



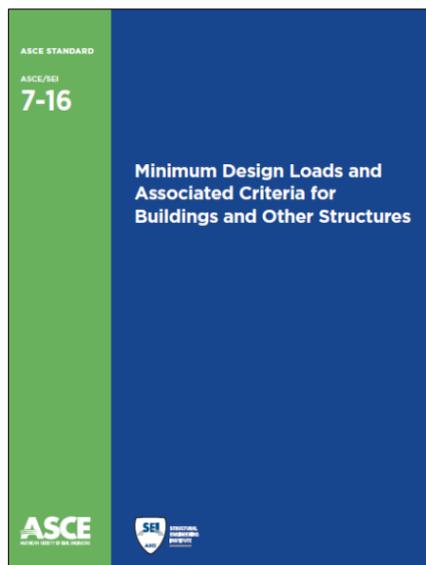
Roofing Issues: Decks to Dockets  
September 6-8, 2018 – Napa, CA

**ASCE 7-16 and its impact on wind design**

presented by

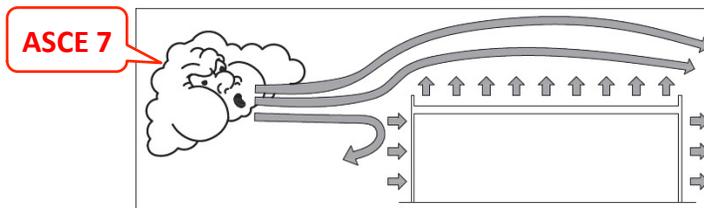
**Mark S. Graham**

Vice President, Technical Services  
National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)



**American Society of Civil Engineers Standard 7, “Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures” (ASCE 7-16)**

## The fundamental concept



Wind creates pressures/forces  
on building elements

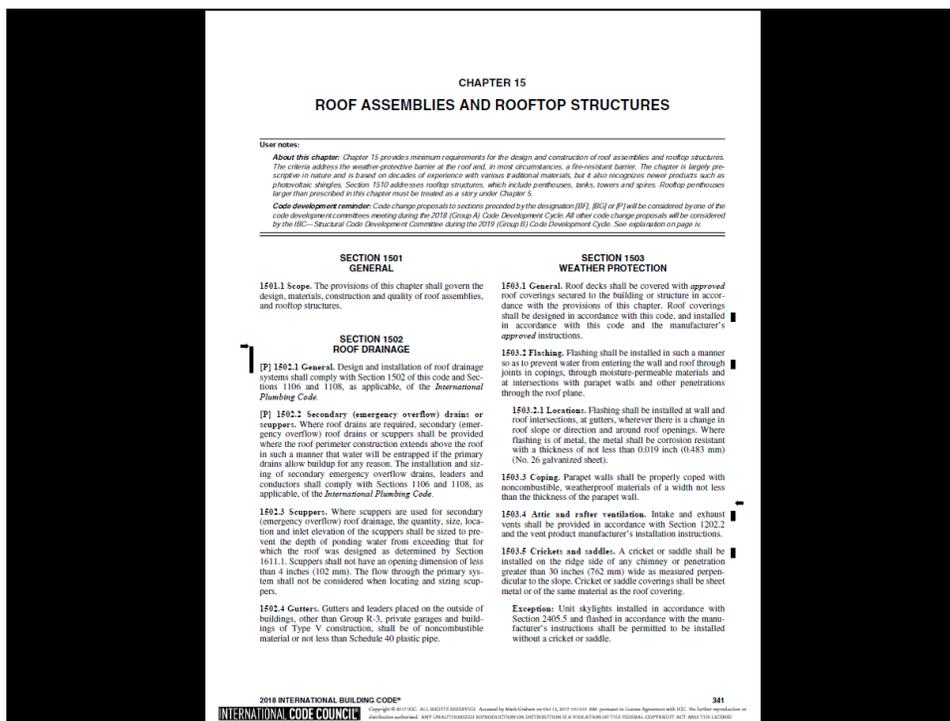
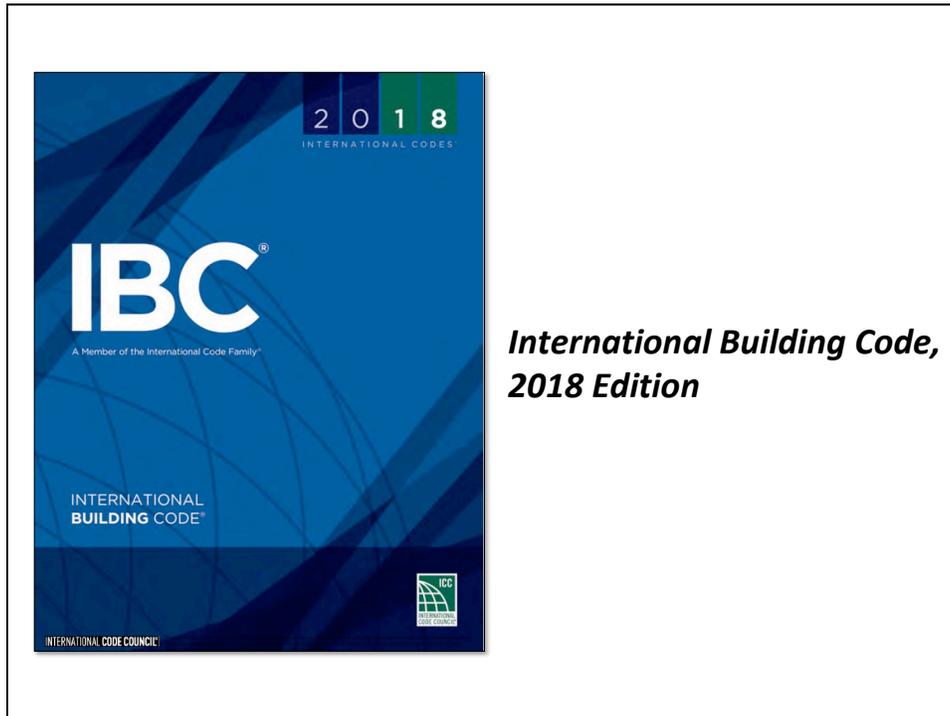
## Fundamental concept -- continued

