

April 11, 2012

ATTN: Florida Building Commission

DS 2012-034

FILED	
Department of Business and Professional Regulation Deputy Agency Clerk	
CLERK	Brandon Nichols
Date	4/11/2012
File #	

RE: Request for Declaratory Statement (Risk Categories)

I am a licensed professional engineer in the state of Florida and my area of specialty is structural design. I have a project where I need to place telecommunication equipment on an elevated platform. The elevated platform will consist of four columns, several beams and braces. An access ladder, grating and a guardrail system will be installed so that technicians can access the elevated platform and walk safely. The purpose of this platform is to carry the dead, live and wind loads safely from the telecommunication equipment down to the ground. The columns will be welded to base plates and the base plates bolted to drilled shafts.

Per Florida Building Code (FBC) 2010 Section 1603.1.4, risk category can be obtained from Table 1604.5 or Table 1.5-1 of ASCE 7-10.

ASCE 7-10 Table 1.5-1 and FBC Table 1604.5 have different descriptions of risk categories. After going over the risk category definitions in each code, I get different risk categories for telecommunication equipment.

Per Section 1604.5, each building and structure shall be assigned a risk category in accordance with Table 1604.5. This sentence excludes ASCE 7 for the selection of risk category, while Section 1603.1.4 includes ASCE 7 for the selection of risk categories.

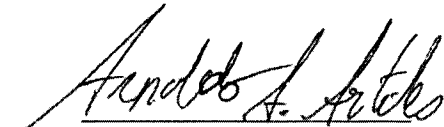
I am looking for answers for the following three questions:

1. What risk category would my telecommunication equipment fall under ASCE 7-10 Table 1.5-1?
2. What risk category would my telecommunication equipment fall under FBC Table 1604.5?
3. If the risk category under ASCE 7-10 is more stringent than the risk category under FBC, which risk category should I use for telecommunication equipment?

Very truly yours,

KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

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