4. The diaphragms are rigid as defined in Section 12.3.1 or for diaphragms that are flexible, the distance between vertical elements of the seismic force-resisting system does not exceed 40 ft.

Where the alternate simplified design procedure of Section 12.14 is used, the Seismic Design Category is permitted to be determined from Table 11.6-1 alone, using the value of S_{DS} determined in Section 12.14.8.1.

11.7 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY A

Buildings and other structures assigned to Seismic Design Category A need only comply with the requirements of Section 1.4. Nonstructural components in SDC A are exempt from seismic design requirements. In addition, tanks assigned to Risk Category IV shall satisfy the freeboard requirement in Section 15.7.6.1.2.

11.8 GEOLOGIC HAZARDS AND GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

11.8.1 Site Limitation for Seismic Design Categories E and F

A structure assigned to Seismic Design Category E or F shall not be located where there is a known potential for an active fault to cause rupture of the ground surface at the structure.

11.8.2 Geotechnical Investigation Report Requirements for Seismic Design Categories C through F

A geotechnical investigation report shall be provided for a structure assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E, or F in accordance with this section. An investigation shall be conducted and a report shall be submitted that includes an evaluation of the following potential geologic and seismic hazards:

a. Slope instability,
b. Liquefaction,
c. Total and differential settlement, and
d. Surface displacement due to faulting or seismically induced lateral spreading or lateral flow.

The report shall contain recommendations for foundation designs or other measures to mitigate the effects of the previously mentioned hazards.

EXCEPTION: Where approved by the authority having jurisdiction, a site-specific geotechnical report is not required where prior evaluations of nearby sites with similar soil conditions provide direction relative to the proposed construction.

11.8.3 Additional Geotechnical Investigation Report Requirements for Seismic Design Categories D through F

The geotechnical investigation report for a structure assigned to Seismic Design Category D, E, or F shall include all of the following, as applicable:

1. The determination of dynamic seismic lateral earth pressures on basement and retaining walls due to design earthquake ground motions.
2. The potential for liquefaction and soil strength loss evaluated for site peak ground acceleration, earthquake magnitude, and source characteristics consistent with the MCE_G peak ground acceleration. Peak ground acceleration shall be determined based on either (1) a site-specific study taking into account soil amplification effects as specified in

Table 11.8-1 Site Coefficient F_{PGA}

	Mapped Maximum Considered Geometric Mean (MCE_G) Peak Ground Acceleration, PGA				
Site Class	PGA ≤ 0.1	PGA = 0.2	PGA = 0.3	PGA = 0.4	PGA ≥ 0.5
A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
B	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
C	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
D	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0
E	2.5	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.9
F	See Section 11.4.7				

Note: Use straight-line interpolation for intermediate values of PGA.