Adhesion or attachment  $\geq$  Uplift pressure

FM rating

UL classification  $\geq$  ASCE 7

Engineering



ROOF ASSEMBLIES AND ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

SECTION 1504  
PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

**SECTION 1504  
PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**1504.1 Wind resistance of roofs. Roof decks and roof coverings shall be designed for wind loads in accordance with Chapter 16 and Sections 1504.2, 1504.3 and 1504.4.**

**ASCE 7-16**

1504.2 Wind resistance of clay and concrete tile. Wind loads on clay and concrete tile roof coverings shall be in accordance with Section 1609.5.

1504.2.1 Testing. Testing of concrete and clay roof tiles shall be in accordance with Sections 1504.2.1.1 and 1504.2.1.2.

1504.2.1.1 Overturning resistance. Concrete and clay roof tiles shall be tested to determine their resistance to overturning due to wind in accordance with Chapter 15 and either SBCCT SSTD 11 or ASTM C1568.

1504.2.1.2 Wind tunnel testing. Where concrete and clay roof tiles do not satisfy the limitations in Chapter 16 for rigid tile, a wind tunnel test shall be used to determine the wind characteristics of the concrete or clay tile roof covering in accordance with SBCCT SSTD 11 and Chapter 15.

1504.3 Wind resistance of nonballasted roofs. Roof coverings installed on roofs in accordance with Section 1507 that are mechanically attached or adhered to the roof deck shall be designed to resist the design wind load pressures for components and cladding in accordance with Section 1609.5.2. The wind load on the roof covering shall be permitted to be determined using allowable stress design.

1504.3.1 Other roof systems. Built-up, modified bitumen, fully adhered or mechanically attached single-ply roof systems, metal panel roof systems applied to a solid or closely fitted deck and other types of membrane roof systems shall be tested in accordance with FM 4474, UL 1897, or other test methods approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Where deck and roof system shall be tested in accordance with the applicable referenced structural design standard in Section 2002.1.

1504.3.2 Metal roofs constructed of aluminum shall be permitted to be designed and tested in accordance with the applicable referenced structural design standard in Section 2002.1.

1504.3.3 Metal roof shingles. Metal roof shingles applied to a solid or closely fitted deck shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D3161, FM 4474, UL 580 or UL 1897. Metal roof shingles tested in accordance with ASTM D3161 shall meet the classification requirements of Table 1504.1.1 for the appropriate maximum basic wind speed and the metal shingle packaging shall bear a label to indicate compliance with ASTM D3161 and the required classification in Table 1504.1.1.

1504.4 Ballasted low-slope roof systems. Ballasted low-slope (roof slope < 2:12) single-ply roof system coverings installed in accordance with Sections 1507.12 and 1507.13 shall be designed in accordance with Section 1504.8 and ANSISPR1 RP-4.

1504.5 Edge treatment for low-slope roofs. Low-slope built-up, modified bitumen and single-ply roof system metal edge treatment, except gutters, shall be designed and installed for wind loads in accordance with Chapter 16 and tested for resistance in accordance with Test Method RE-1.

TABLE 1504.1  
CLASSIFICATION OF STEEP-SLOPE ROOF SHINGLES TESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM D3161 OR D7158<sup>a</sup>

MAXIMUM BASIC WIND SPEED, V, FROM FIGURES 1609.5(1) OR ASCE 7 (mph)	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE STRESS DESIGN WIND SPEED, V <sub>ASD</sub> , FROM TABLE 1609.5(1) (mph)	ASTM D3161 CLASSIFICATION	ASTM D7158 CLASSIFICATION
110	85	D, G or H	A, D or F
116	90	D, G or H	A, D or F
129	100	G or H	A, D or F
142	110	G or H	F
155	120	G or H	F
168	130	H	F
181	140	H	F
194	150	H	F

<sup>a</sup> For S1, 1 foot = 304.8 mm; 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

<sup>a</sup> The standard calculations contained in ASTM D7158 assume Exposure Category B or C and building height of 60 feet or less. Additional calculations are required for conditions outside of these assumptions.

