2 Lateral Force Determination.	647
	C15.7.9.3 Force Distribution to Shell and Foundation	647

C15.7.10	Elevated Tanks and Vessels for Liquids and Granular Materials.	647
C15.7.10.1	General.	647
C15.7.10.4	Transfer of Lateral Forces into Support Tower.	648
C15.7.10.5	Evaluation of Structures Sensitive to Buckling Failure.	648
C15.7.10.7	Concrete Pedestal (Composite) Tanks.	648
C15.7.11	Boilers and Pressure Vessels.	648
C15.7.12	Liquid and Gas Spheres.	648
C15.7.13	Refrigerated Gas Liquid Storage Tanks and Vessels.	648
C15.7.14	Horizontal, Saddle-Supported Vessels for Liquid or Vapor Storage.	655
C15.8	Consensus Standards and Other Referenced Documents	655
References	. . . . .	655
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	656
C16	NONLINEAR RESPONSE HISTORY ANALYSIS	657
C16.1	General Requirements	657
C16.1.1	Scope.	657
C16.1.2	Linear Analysis.	657
C16.1.3	Vertical Response Analysis.	658
C16.1.4	Documentation.	658
C16.2	Ground Motions	658
C16.2.1	Target Response Spectrum.	658
C16.2.2	Ground Motion Selection.	659
C16.2.3	Ground Motion Modification.	660
C16.2.3.1	Period Range for Scaling or Matching.	661
C16.2.3.2	Amplitude Scaling.	661
C16.2.3.3	Spectral Matching.	662
C16.2.4	Application of Ground Motions to the Structural Model.	662
C16.3	Modeling and Analysis	662
C16.3.1	Modeling.	662
C16.3.3	P-Delta Effects.	663
C16.3.4	Torsion.	663
C16.3.5	Damping.	664
C16.3.6	Explicit Foundation Modeling.	664
C16.4.1	Global Acceptance Criteria	664
C16.4.1.1	Unacceptable Response.	664
C16.4.1.2	Story Drift.	666
C16.4.2	Element-Level Acceptance Criteria.	667
C16.4.2.1	Force-Controlled Actions.	667
C16.4.2.2	Deformation-Controlled Actions.	670
C16.4.2.3	Elements of the Gravity Force-Resisting System.	671
References	. . . . .	671
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	671
C17	SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR SEISMICALLY ISOLATED STRUCTURES	673
C17.1	General	673
C17.2	General Design Requirements	674
C17.2.4	Isolation System	675
C17.2.4.1	Environmental Conditions.	675
C17.2.4.2	Wind Forces.	675
C17.2.4.3	Fire Resistance.	675
C17.2.4.4	Lateral Restoring Force.	675
C17.2.4.5	Displacement Restraint.	675
C17.2.4.6	Vertical-Load Stability.	675
C17.2.4.7	Overturning.	676
C17.2.4.8	Inspection and Replacement.	676
C17.2.4.9	Quality Control.	676
C17.2.5	Structural System.	676
C17.2.5.2	Minimum Building Separations.	676
C17.2.5.4	Steel Ordinary Concentrically Braced Frames.	676
C17.2.5.5	Isolation System Connections.	676
C17.2.6	Elements of Structures and Nonstructural Components.	677
C17.2.8	Isolation System Properties.	678
C17.2.8.2	Isolator Unit Nominal Properties.	678

	C17.2.8.3	Bounding Properties of Isolation System Components..	678
	C17.2.8.4	Property Modification Factors..	679
	C17.2.8.5	Upper Bound and Lower Bound Force-Deflection Behavior of Isolation System Components..	681
C17.3		Seismic Ground Motion Criteria.	682
	C17.3.1	Site-Specific Seismic Hazard.	682
	C17.3.3	MCE _R Ground Motion Records.	682
C17.4		Analysis Procedure Selection	682
C17.5		Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure	682
	C17.5.3	Minimum Lateral Displacements Required for Design	683
		C17.5.3.1 Maximum Displacement..	683
		C17.5.3.2 Effective Period at the Maximum Displacement..	683
		C17.5.3.3 Total Maximum Displacement.	683
	C17.5.4	Minimum Lateral Forces Required for Design.	683
		C17.5.4.1 Isolation System and Structural Elements below the Base Level.	684
		C17.5.4.2 Structural Elements above the Base Level.	684
		C17.5.4.3 Limits on V_S	684
	C17.5.5	Vertical Distribution of Force..	684
	C17.5.6	Drift Limits.	686
C17.6		Dynamic Analysis Procedures	687
	C17.6.2	Modeling..	688
		C17.6.3.4 Response History Analysis Procedure.	688
C17.7		Design Review	688
C17.8		Testing	689
	C17.8.2.2	Sequence and Cycles.	689
	C17.8.2.3	Dynamic Testing.	689
	C17.8.2.4	Units Dependent on Bilateral Load..	690
	C17.8.2.5	Maximum and Minimum Vertical Load.	690
	C17.8.2.7	Testing Similar Units.	690
		C17.8.3 Determination of Force-Deflection Characteristics.	690
		C17.8.4 Test Specimen Adequacy.	691
		C17.8.5 Production Tests..	691
	References		692
	Other References (Not Cited)		692

