

Chapter 1

GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This standard provides minimum load requirements for the design of buildings and other structures that are subject to building code requirements. Loads and appropriate load combinations, which have been developed to be used together, are set forth for strength design and allowable stress design. For design strengths and allowable stress limits, design specifications for conventional structural materials used in buildings and modifications contained in this standard shall be followed.

1.2 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.

ESSENTIAL FACILITIES: Buildings and other structures that are intended to remain operational in the event of extreme environmental loading from 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.

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 transforms 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 those 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.

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.

PHYSICAL HAZARD: Chemicals or substances in a liquid, solid, or gaseous form that are classified by the authority having jurisdiction as combustible, flammable, explosive, oxidizer, pyrophoric, unstable (reactive), or water reactive.

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”).

STRENGTH DESIGN: A method of proportioning structural members such that the computed forces produced in the members by the factored loads do not exceed the member design strength (also called “load and resistance factor design”).

TEMPORARY FACILITIES: Buildings or other structures that are to be in service for a limited time and have a limited exposure period for environmental loadings.

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

1.3 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

1.3.1 Strength. Buildings and other structures, and all parts thereof, shall be designed and constructed to support safely the factored loads in load combinations defined in this document without exceeding the appropriate strength limit states for the materials of construction. Alternatively, buildings and other structures, and all parts thereof, shall be designed and constructed to support safely the nominal loads in load combinations defined in this document without exceeding the appropriate specified allowable stresses for the materials of construction.

1.3.2 Serviceability. Structural systems, and members thereof, shall be designed to have adequate stiffness to limit deflections, lateral drift, vibration, or any other deformations that adversely affect the intended use and performance of buildings and other structures.

1.3.3 Self-Straining Forces. Provision shall be made for anticipated self-straining forces arising from differential settlements of foundations and from restrained dimensional changes due to temperature, moisture, shrinkage, creep, and similar effects.

1.3.4 Analysis. Load effects on individual structural members shall be determined by methods of structural analysis that take into account equilibrium, general stability, geometric compatibility, and both short- and long-term material properties. Members that tend to accumulate residual deformations under repeated service loads shall have included in their analysis the added eccentricities expected to occur during their service life.

1.3.5 Counteracting Structural Actions. All structural members and systems, and all components and cladding in a building or other structure, shall be designed to resist forces due to earthquake and wind, with consideration of overturning, sliding, and uplift, and continuous load paths shall be provided for transmitting these forces to the foundation. Where sliding is used to isolate the elements, the effects of friction between sliding elements shall be included as a force. Where all or a portion of the resistance to these forces is provided by dead load, the dead load shall be taken as the minimum dead load likely to be in place during the event causing the considered forces. Consideration shall be given to the effects of vertical and horizontal deflections resulting from such forces.

1.4 GENERAL STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

Buildings and other structures shall be designed to sustain local damage with the structural system as a whole remaining stable and not being damaged to an extent disproportionate to the original local damage. This shall be achieved through an arrangement of the structural elements that provides stability to the entire structural system by transferring loads from any locally damaged region to adjacent regions capable of resisting those loads without collapse. This shall be accomplished by providing sufficient continuity, redundancy, or energy-dissipating capacity (ductility), or a combination thereof, in the members of the structure.

1.5 CLASSIFICATION OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES

1.5.1 Nature of Occupancy. Buildings and other structures shall be classified, based on the nature of occupancy, according to Table 1-1 for the purposes of applying flood, wind, snow, earthquake, and ice provisions. The occupancy categories range from I to IV, where Occupancy Category I represents buildings and other structures with a low hazard to human life in the event of failure and Occupancy Category IV represents essential facilities. Each building or other structure shall be assigned to the highest applicable occupancy category or categories. Assignment of the same structure to multiple occupancy categories based on use and the type of load condition being evaluated (e.g., wind or seismic) shall be permissible.

When buildings or other structures have multiple uses (occupancies), the relationship between the uses of various parts of the building or other structure and the independence of the structural systems for those various parts shall be examined. The classification for each independent structural system of a multiple-use building or other structure shall be that of the highest usage group in any part of the building or other structure that is dependent on that basic structural system.

1.5.2 Toxic, Highly Toxic, and Explosive Substances. Buildings and other structures containing toxic, highly toxic, or explosive substances are permitted to be classified as Occupancy

Category II structures if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the authority having jurisdiction by a hazard assessment as part of an overall Risk Management Plan (RMP) that a release of the toxic, highly toxic, or explosive substances does not pose a threat to the public.

To qualify for this reduced classification, the owner or operator of the buildings or other structures containing the toxic, highly toxic, or explosive substances shall have an RMP that incorporates three elements as a minimum: a hazard assessment, a prevention program, and an emergency response plan.

As a minimum, the hazard assessment shall include the preparation and reporting of worst-case release scenarios for each structure under consideration, showing the potential effect on the public for each. As a minimum, the worst-case event shall include the complete failure (instantaneous release of entire contents) of a vessel, piping system, or other storage structure. A worst-case event includes (but is not limited to) a release during the design wind or design seismic event. In this assessment, the evaluation of the effectiveness of subsequent measures for accident mitigation shall be based on the assumption that the complete failure of the primary storage structure has occurred. The offsite impact must be defined in terms of population within the potentially affected area. To qualify for the reduced classification, the hazard assessment shall demonstrate that a release of the hazardous material from a worst-case event does not pose a threat to the public outside the property boundary of the facility.