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CHAPTER 16  
STRUCTURAL DESIGN

**SECTION 1603  
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS**

**1603.1 General. Construction documents shall show the size, section and relative locations of structural members with floor levels, column centers and offsets dimensioned. The design loads and other information pertinent to the structural design required by Sections 1603.1.1 through 1603.1.9 shall be indicated on the construction documents.**

NOTATIONS

1603.1.1 Notations. The following notations are used in this chapter:

$D$  = Dead load.

$D_i$  = Weight of ice in accordance with Chapter 10 of ASCE 7.

$E$  = Combined effect of horizontal and vertical earthquake induced forces as defined in Section 2.3.6 of ASCE 7.

$F$  = Load due to fluids with well-defined pressures and maximum heights.

$F_s$  = Flood load in accordance with Chapter 5 of ASCE 7.

$H$  = Load due to lateral earth pressures, ground water pressure or pressure of bulk materials.

$L$  = Roof live load greater than 20 psf (0.96 kN/m<sup>2</sup>) and floor live load.

$L_s$  = Roof live load of 20 psf (0.96 kN/m<sup>2</sup>) or less.

$R$  = Rain load.

$S$  = Snow load.

$T$  = Cumulative effects of self-straining load forces and effects.

$V_{ASD}$  = Allowable stress design wind speed, miles per hour (mph) (km/hr) where applicable.

$V$  = Basic design wind speeds, miles per hour (mph) (km/hr) determined from Figures 1609.5(1) through 1609.5(5) or ASCE 7.

$W$  = Load due to wind pressure.

$W_i$  = Wind-on-ice in accordance with Chapter 10 of ASCE 7.

Exemptions: Construction documents for buildings constructed in accordance with the conventional light-frame construction provisions of Section 2308 shall indicate the following structural design information:

1. Floor and roof dead and live loads.
2. Ground snow load,  $P_g$ .
3. Basic design wind speed,  $V$ , miles per hour (mph) (km/hr) and allowable stress design wind speed,  $V_{ASD}$ , as determined in accordance with Section 1609.5.1 and wind exposure.
4. Seismic design category and site class.
5. Flood design data, if located in flood hazard areas established in Section 1612.3.
6. Design load-bearing values of soils.
7. Rain load data.

1603.1.1 Floor live load. The uniformly distributed, concentrated and impact floor live load used in the design shall be indicated for floor areas. Use of live load reduction in accordance with Section 1607.1 shall be indicated for each type of live load used in the design.

1603.1.2 Roof live load. The roof live load used in the design shall be indicated for roof areas (Section 1607.13).

1603.1.3 Roof snow load data. The ground snow load,  $P_g$ , shall be indicated. In areas where the ground snow load,  $P_g$ , exceeds 10 pounds per square foot (psf) (0.479 kN/m<sup>2</sup>), the following additional information shall also be provided, regardless of whether snow loads govern the design of the roof:

1. Flat-roof snow load,  $P_f$ .
2. Snow exposure factor,  $C_e$ .
3. Snow load importance factor,  $I_s$ .

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**STRUCTURAL DESIGN**

4. Thermal factor,  $C_t$ .
5. Slope factor(s),  $C_s$ .
6. Drift surcharge load(s),  $P_d$ , where the sum of  $P_d$  and  $P_f$  exceeds 20 psf (0.96 kN/m<sup>2</sup>).
7. Width of snow drift(s),  $w$ .

3. In *flood hazard areas* other than *coastal high hazard areas* or *coastal A zones*, the elevation to which any nonresidential building will be dry floodproofed.

4. In *coastal high hazard areas* and *coastal A zones*, the proposed elevation of the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor.

**1603.1.4 Wind design data.** The following information related to wind loads shall be shown, regardless of whether wind loads govern the design of the lateral force-resisting system of the structure:

1. **Basic design wind speed,  $V$ ,** miles per hour and allowable stress design wind speed,  $V_{asd}$ , as determined in accordance with Section 1609.3.1.
2. *Risk category.*
3. Wind exposure. Applicable wind direction if more than one wind exposure is utilized.
4. Applicable internal pressure coefficient.
5. **Design wind pressures to be used for exterior component and cladding materials** not specifically designed by the *registered design professional* responsible for the design of the structure, psf (kN/m<sup>2</sup>).

1604.3.2 **Reinforced concrete.** The deflection of reinforced concrete structural members shall not exceed that permitted by ACI 318.

1604.3.3 **Steel.** The deflection of steel structural members shall not exceed that permitted by AISC 360, AISI S100, ASCE 8, SJI C7 or SJI 100, as applicable.

1609.1.1.1 **General.** Buildings, structures and parts thereof shall be designed to withstand the minimum wind loads prescribed herein. Decreases in wind loads shall not be made for the effect of shielding by other structures.

1609.1.1.2 **Determination of wind loads.** Wind loads on every building or structure shall be determined in accordance with Chapters 24 to 30 of ASCE 7. The type of opening protection required, the basic design wind speed,  $V$ , and the exposure category for a site is permitted to be determined in accordance with Section 1609 or ASCE 7. Wind shall be assumed to come from any horizontal direction and wind pressures shall be assumed to act normal to the surface considered.

**Exception:**

1. Subject to the limitations of Section 1609.1.1.1, the provisions of ICC 600 shall be permitted for applicable Group R-2 and R-3 buildings.

**TABLE 1609.2 GROUND SNOW LOADS,  $p_g$ , FOR ALASKAN LOCATIONS**

LOCATION	POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT	LOCATION	POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT	LOCATION	POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT
Adak	60	Galena	60	Kenai	50
Anchorage	50	Galena	70	Kenai	50
Angoon	70	Homer	40	Kodiak	50
Barrow	75	Juneau	60	Kotzebue	60
Barter Island	35	Kenai	70	McGrath	70
Bethel	40	Kodiak	50	Nemana	80
Big Lake	40	Kotzebue	60	Nome	70
Child Bay	25	McGrath	70	Palmer	50
Cordova	100	Nemana	80		
Delta Junction	40	Nome	70		
Fort Yukon	60	Palmer	50		

For SI: 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kN/m<sup>2</sup>.

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**STRUCTURAL DESIGN**

**SECTION 1608 SNOW LOADS**

1608.1 **General.** Design snow loads shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 7 of ASCE 7, but the design roof load shall be not less than that determined by Section 1607.

1608.2 **Ground snow loads.** The ground snow loads to be used in determining the design snow loads for roofs shall be determined in accordance with ASCE 7 or Figure 1608.2 for the contiguous United States and Table 1608.2 for Alaska. Site-specific case studies shall be made in areas designated "CS" in Figure 1608.2. Ground snow loads for sites at elevations above the limits indicated in Figure 1608.2 and for all sites within the CS areas shall be approved. Ground snow load determination for such sites shall be based on an extreme value statistical analysis of data available in the vicinity of the site using a value with a 2-percent annual probability of being exceeded (50-year mean recurrence interval). Snow loads are zero for Hawaii, except in mountainous regions as approved by the building official.

1608.3 **Ponding instability.** Susceptible bays of roofs shall be evaluated for ponding instability in accordance with Chapters 7 and 8 of ASCE 7.

**SECTION 1609 WIND LOADS**

1609.1 **Appl. to** *residential buildings, structures and parts thereof* shall be designed to withstand the minimum wind loads prescribed herein. Decreases in wind loads shall not be made for the effect of shielding by other structures.

1609.1.1 **Determination of wind loads.** Wind loads on every building or structure shall be determined in accordance with Chapters 24 to 30 of ASCE 7. The type of opening protection required, the basic design wind speed,  $V$ , and the exposure category for a site is permitted to be determined in accordance with Section 1609 or ASCE 7. Wind shall be assumed to come from any horizontal direction and wind pressures shall be assumed to act normal to the surface considered.

**Exception:**

1. Subject to the limitations of Section 1609.1.1.1, the provisions of ICC 600 shall be permitted for applicable Group R-2 and R-3 buildings.

2. Subject to the limitations of Section 1609.1.1.1, residential structures using the provisions of AWC WFCCM.

3. Subject to the limitations of Section 1609.1.1.1, residential structures using the provisions of AISI S230.

4. Designs using NAAMM FP 1001.

5. Designs using TIA-222 for antenna-supporting structures and antennas, provided that the horizontal extent of Topographic Category 2 encampments in Section 2.6.6.2 of TIA-222 shall be 16 times the height of the encampment.

6. Wind tunnel tests in accordance with ASCE 49 and Sections 31.4 and 31.5 of ASCE 7.

The wind speeds in Figures 1609.3(1) through 1609.3(5) are basic design wind speeds,  $V$ , and shall be converted in accordance with Section 1609.3.1.1 to allowable stress design wind speeds,  $V_{asd}$ , when the provisions of the standards referenced in Exceptions 4 and 5 are used.

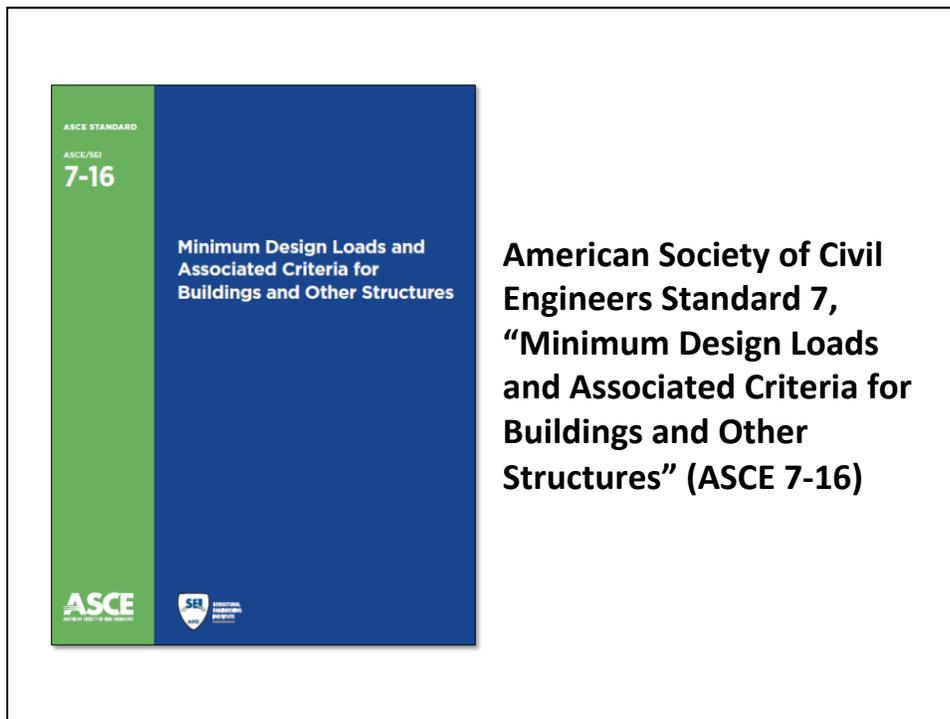
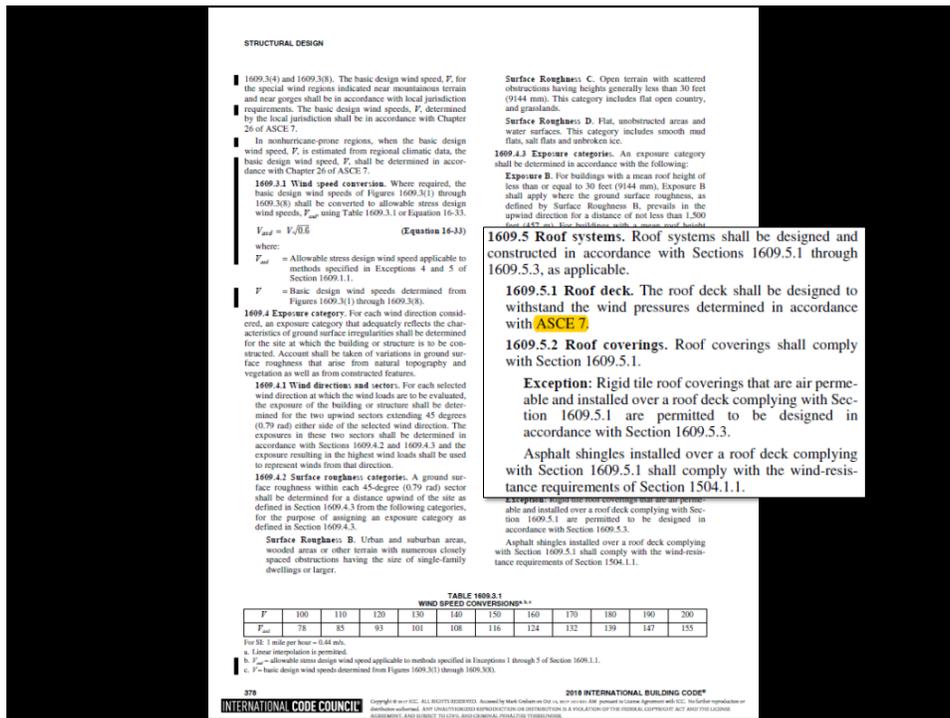
1609.1.1.1 **Applicability.** The provisions of ICC 600 are applicable only to buildings located within Exposure B or C as defined in Section 1609.4. The provisions of ICC 600, AWC WFCCM and AISI S230 shall not apply to buildings sited on the upper half of an isolated hill, ridge or escarpment meeting all of the following conditions:

1. The hill, ridge or escarpment is 60 feet (18 288 mm) or higher if located in Exposure B or 90 feet (9144 mm) or higher if located in Exposure C.
2. The maximum average slope of the hill exceeds 10 percent.
3. The hill, ridge or escarpment is unobstructed upwind by other such topographic features for a distance from the high point of 50 times the height of the hill or 2 miles (3.22 km), whichever is greater.

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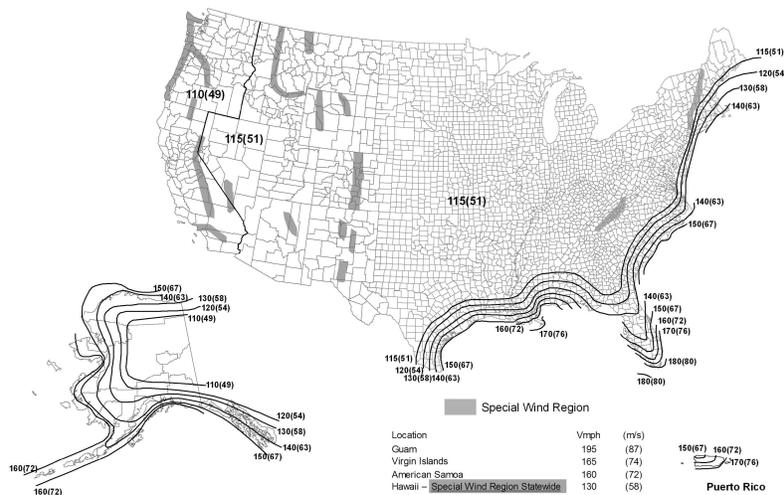
## Noteworthy changes in ASCE 7-16

Compared to ASCE 7-10

- Revised basic wind speed map
- Changes (and new) pressure coefficients
- Revised perimeter and corner zones

## ASCE 7-10 basic wind speed map

Fig. 1607A-- $V_{ult}$  for Risk Category II Buildings



## ASCE 7-16 basic wind speed map

Risk Category II Buildings (MRI = 700 years)



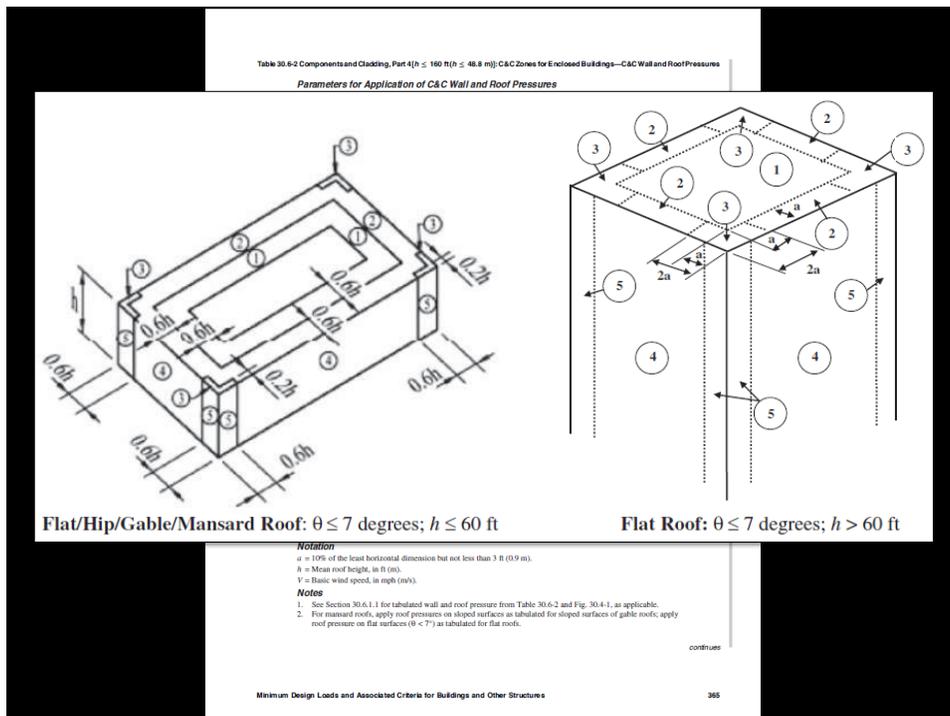
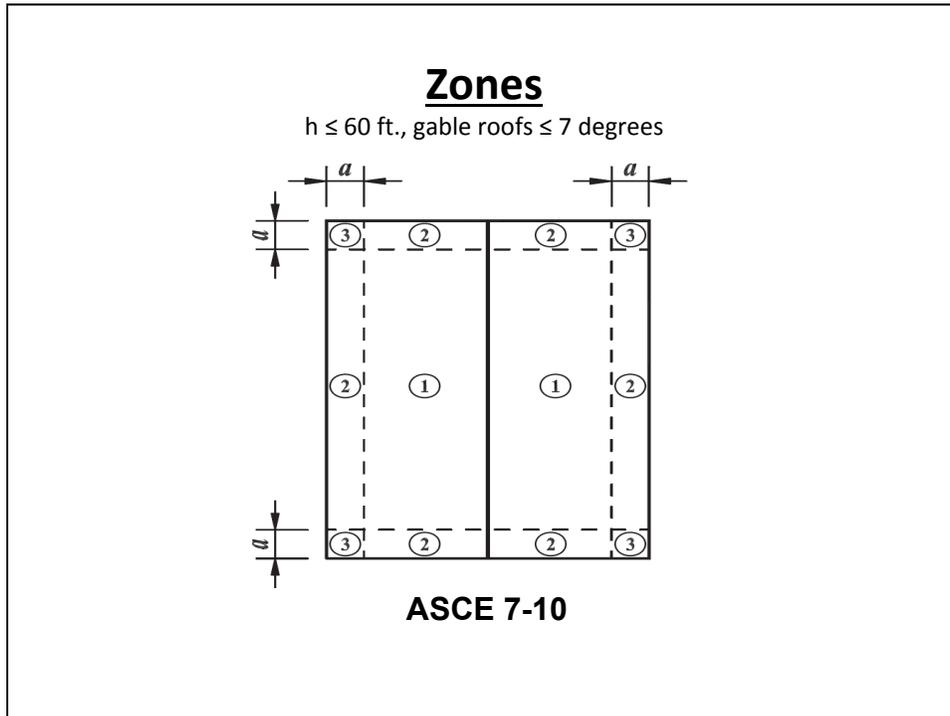
MRI		
Risk Category	ASCE 7-10	ASCE 7-16
I (Low)	300 yrs.	300 yrs.
II (not I, II or IV)	700 yrs.	700 yrs.
Category III (High risk)	1,700 yrs.	1,700 yrs.
Category IV (Essential)	1,700 yrs.	3,000 yrs.