C18		SEISMIC DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURES WITH DAMPING SYSTEMS	693	
	C18.1	General	693	
	C18.2	General Design Requirements	693	
		C18.2.1 System Requirements	693	
			C18.2.1.2 Damping System.	693
		C18.2.2 Seismic Ground Motion Criteria.	693	
		C18.2.3 Procedure Selection	693	
			C18.2.4.1 Device Design	695
			C18.2.4.4 Nominal Design Properties	696
			C18.2.4.5 Maximum and Minimum Damper Properties	696
			C18.2.4.6 Damping System Redundancy.	697
	C18.3	Nonlinear Response History Procedure	697	
		C18.3.2 Accidental Mass Eccentricity	697	
	C18.4	Seismic Load Conditions and Acceptance Criteria for Nonlinear Response History Procedure.	698	
		C18.4.1 Seismic Force-Resisting System.	698	
	C18.5	Design Review	698	
	C18.6	Testing	698	
			C18.6.1.2 Sequence and Cycles of Testing.	698
			C18.6.1.3 Testing Similar Devices	698
			C18.6.1.4 Determination of Force-Velocity-Displacement Characteristics.	698
		C18.6.2 Production Tests	698	
	C18.7	Alternate Procedures and Corresponding Acceptance Criteria	699	
		C18.7.1 Response-Spectrum Procedure and C18.7.2 Equivalent Lateral Force Procedure	699	
		C18.7.3 Damped Response Modification.	700	
			C18.7.3.1 Damping Coefficient.	700
			C18.7.3.2 Effective Damping	700
		C18.7.4 Seismic Load Conditions and Acceptance Criteria for RSA and ELF Procedures.	700	
			C18.7.4.5 Seismic Load Conditions and Combination of Modal Responses	700

References	701
Other References (Not Cited)	701
C19 SOIL–STRUCTURE INTERACTION FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	703
C19.1 General	703
C19.2 SSI Adjusted Structural Demands	704
C19.3 Foundation Damping	705
C19.4 Kinematic SSI Effects	707
C19.4.1 Base Slab Averaging.	707
C19.4.2 Embedment.	707
References	708
C20 SITE CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR SEISMIC DESIGN	709
C20.1 Site Classification	709
C20.3 Site Class Definitions	709
C20.3.1 Site Class F.	709
C20.4 Definitions of Site Class Parameters.	710
References	710
C21 SITE-SPECIFIC GROUND MOTION PROCEDURES FOR SEISMIC DESIGN.	711
C21.0 General	711
C21.1 Site Response Analysis	711
C21.1.1 Base Ground Motions.	711
C21.1.2 Site Condition Modeling.	711
C21.1.3 Site Response Analysis and Computed Results.	712
C21.2 Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE _R) Ground Motion Hazard Analysis.	712
C21.2.1 Probabilistic (MCE _R) Ground Motions.	712
C21.2.1.1 Method 1.	712
C21.2.1.2 Method 2.	712
C21.2.2 Deterministic (MCE _R) Ground Motions.	713
C21.2.3 Site-Specific MCE _R	713
C21.3 Design Response Spectrum	713
C21.4 Design Acceleration Parameters	713
C21.5 Maximum Considered Earthquake Geometric Mean (MCE _G) Peak Ground Acceleration.	714
References	714
Other References (Not Cited)	715
C22 SEISMIC GROUND MOTION, LONG-PERIOD TRANSITION, AND RISK COEFFICIENT MAPS	717
Risk-Targeted Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE _R) Ground Motion Maps.	722
Long-Period Transition Maps	723
Maximum Considered Earthquake Geometric Mean (MCE _G) PGA Maps.	723
Ground Motion Web Tool.	724
Risk Coefficient Maps	724
Uniform Hazard and Deterministic Ground Motion Maps	724
References	724
Other References (Not Cited)	724
C23 SEISMIC DESIGN REFERENCE DOCUMENTS (No Commentary).	725
C24 RESERVED FOR FUTURE COMMENTARY.	727
C25 RESERVED FOR FUTURE COMMENTARY.	729
C26 WIND LOADS: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	731
C26.1 Procedures	731
C26.1.1 Scope.	731
C26.1.2 Permitted Procedures.	731