As a minimum, the prevention program shall consist of the comprehensive elements of process safety management, which is based upon accident prevention through the application of management controls in the key areas of design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Secondary containment of the toxic, highly toxic, or explosive substances (including, but not limited to, double wall tank, dike of sufficient size to contain a spill, or other means to contain a release of the toxic, highly toxic, or explosive substances within the property boundary of the facility and prevent release of harmful quantities of contaminants to the air, soil, ground water, or surface water) are permitted to be used to mitigate the risk of release. When secondary containment is provided, it shall be designed for all environmental loads and is not eligible for this reduced classification. In hurricane-prone regions, mandatory practices and procedures that effectively diminish the effects of wind on critical structural elements or that alternatively protect against harmful releases during and after hurricanes may be used to mitigate the risk of release.

As a minimum, the emergency response plan shall address public notification, emergency medical treatment for accidental exposure to humans, and procedures for emergency response to releases that have consequences beyond the property boundary of the facility. The emergency response plan shall address the potential that resources for response could be compromised by the event that has caused the emergency.

1.6 ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING STRUCTURES

When an existing building or other structure is enlarged or otherwise altered, structural members affected shall be strengthened if necessary so that the factored loads defined in this document will be supported without exceeding the specified design strength for the materials of construction. When using allowable stress design, strengthening is required when the stresses due to nominal

loads exceed the specified allowable stresses for the materials of construction.

1.7 LOAD TESTS

A load test of any construction shall be conducted when required by the authority having jurisdiction whenever there is reason to question its safety for the intended occupancy or use.

1.8 CONSENSUS STANDARDS AND OTHER REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

This section lists the consensus standards and other documents which are adopted by reference within this chapter:

OSHA
Occupational Safety and Health
Administration
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

29 CFR 1910.1200 Appendix A with Amendments as of February 1, 2000.

Section 1.2

OSHA Standards for General Industry, 29 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 1910.1200

Appendix A, United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Washington DC, 2005.

TABLE 1-1 OCCUPANCY CATEGORY OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES FOR FLOOD, WIND, SNOW, EARTHQUAKE, AND ICE LOADS

Nature of Occupancy	Occupancy Category
Buildings and other structures that represent a low hazard to human life in the event of failure, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural facilities • Certain temporary facilities • Minor storage facilities 	I
All buildings and other structures except those listed in Occupancy Categories I, III, and IV	II
Buildings and other structures that represent a substantial hazard to human life in the event of failure, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings and other structures where more than 300 people congregate in one area • Buildings and other structures with daycare facilities with a capacity greater than 150 • Buildings and other structures with elementary school or secondary school facilities with a capacity greater than 250 • Buildings and other structures with a capacity greater than 500 for colleges or adult education facilities • Health care facilities with a capacity of 50 or more resident patients, but not having surgery or emergency treatment facilities • Jails and detention facilities Buildings and other structures, not included in Occupancy Category IV, with potential to cause a substantial economic impact and/or mass disruption of day-to-day civilian life in the event of failure, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power generating stations^a • Water treatment facilities • Sewage treatment facilities • Telecommunication centers Buildings and other structures not included in Occupancy Category IV (including, but not limited to, facilities that manufacture, process, handle, store, use, or dispose of such substances as hazardous fuels, hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste, or explosives) containing sufficient quantities of toxic or explosive substances to be dangerous to the public if released. Buildings and other structures containing toxic or explosive substances shall be eligible for classification as Occupancy Category II structures if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the authority having jurisdiction by a hazard assessment as described in Section 1.5.2 that a release of the toxic or explosive substances does not pose a threat to the public.	III
Buildings and other structures designated as essential facilities, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals and other health care facilities having surgery or emergency treatment facilities • Fire, rescue, ambulance, and police stations and emergency vehicle garages • Designated earthquake, hurricane, or other emergency shelters • Designated emergency preparedness, communication, and operation centers and other facilities required for emergency response • Power generating stations and other public utility facilities required in an emergency • Ancillary structures (including, but not limited to, communication towers, fuel storage tanks, cooling towers, electrical substation structures, fire water storage tanks or other structures housing or supporting water, or other fire-suppression material or equipment) required for operation of Occupancy Category IV structures during an emergency • Aviation control towers, air traffic control centers, and emergency aircraft hangars • Water storage facilities and pump structures required to maintain water pressure for fire suppression • Buildings and other structures having critical national defense functions Buildings and other structures (including, but not limited to, facilities that manufacture, process, handle, store, use, or dispose of such substances as hazardous fuels, hazardous chemicals, or hazardous waste) containing highly toxic substances where the quantity of the material exceeds a threshold quantity established by the authority having jurisdiction. Buildings and other structures containing highly toxic substances shall be eligible for classification as Occupancy Category II structures if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the authority having jurisdiction by a hazard assessment as described in Section 1.5.2 that a release of the highly toxic substances does not pose a threat to the public. This reduced classification shall not be permitted if the buildings or other structures also function as essential facilities.	IV

^aCogeneration power plants that do not supply power on the national grid shall be designated Occupancy Category II.