***Selection of the correct Risk Category/map (i.e., wind speed) is essential***

## Comparing $GC_p$ pressure coefficients

$h \leq 60$  ft., gable roofs  $\leq 7$  degrees

Zone	ASCE 7-10	ASCE 7-16	Change
1'	n/a	0.9	-10%
1 (field)	-1.0	-1.7	+70%
2 (perimeter)	-1.8	-2.3	+28%
3 (corners)	-2.8	-3.2	+14%



## **Noteworthy changes in ASCE 7-16**

Compared to ASCE 7-10

- Revised basic wind speed map
- Changes (and new) pressure coefficients
- Revised perimeter and corner zones

*While center field pressures may be slightly lower, field, perimeter and corner uplift pressures will generally be greater*



***International Building Code,  
2018 Edition***



*It is important to differentiate between “ultimate” strength design and “allowable stress design” (ASD) wind loads...*

*How the roofing industry will adapt to ASCE 7-16 remains to be seen....*

*FM Global has indicated they will update their FM 1-28 to be based on ASCE 7-16 (with modifications) in mid-2019.*

*An example...*

### **Comparing ASCE 7-05, ASCE 7-10 and ASCE 7-16**

**Example:** A office building (Risk Category II) is located in Omaha, Nebraska. The building is an enclosed structure with a mean roof height of 40 ft. The building is located in an open terrain area that can be categorized as Exposure Category C. An adhered, membrane roof systems is to be installed.

Document	Basic wind speed (mph)	Design wind pressure (psf)			
		Zone 1' (Center)	Zone 1 (Field)	Zone 2 (Perimeter)	Zone 3 (Corners)
ASCE 7-05	90	--	21.8	36.4	54.8
ASCE 7-10 Ult.	115	--	35.5	59.5	89.5
ASCE 7-10 ASD	89	--	21.3	35.7	53.4
ASCE 7-16 Ult.	110	29.7	51.7	68.1	92.8
ASCE 7-16 ASD	85	17.8	31.8	40.9	55.7

*This comparison illustrates why it is important for Designers to include wind design loads in their Construction Documents (per IBC Sec. 1603.1)...*

*...It also illustrates why specifying a wind warranty can create an uneven playing field. Unless the Designer indicates the wind design loads, which design method will the manufacturer use (e.g., in a competitive environment)?*


TECH TODAY

## Specifying wind design

Many roof system designers inadequately address wind loads in contract documents  
by Mark S. Graham

**Specifying wind**

**speed warranties**

**is not a substitute**

**for code-required**

**wind design data**

NRCA is receiving an increasing number of reports indicating proper drawings and specifications incompletely, inadequately or inaccurately address proper wind design for low-slope membrane roof systems. Some designs, according to reports, only include a specification requirement for the roof system manufacturer to provide a wind warranty. But there are minimum requirements for proper wind design of low-slope membrane roof systems.

**Code requirements**

Building codes typically provide specific requirements for reporting design loads, including wind loads, in contract documents.

The International Building Code, 2012 Edition (IBC 2012), Chapter 16-Structural Design, Section 1603, Contract Documents, indicates contract documents need to include a roof system's live load, snow load data, wind design data and any special loads.

Required wind design data includes identifying the ultimate design wind speed, nominal design wind speed, risk category, wind exposure and applicable internal pressure coefficients. For component and cladding systems that are not specifically designed by a registered design professional, design wind pressures in terms of psf (pounds per square foot) also are required. Roof systems typically are considered component and cladding systems. Design wind pressures in the field, perimeter and corner regions

of roof areas should be noted in contract documents.

IBC's previous editions include similar contract document requirements.

For new construction projects, design loads most commonly will be identified on structural drawings in the project drawing set. For projects without specific structural drawings, design loads may be provided on architectural drawings or drawing notes or in project specifications.

**ANSI/SPRI ES-1**

ANSI/SPRI ES-1, "Wind Design Standard for Edge Systems Used with Low-Slope Roofing Systems," which is referenced in IBC 2012, includes two primary elements: determination of design wind loads at roof edges (flats, copings) and testing for resistance loads of copings and flash.

Designers should not simply specify compliance with ANSI/SPRI ES-1 in project specifications; they should determine and clearly include design wind loads at roof edges in contract documents.

IBC 2012 includes in Section 1604.5-Edge System for Low-Slope Roofs design wind loads should be determined using the ultimate design wind speed and IBC 2012's Chapter 16, which is based on ASCE 7-10, "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures."

IBC 2012 references ANSI/SPRI ES-1-03, ANSI/SPRI ES-1-03 is based upon ASCE 7-02, which is not an ultimate design wind speed-based method. Therefore, the design wind load determination method contained in ANSI/SPRI ES-1 does not satisfy IBC 2012's requirements for design wind loads at roof edges.

Design wind loads at roof edges should be

determined using IBC 2012's Chapter 16 and be clearly noted in contract documents.

**Responsibilities**

Designers should not place the responsibility for determining roof system or individual component design wind loads on manufacturers, component suppliers or installers, or roofing contractors.

Also, designers' sole reliance on specifying wind speed warranties is not a substitute for code-required wind design data. Such warranties typically do not address consideration of ultimate and nominal design wind speeds, building height, risk category, wind exposure and internal pressure coefficients applicable to the specific building necessary for properly determining roof systems' design wind loads.

Responsibility for properly determining and clearly identifying wind design data, including design wind loads for roof systems, is required by the building code and is clearly that of roof system designers. Designers may retain a structural engineer or qualified consultant to help them fulfill their design responsibilities.

To help designers determine wind loads for commonly encountered low-slope roof systems, NRCA, the National Roofing Contractors Association and National Roofing Contractors Association have developed and offer a free online application, Roof Wind Designer. Roof Wind Designer is a web application that allows users to determine design wind loads using ASCE 7, "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures," 2005 or 2010 edition.

Roof Wind Designer is accessible at [www.nrcawinddesign.com](http://www.nrcawinddesign.com).

# Professional Roofing

## March 2014

**MARK S. GRAHAM** is NRCA's executive director of technical services.

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[www.professionroofing.net](http://www.professionroofing.net) MARCH 2014

[Link](#)



The screenshot shows the homepage of **roofwinddesigner.com**. The header includes the site name in orange and blue, and the text "ASCE 7-05, ASCE 7-10 and ASCE 7-16". Navigation links for "Home | Contact Us | FAQ" and "Welcome: Mark Graham | My Projects | Profile | Logout | Administration" are visible. A red-bordered box contains the following text:

**Roof Wind Designer has been updated based upon ASCE 7-16:**

- **Part 2: Low-rise Buildings (Simplified) [h ≤ 60 ft.]**
- **Part 4: Buildings with 60 ft. < h ≤ 160 ft. (Simplified)\***

\* Does not include hip and gable roofs h > 60 ft. and all roof slopes over 7 degrees (about 1.5:12)

Below the box, it says: "To register for a new account [click here](#). If you already have an account, [click here](#) to login."

At the bottom of the page is the NRCA logo (National Roofing Contractors Association).



**Mark S. Graham**  
Vice President, Technical Services  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
10255 West Higgins Road, 600  
Rosemont, Illinois 60018-5607

(847) 299-9070  
mgraham@nrca.net  
www.nrca.net

Twitter: @MarkGrahamNRCA  
Personal website: [www.MarkGrahamNRCA.com](http://www.MarkGrahamNRCA.com)

# Specifying wind design

Many roof system designers inadequately address wind loads in contract documents

by Mark S. Graham

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But there are minimum requirements for proper wind design of low-slope membrane roof systems.

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The *International Building Code*,<sup>®</sup> 2012 Edition (IBC 2012), Chapter 16-Structural Design, Section 1603-Contract Documents, indicates contract documents need to include a roof system's live load, snow load data, wind design data and any special loads.

Required wind design data includes identifying the ultimate design wind speed, nominal design wind speed, risk category, wind exposure and applicable internal pressure coefficient. For component and cladding systems that are not specifically designed by a registered design professional, design wind pressures in terms of psf (pounds per square foot) also are required. Roof systems typically are considered component and cladding systems. Design wind pressures in the field, perimeter and corner regions

of roof areas should be noted in contract documents.

IBC's previous editions include similar contract document requirements.

For new construction projects, design loads most commonly will be identified on structural drawings in the project drawing set. For projects without specific structural drawings, design loads may be provided on architectural drawings or drawing notes or in project specifications.

## ANSI/SPRI ES-1

ANSI/SPRI ES-1, "Wind Design Standard for Edge Systems Used with Low Slope Roofing Systems," which is referenced in IBC 2012, includes two primary elements: determination of design wind loads at roof edges (fascia, copings) and testing for resistance loads of copings and fascia.

Designers should not simply specify compliance with ANSI/SPRI ES-1 in project specifications; they should determine and clearly include design wind loads at roof edges in contract documents.

IBC 2012 indicates in Section 1504.5-Edge Securement for Low-slope Roofs design wind loads should be determined using the ultimate design wind speed and IBC 2012's Chapter 16, which is based on ASCE 7-10, "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures."

IBC 2012 references ANSI/SPRI ES-1-03. ANSI/SPRI ES-1-03 is based upon ASCE 7-02, which is not an ultimate design wind speed-based method. Therefore, the design wind load determination method contained in ANSI/SPRI ES-1 does not satisfy IBC 2012's requirements for design wind loads at roof edges.

Design wind loads at roof edges should be

determined using IBC 2012's Chapter 16 and be clearly noted in contract documents.

## Responsibilities

Designers should not place the responsibility for determining roof system or individual component design wind loads on manufacturers, component suppliers or installers, or roofing contractors.

Also, designers' sole reliance on specifying wind speed warranties is not a substitute for code-required wind design data. Such warranties typically do not address consideration of ultimate and nominal design wind speeds, building height, risk category, wind exposure and internal pressure coefficients applicable to the specific building necessary for properly determining roof systems' design wind loads.

Responsibility for properly determining and clearly identifying wind design data, including design wind loads for roof systems, is required by the building code and is clearly that of roof system designers. Designers may retain a structural engineer or qualified consultant to help them fulfill their design responsibilities.

To help designers determine wind loads for commonly encountered low-slope roof systems, NRCA, the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association and North/East Roofing Contractors Association have developed and offer a free online application, Roof Wind Designer.

Roof Wind Designer is a web application that allows users to determine design wind loads using ASCE 7's, "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures," 2005 or 2010 editions.

Roof Wind Designer is accessible at [www.roofwinddesigner.com](http://www.roofwinddesigner.com). 

**MARK S. GRAHAM** is NRCA's associate executive director of technical services.

Specifying wind speed warranties is not a substitute for code-required wind design data