ASCE STANDARD

ASCE/SEI 7–10

Third Printing
Errata Incorporated
Includes Supplement 1

Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures

This document uses both the International System of Units (SI) and customary units

ASCE

SEI STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE

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Third printing, incorporating errata identified through March 15, 2013.
Also includes Supplement 1 and expanded seismic commentary.

American Society of Civil Engineers

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Minimum design loads for buildings and other structures.
p. cm.
"ASCE Standard ASCE/SEI 7-10."
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-0-7844-1085-1 (alk. paper)
1. Structural engineering–Standards–United States. 2. Buildings–Standards–United States. 3. Strains and stresses. 4. Standards, Engineering–United States. I. American Society of Civil Engineers.
TH851.M56 2010
624.1′75021873—dc22

2010011011

Published by American Society of Civil Engineers
1801 Alexander Bell Drive
Reston, Virginia 20191
www.pubs.asce.org

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ISBN 978-0-7844-1291-6
ISBN 978-0-7844-1292-3 (CD-ROM)
ISBN 978-0-7844-7785-4 (PDF)
Manufactured in the United States of America.

21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 1 2 3 4 5

First Printing, 2010 (ISBN 978-0-7844-1085-1 print; 978-0-7844-1115-5 CD)
Second Printing, incorporating errata, 2011
Third Printing, incorporating errata, Supplement 1, and revised commentary, 2013

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In 2006, the Board of Direction approved the revision to the ASCE Rules for Standards Committees to govern the writing and maintenance of standards developed by the Society. All such standards are developed by a consensus standards process managed by the Society's Codes and Standards Committee (CSC). The consensus process includes balloting by a balanced standards committee made up of Society members and nonmembers, balloting by the membership of the Society as a whole, and balloting by the public. All standards are updated or reaffirmed by the same process at intervals not exceeding five years.

The following standards have been issued:

ANSI/ASCE 1-82 N-725 Guideline for Design and Analysis of Nuclear Safety Related Earth Structures
ASCE/EWRI 2-06 Measurement of Oxygen Transfer in Clean Water
ANSI/ASCE 3-91 Standard for the Structural Design of Composite Slabs and ANSI/ASCE 9-91 Standard Practice for the Construction and Inspection of Composite Slabs
ASCE 4-98 Seismic Analysis of Safety-Related Nuclear Structures
Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures (ACI 530-02/ASCE 5-02/TMS 402-02) and Specifications for Masonry Structures (ACI 530.1-02/ASCE 6-02/TMS 602-02)
ASCE/SEI 7-10 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures
SEI/ASCE 8-02 Standard Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Stainless Steel Structural Members
ANSI/ASCE 9-91 listed with ASCE 3-91
ASCE 10-97 Design of Latticed Steel Transmission Structures
SEI/ASCE 11-99 Guideline for Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Buildings
ASCE/EWRI 12-13 Standard Guidelines for the Design of Urban Subsurface Drainage
ASCE/EWRI 13-13 Standard Guidelines for the Installation of Urban Subsurface Drainage
ASCE/EWRI 14-13 Standard Guidelines for the Operation and Maintenance of Urban Subsurface Drainage
ASCE 15-98 Standard Practice for Direct Design of Buried Precast Concrete Pipe Using Standard Installations (SIDD)
ASCE 16-95 Standard for Load Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) of Engineered Wood Construction
ASCE 17-96 Air-Supported Structures
ASCE 18-96 Standard Guidelines for In-Process Oxygen Transfer Testing
ASCE 19-10 Structural Applications of Steel Cables for Buildings
ASCE 20-96 Standard Guidelines for the Design and Installation of Pile Foundations
ANSI/ASCE/T&DI 21-13 Automated People Mover Standards
SEI/ASCE 23-97 Specification for Structural Steel Beams with Web Openings
ASCE/SEI 24-05 Flood Resistant Design and Construction
ASCE/SEI 25-06 Earthquake-Actuated Automatic Gas Shutoff Devices
ASCE 26-97 Standard Practice for Design of Buried Precast Concrete Box Sections
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ASCE 28-00 Standard Practice for Direct Design of Precast Concrete Box Sections for Jacking in Trenchless Construction
ASCE/SEI/SFPE 29-05 Standard Calculation Methods for Structural Fire Protection
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ASCE/SEI 41-06 Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings
ASCE/EWRI 42-04 Standard Practice for the Design and Operation of Precipitation Enhancement Projects
ASCE/SEI 43-05 Seismic Design Criteria for Structures, Systems, and Components in Nuclear Facilities
ASCE/EWRI 44-05 Standard Practice for the Design and Operation of Supercooled Fog Dispersal Projects
ASCE/EWRI 45-05 Standard Guidelines for the Design of Urban Stormwater Systems
ASCE/EWRI 46-05 Standard Guidelines for the Installation of Urban Stormwater Systems
ASCE/EWRI 47-05 Standard Guidelines for the Operation and Maintenance of Urban Stormwater Systems
ASCE/SEI 48-11 Design of Steel Transmission Pole Structures
ASCE/SEI 49-12 Wind Tunnel Testing for Buildings and Other Structures
ASCE/EWRI 50-08 Standard Guideline for Fitting Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity Using Probability Density Functions
ASCE/EWRI 51-08 Standard Guideline for Calculating the Effective Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity
ASCE/SEI 52-10 Design of Fiberglass-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Stacks
ASCE/G-I 53-10 Compaction Grouting Consensus Guide
ASCE/EWRI 54-10 Standard Guideline for Geostatistical Estimation and Block-Averaging of Homogeneous and Isotropic Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity
ASCE/SEI 55-10 Tensile Membrane Structures
ANSI/ASCE/EWRI 56-10 Guidelines for the Physical Security of Water Utilities
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ASCE/T&DI/ICPI 58-10 Structural Design of Interlocking Concrete Pavement for Municipal Streets and Roadways
ASCE/SEI 59-11 Blast Protection of Buildings
ASCE/EWRI 60-12 Guidelines for Development of Effective Water Sharing Agreement

