Chapter 11
SEISMIC DESIGN CRITERIA

11.1 GENERAL

11.1.1 Purpose

Chapter 11 presents criteria for the design and construction of buildings and other structures subject to earthquake ground motions. The specified earthquake loads are based upon post-elastic energy dissipation in the structure, and because of this fact, the requirements for design, detailing, and construction shall be satisfied even for structures and members for which load combinations that do not contain earthquake loads indicate larger demands than combinations that include earthquake loads. Minimum requirements for quality assurance for seismic force-resisting systems are set forth in Appendix 11A.

11.1.2 Scope

Every structure, and portion thereof, including nonstructural components, shall be designed and constructed to resist the effects of earthquake motions as prescribed by the seismic requirements of this standard. Certain nonbuilding structures, as described in Chapter 15, are also within the scope and shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 15. Requirements concerning alterations, additions, and change of use are set forth in Appendix 11B. Existing structures and alterations to existing structures need only comply with the seismic requirements of this standard where required by Appendix 11B. The following structures are exempt from the seismic requirements of this standard:

1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings that are located where the mapped, short period, spectral response acceleration parameter, S_S, is less than 0.4 or where the Seismic Design Category determined in accordance with Section 11.6 is A, B, or C.
2. Detached one- and two-family wood-frame dwellings not included in Exception 1 with not more than two stories above grade plane, satisfying the limitations of and constructed in accordance with the IRC.
3. Agricultural storage structures that are intended only for incidental human occupancy.
4. Structures that require special consideration of their response characteristics and environment that are not addressed in Chapter 15 and for which other regulations provide seismic criteria, such as vehicular bridges, electrical transmission towers, hydraulic structures, buried utility lines and their appurtenances, and nuclear reactors.
5. Piers and wharves that are not accessible to the general public.

11.1.3 Applicability

Structures and their nonstructural components shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirement of the following sections based on the type of structure or component:

a. Buildings: Chapter 12
b. Nonbuilding Structures: Chapter 15
c. Nonstructural Components: Chapter 13
d. Seismically Isolated Structures: Chapter 17
e. Structures with Damping Systems: Chapter 18

Buildings whose purpose is to enclose equipment or machinery and whose occupants are engaged in maintenance or monitoring of that equipment, machinery or their associated processes shall be permitted to be classified as nonbuilding structures designed and detailed in accordance with Section 15.5 of this standard.

11.1.4 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction

Alternate materials and methods of construction to those prescribed in the seismic requirements of this standard shall not be used unless approved by the authority having jurisdiction. Substantiating evidence shall be submitted demonstrating that the proposed alternate, for the purpose intended, will be at least equal in strength, durability, and seismic resistance.

11.2 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply only to the seismic requirements of this standard.

ACTIVE FAULT: A fault determined to be active by the authority having jurisdiction from properly substantiated data (e.g., most recent mapping of active faults by the United States Geological Survey).

ADDITION: An increase in building area, aggregate floor area, height, or number of stories of a structure.