

Flood Resistant Design and Construction

This document uses both the
International System of Units (SI)
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American Society of Civil Engineers

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PREFACE

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The 2014 edition has a number of significant technical revisions from the 2005 edition, including

1. Defines Flood Design Class rather than using Risk/Occupancy Classification assigned under ASCE 7 and requires each building or structure governed by the standard to be assigned to Flood Design Class 1, 2, 3, or 4. Uses the assigned Flood Design Class to apply elevation requirements specified in Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Flood Design Class 4 buildings and facilities are equivalent to Occupancy Category/Risk Category IV buildings, which ASCE 7 identifies as essential facilities.
2. Adds definitions for Mixed Use and Residential Portions of Mixed Use in commentary to clarify limitations on use of dry floodproofing measures.
3. Changes the Coastal A Zone determination requirement from the designer's responsibility to one depending on either: (1) delineation of a Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA) on a Flood Insurance Rate Map, or (2) designation by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.
4. Separates specifications for flood openings from the installation requirements. Requires the presence of louvers, blades, screens, faceplates, or other covers and devices to be accounted for in determining net open area for non-engineered openings and in determining the performance of engineered openings. Revises coefficient of discharge table for engineered flood openings. Adds commentary regarding selection of coefficient of discharge and for grouping or stacking of flood openings.
5. For Flood Design Class 4 buildings, requires the minimum lowest floor elevation (or floodproofing level of protection) to be the higher of the Base Flood Elevation plus freeboard specified in Chapters 2, 4, and 6, the Design Flood Elevation, or the 500-year flood elevation. The 500-year flood elevation requirement is new.
6. Clarifies text pertaining to alluvial fan high risk flood hazard areas.
7. In Coastal High Hazard Areas (V Zone) and Coastal A Zones (if delineated),
 - a. Makes explicit that designs must account for local scour and erosion
 - b. Provides for shallow foundations in Coastal A Zones under certain circumstances
 - c. Requires flood openings in breakaway walls
 - d. Eliminates orientation of the lowest horizontal structural member as a factor to determine elevation for lowest floors, equipment, and flood damage-resistant materials
 - e. Requires exterior doors at the top of stairways that are located inside enclosed areas with breakaway walls
 - f. Consolidates requirements for all nonstructural concrete slabs
 - g. Allows substantial improvement of existing buildings seaward of the reach of mean high tide in V zones (makes ASCE 24 consistent with National Flood Insurance Program and Coastal A Zones).
8. Updates flood damage-resistant material requirements.
9. Clarifies emergency escape and rescue opening requirements for dry floodproofed buildings.
10. Clarifies requirements for garages, carports, and accessory storage structures. Adds new section for multistory parking structures.
11. Consolidates requirements for tanks and more clearly distinguishes between requirements based on flood hazard area.

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The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) acknowledges the work of the Flood Resistant Design and Construction Standard 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, education, government, design, and private practice.

This standard was prepared through the consensus standards process by balloting in compliance with procedures of ASCE's Codes and Standards Activities Committee. Those individuals who served on the ASCE 24-14 Standard Committee include

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ASCE would like to thank each member of the committee for his or her dedication and hard work during completion of ASCE 24-14.

ASCE would like to acknowledge the long-standing contributions of previous Committee Chair, Harry B. Thomas, and of those current members who have served the committee since the development of the 1998 edition: William L. Coulbourne, Shou-Shan Fan, Christopher P. Jones, Joseph J. Messersmith, Jr., and Kimberly Paarlberg.

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UNIT CONVERSIONS

Measurement	S.I. Units	Customary Units
Abbreviations	m = meter (S.I. base unit of length) cm = centimeter km = kilometer ha = hectare L = liter (S.I. base unit of volume) mL = milliliter kg = kilogram (S.I. base unit of mass) g = gram N = Newton (m·kg·s ⁻²) Pa = Pascal (N/m ²) kPa = kilopascal J = Joule W = watt kW = kilowatt s = second (S.I. base unit of time) min = minute h = hour day °C = degrees Celsius ppm = parts per million	yd = yard in. = inch mi = mile acre gal = gallon qt = quart lb = pound oz = ounce lbf = pound-force (lb/ft) psi = pounds per square inch atm = atmosphere ft·lbf = feet per pound-force Btu = British thermal unit hp = horsepower s = second min = minute h = hour day °F = degrees Fahrenheit ppm = parts per million
Length	1 m = 3.2808 ft = 1.0936 yd 1 cm = 0.3937 in. 1 km = 0.6214 mile	1 ft = 0.333 yd = 0.3048 m 1 in. = 2.54 cm 1 mile = 0.869 nautical mile = 1.6093 km
Area	1 m ² = 10.7643 ft ² 1 km ² = 0.3861 mi ² 1 ha = 2.4710 acre	1 ft ² = 0.0929 m ² 1 mi ² = 2.59 km ² 1 acre = 43,560 ft ² = 0.4047 ha
Volume	1 L = 0.2642 gal 1 ml = 1 cm ³	1 gal = 4 qt = 3.7854 L 1 ft ³ = 7.481 gal = 28.32 L
Mass	1 g = 0.0353 oz 1 kg = 2.2046 lb	1 oz = 28.3495 g 1 lb = 0.4536 kg
Force	1 N = 0.2248 lb/ft	1 lbf = 4.4482 N
Density	1 kg/m ³ = 0.2048 lb/ft ³ 1 kg/m ³ = 6.2427 lb/ft ³	1 lb/ft ³ = 4.882 kg/m ³ 1 lb/ft ³ = 16.018 kg/m ³
Pressure	1 kPa = 0.145 psi	1 psi = 6.8948 kPa 1 atm = 14.7 psi = 101.35 kPa
Energy and Power	1 J = 1.00 W·s = 0.7376 ft·lbf 1 kJ = 0.2778 W·h = 0.948 Btu 1 W = 0.7376 ft·lbf/s = 3.4122 Btu/h 1 kW = 1,3410 hp	1 ft·lbf = 1.3558 J 1 Btu = 1.0551 kJ 1 ft·lbf/s = 1.3558 W 1 hp = 550 ft·lb/s = 0.7457 kW
Flow	1 L/s = 15.85 gal/min = 2.119 ft ³ /min	1 gal/min = 0.1337 ft ³ /min = 0.0631 L/s
Concentration	mg/L = ppm _m (in dilute solutions)	
Temperature	°C = (°F - 32) × 5/9	°F = (°C × 9/5) + 32
Fundamental Constants and Relationships	Acceleration of gravity Density of freshwater (at 4 °C) = Density of saltwater (at 15 °C, 35 ppt) = Specific weight of freshwater (15 °C) = Specific weight of saltwater Weight of freshwater Weight of saltwater	32.2 ft/s ² = 9.81 m/s ² 1,000 kg/m ³ = 1 g/cm ³ 1,025 kg/m ³ = 1.025 g/cm ³ 62.4 lb/ft ³ = 9,810 N/m ³ 64.0 lb/ft ³ = 10,062 N/m ³ 1 gal = 8.345 lb = 3.7854 kg 1 gal = 8.559 lb = 3.8825 kg