C26.2	Definitions	732
C26.3	Symbols	733
C26.4	General	734
	C26.4.3 Wind Pressures Acting on Opposite Faces of Each Building Surface	734
C26.5	Wind Hazard Map	734
	C26.5.1 Basic Wind Speed	734
	C26.5.2 Special Wind Regions	740
	C26.5.3 Estimation of Basic Wind Speeds from Regional Climatic Data	740
C26.6	Wind Directionality	741
C26.7	Exposure	741
	C26.7.4 Exposure Requirements	743
C26.8	Topographic Effects	744
C26.9	Ground Elevation Factor	748
C26.10	Velocity Pressure	748
	C26.10.1 Velocity Pressure Exposure Coefficient	748
	C26.10.2 Velocity Pressure	750
C26.11	Gust Effects	751
C26.12	Enclosure Classification	755
C26.13	Internal Pressure Coefficients	756
C26.14	Tornado Limitation	757
	C26.14.1 Tornado Wind Speeds and Probabilities	757
	C26.14.2 Wind Pressures Induced by Tornadoes Versus Other Windstorms	758
	C26.14.3 Occupant Protection	759
	C26.14.4 Minimizing Building Damage	759
	C26.14.5 Continuity of Building Operations	764
	C26.14.6 Trussed Communications Towers	764
References	. . . . .	764
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	766
C27	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	767
C27.1	Scope	767
	C27.1.5 Minimum Design Wind Loads	767
	Part 1: Enclosed, Partially Enclosed, and Open Buildings of All Heights	767
C27.3	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	767
	C27.3.1 Enclosed and Partially Enclosed Rigid and Flexible Buildings	767
	C27.3.2 Open Buildings with Monoslope, Pitched, or Troughed Free Roofs	768
	C27.3.5 Design Wind Load Cases	768
	Part 2: Enclosed Simple Diaphragm Buildings with $h \leq 160$ ft ($h \leq 48.8$ m)	769
C27.5	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	769
	C27.5.1 Wall and Roof Surfaces: Class 1 and 2 Buildings	769
	C27.5.2 Parapets	769
	C27.5.3 Roof Overhangs	770
References	. . . . .	770
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	770
C28	WIND LOADS ON BUILDINGS: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (ENVELOPE PROCEDURE)	771
	Part 1: Enclosed and Partially Enclosed Low-Rise Buildings	771
C28.3	Wind Loads: Main Wind Force Resisting System	771
	C28.3.1 Design Wind Pressure for Low-Rise Buildings	771
	C28.3.2 Parapets	771
	C28.3.4 Minimum Design Wind Loads	773
	Part 2: Enclosed Simple Diaphragm Low-Rise Buildings	773
References	. . . . .	774
Other References (Not Cited)	. . . . .	774
C29	WIND LOADS ON BUILDING APPURTENANCES AND OTHER STRUCTURES: MAIN WIND FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM (DIRECTIONAL PROCEDURE)	775
C29.3	Design Wind Loads: Solid Freestanding Walls and Solid Signs	775
	C29.3.1 Solid Freestanding Walls and Solid Freestanding Signs	775
	C29.3.2 Solid Attached Signs	776
C29.4	Design Wind Loads: Other Structures	776
	C29.4.1 Rooftop Structures and Equipment for Buildings	776

C29.4.2	Design Wind Loads: Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks with $h \leq 120$ ft ($h \leq 36.5$ m), $D \leq 120$ ft ($D \leq 36.5$ m), and $0.25 \leq H/D \leq 4$.	776
C29.4.2.1	External Walls of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	776
C29.4.2.2	Roofs of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	776
C29.4.2.3	Undersides of Isolated Elevated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	776
C29.4.2.4	Roofs and Walls of Grouped Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	776
C29.4.3	Rooftop Solar Panels for Buildings of All Heights with Flat Roofs or Gable or Hip Roofs with Slopes Less Than 7° .	777
C29.4.4	Rooftop Solar Panels Parallel to the Roof Surface on Buildings of All Heights and Roof Slopes.	778
C29.5	Parapets.	778
C29.7	Minimum Design Wind Loading	779
References		779
C30	WIND LOADS: COMPONENTS AND CLADDING	781
C30.1	Scope	781
C30.1.1	Building Types.	781
C30.1.5	Air-Permeable Cladding.	781
C30.3	Building Types	783
C30.3.1	Conditions.	783
C30.3.2	Design Wind Pressures.	783
Part 1: Low-Rise Buildings		786
Part 3: Buildings with $h > 60$ ft ($h > 18.3$ m)		786
Part 4: Buildings with 60 ft $< h \leq 160$ ft (18.3 m $< h \leq 48.8$ m) (Simplified)		787
C30.6	Building Types	787
C30.6.1	Wind Load: Components and Cladding.	788
C30.6.1.2	Parapets.	788
C30.6.1.3	Roof Overhangs.	788
Part 5: Open Buildings.		788
C30.7	Building Types.	788
Part 7: nonbuilding Structures		788
C30.12	Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks with $h \leq 120$ ft ($h \leq 36.5$ m)	788
C30.12.2	External Walls of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	788
C30.12.3	Internal Surface of Exterior Walls of Isolated Open-Topped Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	788
C30.12.4	Roofs of Isolated Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	788
C30.12.6	Roofs and Walls of Grouped Circular Bins, Silos, and Tanks.	788
References		789
Other References (Not Cited)		790
C31	WIND TUNNEL PROCEDURE	793
C31.4	Load Effects	794
C31.4.1	Mean Recurrence Intervals of Load Effects.	794
C31.4.2	Limitations on Wind Speeds.	794
C31.4.3	Wind Directionality.	794
C31.6	Roof-Mounted Solar Collectors for Roof Slopes Less than 7 Degrees.	794
C31.6.1	Wind Tunnel Test Requirements.	794
C31.6.1.1	Limitations on Wind Loads for Rooftop Solar Collectors.	794
C31.6.1.2	Peer Review Requirements for Wind Tunnel Tests of Roof-Mounted Solar Collectors.	795
References		795
APPENDIX C11A	QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS (Deleted)	797
APPENDIX C11B	EXISTING BUILDING PROVISIONS (No Commentary)	799
APPENDIX CC	SERVICEABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	801
CC.1	Serviceability Considerations	801
CC.2	Deflection, Vibration, and Drift	801
CC.2.1	Vertical Deflections.	801
CC.2.2	Drift of Walls and Frames.	810

	CC.2.3	Vibrations.	810
CC.3		Design for Long-Term Deflection	811
CC.4		Camber	811
CC.5		Expansion and Contraction	811
CC.6		Durability.	811
References		. . . . .	811
OTHER		REFERENCES.	811
APPENDIX CD		BUILDINGS EXEMPTED FROM TORSIONAL WIND LOAD CASES	813
APPENDIX CE		PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN PROCEDURES FOR FIRE EFFECTS ON STRUCTURES	815
CE.1		Scope	815
CE.2		Definitions	815
CE.3		General Requirements	816
CE.4		Performance Objectives	816
	CE.4.1	Structural Integrity.. . . .	817
	CE.4.2	Project-Specific Performance Objectives.	817
CE.5		Thermal Analysis of Fire Effects	817
	CE.5.1	Fuel Load.	818
	CE.5.2	Structural Design Fires.	818
	CE.5.3	Heat Transfer Analysis.	818
CE.6		Structural Analysis of Fire Effects.	819
	CE.6.1	Temperature History for Structural Members and Connections.	820
	CE.6.2	Temperature-Dependent Properties.	820
	CE.6.3	Load Combinations.	821
References		821
INDEX.			Index-1

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This revision of the standard began in 2011 and incorporates information as described in the commentary.

This standard was prepared through the consensus standards process by balloting in compliance with procedures of ASCE's Codes and Standards Activities Committee. The individuals who serve on the Standards Committee are listed as follows.