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FOREWORD

The material presented in this standard has been prepared in accordance with recognized engineering principles. This standard should not be used without first securing competent advice with respect to its suitability for any given application. The publication of the material contained herein is not intended as a representation or warranty on the part of the American Society of Civil Engineers, or of any other person named herein, that this information is suitable for any general or particular use or promises freedom from infringement of any patent or patents. Anyone making use of this information assumes all liability from such use.

In the margin of Chapters 1 through 23, a bar has been placed to indicate a substantial technical revision in the standard from the 2005 edition. Because of the reorganization of the wind provisions, these bars are not used in Chapters 26 through 31. Likewise, bars are not used to indicate changes in any parts of the Commentary. A dash (—) has been added in the margin of Chapters 1 through 31 and in the Commentary to indicate revisions from the first and second printings resulting from the incorporation of all errata identified at the time of this printing. For a complete listing of the errata, please go to http://www.asce.org/sei/errata.

In addition to new errata, this third printing incorporates Supplement 1 and significantly revised commentary for the seismic provisions. Supplement 1 addresses changes to the seismic provisions deemed important based on recent events, updates editions of other referenced standards, and provides some revised commentary to the snow and rain provisions. The revised seismic commentary replaces and expands on the commentary originally provided with ASCE 7–10. Much of this revised commentary is based on new information and experience gained from recent global seismic events. Both of these documents can be accessed at http://www.asce.org/sei/errata.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) acknowledges the work of the Minimum Design Loads on Buildings and Other Structures Standards Committee of the Codes and Standards Activities Division of the Structural Engineering Institute. This group comprises individuals from many backgrounds, including consulting engineering, research, construction industry, education, government, design, and private practice.

This revision of the standard began in 2006 and incorporates information as described in the commentary.

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DEDICATION

Thomas R. Tyson, P.E., S.E.

The members of the Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures Standards Committee of the Structural Engineering Institute respectfully dedicate this standard in the memory of Thomas R. Tyson, P.E., S.E., who passed away on December 19, 2009.

His structural engineering expertise complemented his dedication to our profession, and these qualities guided the members of the Live Load Subcommittee, which he chaired during the preparation of this standard. His practical advice, quick smile, and good nature will be greatly missed.

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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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

1.2.2 Symbols.

F_x A minimum design lateral force applied to level x of the structure and used for purposes of evaluating structural integrity in accordance with Section 1.4.2.

W_x The portion of the total dead load of the structure, D, located or assigned to level x.

D Dead load.

L Live load.

L_r Roof live load.