Table 20.3-1 Site Classification

Site Class	$\overline{v}_s$	$\overline{N}$ or $\overline{N}_{ch}$	$\overline{s}_u$
A. Hard rock	>5,000 ft/s	NA	NA
B. Rock	2,500 to 5,000 ft/s	NA	NA
C. Very dense soil and soft rock	1,200 to 2,500 ft/s	>50	>2,000 psf
D. Stiff soil	600 to 1,200 ft/s	15 to 50	1,000 to 2,000 psf
E. Soft clay soil	<600 ft/s	<15	<1,000 psf
	Any profile with more than 10 ft of soil having the following characteristics: —Plasticity index $PI > 20$, —Moisture content $w \geq 40\%$, —Undrained shear strength $\overline{s}_u < 500$ psf		
F. Soils requiring site response analysis in accordance with Section 21.1	See Section 20.3.1		

For SI: 1 ft/s = 0.3048 m/s; 1 lb/ft^2 = 0.0479 kN/m^2.

on site or on profiles of the same rock type in the same formation with an equal or greater degree of weathering and fracturing. Where hard rock conditions are known to be continuous to a depth of 100 ft (30 m), surficial shear wave velocity measurements are permitted to be extrapolated to assess $\overline{v}_s$.

20.4 DEFINITIONS OF SITE CLASS PARAMETERS

The definitions presented in this section shall apply to the upper 100 ft (30 m) of the site profile. Profiles containing distinct soil and rock layers shall be subdivided into those layers designated by a number that ranges from 1 to n at the bottom where there are a total of n distinct layers in the upper 100 ft (30 m). Where some of the n layers are cohesive and others are not, k is the number of cohesive layers and m is the number of cohesionless layers. The symbol i refers to any one of the layers between 1 and n.

20.4.1 $\overline{v}_s$, Average Shear Wave Velocity

$\overline{v}_s$ shall be determined in accordance with the following formula:

$$\overline{v}_s = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} d_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{d_i}{v_{si}}} \qquad (20.4\text{-}1)$$

where

d_i = the thickness of any layer between 0 and 100 ft (30 m)

v_{si} = the shear wave velocity in ft/s (m/s)

$\sum_{i=1}^{n} d_i$ = 100 ft (30 m)

20.4.2 $\overline{N}$, Average Field Standard Penetration Resistance and $\overline{N}_{ch}$, Average Standard Penetration Resistance for Cohesionless Soil Layers

$\overline{N}$ and $\overline{N}_{ch}$ shall be determined in accordance with the following formulas:

$$\overline{N} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} d_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{d_i}{N_i}} \qquad (20.4\text{-}2)$$

where N_i and d_i in Eq. 20.4-2 are for cohesionless soil, cohesive soil, and rock layers.

$$\overline{N}_{ch} = \frac{d_s}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{d_i}{N_i}} \qquad (20.4\text{-}3)$$

where N_i and d_i in Eq. 20.4-3 are for cohesionless soil layers only and $\sum_{i=1}^{m} d_i = d_s$ where d_s is the total thickness of cohesionless soil layers in the top 100 ft (30 m). N_i is the standard penetration resistance (ASTM D1586) not to exceed 100 blows/ft (305 blows/m) as directly measured in the field without corrections. Where refusal is met for a rock layer, N_i shall be taken as 100 blows/ft (305 blows/m).

20.4.3 $\overline{s}_u$, Average Undrained Shear Strength

$\overline{s}_u$ shall be determined in accordance with the following formula: