



**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Response to the Advisory Committee on
Structural Safety of VA Facilities (Committee)**

June 2, 2022, Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (OALC CFM): Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Incorporation of ASCE 7-22 on VA projects.

The Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of VA Facilities commends the Department of Veterans Affairs for reintroducing the issues of facility resiliency due to climate change effects (e.g., high winds, tornados and flooding).

Long Term Recommendation: The Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the Department of Veterans Affairs adopt ASCE 7-22 for use on new building projects as soon as it is voted upon for adoption at the end of the 2023 administrative code change cycle for inclusion into 2024 International Building Code. The adoption of ASCE 7-22 by the VA would therefore occur prior to the publication of the 2024 IBC.

Short Term Recommendation: The Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the Department of Veterans Affairs incorporate Chapter 32 (Tornado Loads) from ASCE 7-22 into the design requirements for the design of new buildings in the St. Louis John Cochrane Major project and should be considered for other buildings as appropriate. For each impacted building, the A/E should be required to submit a comprehensive plan to the VA detailing the method by which they will integrate the ASCE 7-22 Chapter 32 loads with the ASCE 7-16 requirements.

VA Response: Concur. The Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction (OALC) Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM) will incorporate Chapter 32 (Tornado Loads) from American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 7-22 into the design requirements of new buildings in the St. Louis John Cochrane Major project and consider it for other buildings as appropriate. The tornado design requirement has been coordinated and confirmed with the St. Louis John Cochrane Major Project Delivery Team. Additionally, OALC CFM will incorporate ASCE 7-22 into the overall structural design requirements for all new buildings after it is voted upon for inclusion into International Building Code (IBC) 2024, but prior to the publication of IBC 2024.

Recommendation 2 (OALC CFM): VA Climate Resilience Efforts.

The Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of VA Facilities commends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for initiating implementation of VA climate resilience efforts. The Advisory Committee recommends that VA evaluate the goals set forth by the White House in Executive Order 14057, OMB Memo M-22-06 and the implementing instructions for EO 14057, and develop a strategy to achieve those goals, including evaluation of existing codes and standards or development of new codes and standards to support those goals. The Advisory Committee suggests reviewing the following resources:

- The Structural Engineering Institute's SE 2050;
 - Utilization of materials, methods and operations with low embodied carbon.
- The US Resiliency Council's rating system;
- The 2026 National Institute of Building Sciences' Provision Update Committee's functional recovery efforts;
- The California Green Building Standards Code; and
- ASHRAE 189.1 and 189.3.

VA Response: Concur. VA appreciates the Advisory Committee's commendation and recommendations. In continuance of the Department's efforts, VA's Sustainable Buildings Working Group has established various sub-groups which are investigating alternatives for compliance with the numerous requirements outlined in Executive Order (EO) 14057 (Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability), Office of Management and Budget Memo M-22-06 and EO 14057 Implementing Instructions. The Working Group's activities will include reviewing available codes, standards and third-party rating systems to support implementation, as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Recommendation 3 (OALC CFM): Evaluation of FEMA P-154 for initial seismic assessment of Ancillary Buildings.

The Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of VA Facilities commends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the preliminary investigation of use of FEMA P-154 in the seismic evaluation and ranking of Ancillary buildings. The Advisory Committee recommends that the VA continues investigating the use of FEMA P-154 through detailed P-154 assessments of a variety of subsets of building types, followed by confirmation studies using ASCE 41. These assessments by FEMA P-154, once validated, can be used as input to a ranking procedure to prioritize further action. The Committee further recommends that VA continue to establish a seismic ranking procedure for Ancillary buildings.

VA Response: Concur. OALC CFM will continue to investigate the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) P-154, Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards, for the assessment and potential ranking of Ancillary buildings and compare FEMA P-154 evaluation results to ASCE 41 evaluations for validation.

Actions to Implement

VA Action Plan						
Recommendation	Lead Office	Other Offices	Steps/Tasks to Implement	Due Date	Status	Contact Person (DFO)
<p>(#1) The Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of VA Facilities Recommendations for the Incorporation of ASCE 7-22 on VA projects.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee commends VA for reintroducing the issues of facility resiliency due to climate change effects (e.g., high winds, tornados and flooding).</p> <p>Long Term Recommendation: The Advisory Committee strongly recommends that VA adopt ASCE 7-22 for use on new building projects as soon as it is voted upon for adoption at the end of the 2023 administrative code change cycle for inclusion into 2024 International Building Code. The adoption of ASCE 7-22 by VA would therefore occur prior to the publication of the 2024 IBC.</p>	OALC CFM		VA will incorporate Chapter 32 (Tornado Loads) from ASCE 7-22 into design requirements for the new buildings in the St. Louis John Cochrane Major project and consider it for other buildings as appropriate. Additionally, OALC CFM will incorporate ASCE 7-22 into the overall structural design requirements for all new buildings after it is voted upon for inclusion into IBC 2024, but prior to the publication of IBC 2024.	Meeting was conducted May 16-18, 2023.	Open	Donald L. Myers, American Institute of Architects (AIA), Director of Facilities Standards Service, Office of Facilities Planning, CFM Donald.Myers@va.gov 202-632-5388

<p>Short Term Recommendation: The Advisory Committee strongly recommends that VA incorporate Chapter 32 (Tornado Loads) from ASCE 7-22 into the design requirements for the design of new buildings in the St. Louis John Cochrane Major project and should be considered for other buildings as appropriate. For each impacted building, the A/E should be required to submit a comprehensive plan to the VA detailing the method by which they will integrate the ASCE 7-22 Chapter 32 loads with the ASCE 7-16 requirements.</p>						
<p>(#2) VA Climate Resilience Efforts.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee commends VA for initiating implementation of VA climate resilience efforts. The Advisory Committee recommends that VA evaluates the goals set forth by the White House in EO 14057, OMB Memo M-22-06 and the implementing instructions for</p>	<p>OALC CFM</p>		<p>VA will contact the U.S. Resilience Council to discuss potential partnerships for enhancing the resilience of VA's structures. VA plans to conduct a detailed review of suggested resources and adopt, in whole or in part, those deemed appropriate with the goal of completion by the end of calendar year 2025. These actions are dependent on availability of staff and budgetary resources.</p>	<p>Meeting was conducted May 16-18, 2023.</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Donald L. Myers, AIA, Director of Facilities Standards Service, Office of Facilities Planning, CFM Donald.Myers@va.gov 202-632-5388</p>

<p>EO 14057, and develop a strategy to achieve those goals, including evaluation of existing codes and standards or development of new codes and standards to support those goals. The Advisory Committee suggests reviewing the following resources:</p> <p>The Structural Engineering Institute’s SE 2050. Utilization of materials, methods, and operations with low embodied carbon. The US Resiliency Council’s rating system. The 2026 National Institute of Building Sciences’ Provision Update Committee’s functional recovery efforts. The California Green Building Standards Code ASHRAE 189.1 and 189.3.</p>						
<p>(#3) Evaluation of FEMA P-154 for initial seismic assessment of Ancillary Buildings.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee commends VA for the preliminary investigation of use of FEMA P-154 in the</p>	<p>OALC CFM</p>		<p>VA will study the use of FEMA P-154 for the assessment and potential ranking of Ancillary buildings and compare FEMA P-154 evaluation results to ASCE 41 evaluations for validation.</p>	<p>Meeting was conducted May 16-18, 2023.</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Donald L. Myers, AIA Director of Facilities Standards Service, Office of Facilities Planning, CFM Donald.Myers@va.gov 202-632-5388</p>

<p>seismic evaluation and ranking of Ancillary buildings. The Advisory Committee recommends that the VA continues investigating the use of FEMA P-154 through detailed P-154 assessments of a variety of subsets of building types, followed by confirmation studies using ASCE 41. These assessments by FEMA P-154, once validated, can be used as input to a ranking procedure to prioritize further action. The Committee further recommends that VA continue to establish a seismic ranking procedure for Ancillary buildings.</p>						
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