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This standard provides minimum requirements for flood resistant design and construction of structures that are subject to building code requirements and that are located, in whole or in part, in Flood Hazard Areas. This standard applies to the following: (1) new construction, including subsequent work to such structures, and (2) work classified as substantial improvement of an existing structure that is not an historic structure (see Fig. 1-1).

The general provisions of this section shall apply to all new construction and substantial improvements in flood hazard areas. In addition to the requirements of this section (see Fig. 1-2):

1. Chapter 2 shall apply to all new construction and substantial improvements in Flood Hazard Areas and High Risk Flood Hazard Areas except those that are identified as Coastal High Hazard Areas and Coastal A Zones;
2. Chapter 3 shall apply to all new construction and substantial improvements in High Risk Flood Hazard Areas;
3. Chapter 4 shall apply to all new construction and substantial improvements in Coastal High Hazard Areas and Coastal A Zones; and
4. Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 shall apply to all new construction and substantial improvements.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the provisions of the entire standard (italicized words in a definition mean the words are defined in this section):

500-Year Flood Elevation—Elevation of flooding having a 0.2% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Accessory Storage Structure—A *structure* designed and used only for storage that is customarily accessory to and incidental to that of dwellings.

Alluvial Fan—Fan-shaped deposits of sediment eroded from steep slopes and *watersheds* and deposited on valley floors.

Alluvial Fan Flooding—Type of flood hazard that occurs only on *alluvial fans*. Alluvial fan flooding is considered hazardous when designated as a *flood hazard area* on a community's *flood hazard map* or otherwise legally designated.

Apex—Highest point on an *alluvial fan* or similar landform, where the flow is last confined. The apex generally corresponds to the location where the *watershed* erosion ceases and fan sediment deposition commences.

Attendant Utilities and Equipment—Utilities, mechanical, electrical, fuel gas, plumbing, HVAC, and related equipment, as well as services associated with new construction and *substantial improvements*.

Authority Having Jurisdiction—Organization, community, political subdivision, office, or agency that has adopted this standard under due legislative authority.

Base Flood—Flood having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Base Flood Elevation (BFE)—Elevation of flooding, including *wave height*, having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

Basement—That portion of a *structure* having its lowest floor below ground level on all sides.

Breakaway Wall—Any type of wall subject to flooding that is not required to provide structural support to a building or other *structure* and that is designed and constructed such that, under *base flood* or lesser flood conditions, it will collapse under specific lateral loads in such a way that (1) it allows the free passage of floodwaters, and (2) it does not damage the structure or supporting foundation system.

Bulkhead—Wall or *structure* to retain or prevent sliding or *erosion* of the land; sometimes used to protect against *wave* action.

Channel—Natural or artificial waterway that periodically or continuously contains moving water.

Coastal A Zone (CAZ)—Area within a *special flood hazard area*, landward of a *V Zone* or landward of an open coast without mapped *V Zones*. In a Coastal A Zone, the principal source of flooding must be astronomical tides, storm surges, seiches, or tsunamis, not riverine flooding. During the *base flood* conditions, the potential for breaking *wave heights* shall be greater than or equal to 1.5 ft. The inland limit of the Coastal A Zone is (1) the *Limit of Moderate Wave Action* if delineated on a *FIRM*, or (2) designated by the *authority having jurisdiction*.

Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA)—Area within a *special flood hazard area* extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area that is subject to *high velocity wave action* from storms or seismic sources. This area is designated on *FIRMs* as velocity zones V, VO, VE, or V1-30.

Community—Any state or area or political subdivision thereof, or any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska native village or authorized native organization, which has the authority to adopt and enforce this standard for areas within its jurisdiction.

Datum—The vertical reference on which maps are drawn, including but not limited to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD) and the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD).

Debris Flow—Mass movement of sediment, including boulders, organic materials, and other debris; debris flows typically move in surges and are characterized by a steep frontal wave.