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IN MEMORIAM

Robert B. Paullus Jr., P.E., S.E., F.SEI, F.ASCE

1959–2015

Mr. Paullus served on the ASCE/SEI 7 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures Standard Committee for several cycles. During the 2017 cycle, he served on the Main Committee, the Subcommittee on Seismic Loads, and the Subcommittee on Wind Loads. Mr. Paullus was a tireless advocate for improvement of seismic design practices and requirements in Tennessee and surrounding regions at risk from severe shaking from the New Madrid fault zone.

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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This standard provides minimum loads, hazard levels, associated criteria, and intended performance goals for buildings, other structures, and their nonstructural components that are subject to building code requirements. The loads, load combinations, and associated criteria provided herein are to be used with design strengths or allowable stress limits contained in design specifications for conventional structural materials. Used together, they are deemed capable of providing the intended performance levels for which the provisions of this standard have been developed. Procedures for applying alternative means to demonstrate acceptable performance are also described.

1.2 DEFINITIONS AND SYMBOLS

1.2.1 Definitions. The following definitions apply to the provisions of the entire standard.

ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN: A method of proportioning structural members such that elastically computed stresses produced in the members by nominal loads do not exceed specified allowable stresses (also called “working stress design”).

AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION: The organization, political subdivision, office, or individual charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the provisions of this standard.

BUILDINGS: Structures, usually enclosed by walls and a roof, constructed to provide support or shelter for an intended occupancy.

DESIGN STRENGTH: The product of the nominal strength and a resistance factor.

DESIGNATED NONSTRUCTURAL SYSTEM: A non-structural component or system that is essential to the intended function of a Risk Category IV structure or that is essential to Life Safety in structures assigned to other Risk Categories.

ESSENTIAL FACILITIES: Buildings and other structures that are intended to remain operational in the event of extreme environmental loading from flood, wind, snow, or earthquakes.

FACTORED LOAD: The product of the nominal load and a load factor.

HIGHLY TOXIC SUBSTANCE: As defined in 29 CFR 1910.1200, Appendix A, with Amendments as of February 1, 2000.

IMPORTANCE FACTOR: A factor that accounts for the degree of risk to human life, health, and welfare associated with damage to property or loss of use or functionality.

LIMIT STATE: A condition beyond which a structure or member becomes unfit for service and is judged either to be no longer useful for its intended function (serviceability limit state) or to be unsafe (strength limit state).

LOAD EFFECTS: Forces and deformations produced in structural members by the applied loads.

LOAD FACTOR: A factor that accounts for deviations of the actual load from the nominal load, for uncertainties in the analysis that transform the load into a load effect, and for the probability that more than one extreme load will occur simultaneously.

LOADS: Forces or other actions that result from the weight of all building materials, occupants and their possessions, environmental effects, differential movement, and restrained dimensional changes. Permanent loads are loads in which variations over time are rare or of small magnitude. All other loads are variable loads (see also “nominal loads”).

NOMINAL LOADS: The magnitudes of the loads specified in this standard for dead, live, soil, wind, snow, rain, flood, and earthquake loads.

NOMINAL STRENGTH: The capacity of a structure or member to resist the effects of loads, as determined by computations using specified material strengths and dimensions and formulas derived from accepted principles of structural mechanics or by field tests or laboratory tests of scaled models, allowing for modeling effects and differences between laboratory and field conditions.

OCCUPANCY: The purpose for which a building or other structure, or part thereof, is used or intended to be used.

OTHER STRUCTURES: Structures, other than buildings, for which loads are specified in this standard.

P-DELTA EFFECT: The second-order effect on shears and moments of frame members induced by axial loads on a laterally displaced building frame.

PERFORMANCE-BASED PROCEDURES: An alternative to the prescriptive procedures in this standard characterized by project-specific engineering analysis, optionally supplemented by limited testing, to determine the computed reliability of an individual building or structure.

RESISTANCE FACTOR: A factor that accounts for deviations of the actual strength from the nominal strength and the manner and consequences of failure (also called “strength reduction factor”).

RISK CATEGORY: A categorization of buildings and other structures for determination of flood, snow, ice, and earthquake loads based on the risk associated with unacceptable performance. See Table 1.5-1.

SERVICE LOADS: Loads imparted on a building or other structure because of (1) self-weight and superimposed dead load, (2) live loads assumed to be present during normal occupancy or use of the building or other structure, (3) environmental loads that are expected to occur during the defined service life of a building or other structure, and (4) self-straining forces and effects. Service live loads and environmental loads for a