

# San Diego Area Chapter International Code Council

Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, El Centro, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove,  
National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego City, San Diego County, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista

<b>Subject:</b> Special inspection requirements for suspended ceiling systems	<b>Date Revised:</b> 12/15/08	
<b>Key Words:</b> Special inspection, Suspended ceiling systems	<b>Code Section:</b> 1704, 1705.3.4, 1707, 1702.1	
<b>Investigated By:</b> Special Inspection Committee Chair: Mehdi Shadyab, P.E.	<b>Code:</b> CBC	<b>Code Year:</b> 2007
<b>Approved By:</b> ICC- San Diego Area Chapter	<b>Date Approved:</b> 12/16/2008	

**Question:** Are special inspections required for the installation of suspended ceiling systems and their anchorage?

**Answer:**  
No. Unless, as a component of the designated seismic systems in structures assigned to Seismic Design Category D, E or F, the suspended ceiling system is required to use the importance factor  $I_p$  equal to 1.5 for its design in accordance with Chapter 13 of ASCE 7, when the suspended ceiling system 1) is providing support for component(s) which is required to function for life-safety purposes after an earthquake or, 2) is providing support for component(s) which contains hazardous materials or, 3) is in or attached to a building and structure designated as essential facility (Occupancy Category IV in accordance with Table 1604.5) which is needed for continued operation of the facility or its failure could impair the continued operation of the facility. [Section 13.1.3 of ASCE 7].

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**Rationale:**  
Section 1705 requires designated seismic systems, in structures assigned to Seismic Design Category D, E or F, as referenced in Section 1707, be addressed in the statement of special inspections. The designated seismic systems are defined as those architectural, electrical and mechanical systems and their components that require design in accordance with Chapter 13 of ASCE 7 and for which the component importance factor,  $I_p$ , is greater than 1 in accordance with Section 13.1.3 of ASCE 7. The suspended ceiling systems and their anchorage are listed as an architectural component required to be designed in accordance with the referenced section in ASCE 7. However, the necessity for having special inspections for the installation of the suspended ceiling grids is only triggered when design importance factor is greater than 1. This occurs only when any one of the conditions set forth under Section 13.1.3, Chapter 13 of ASCE 7 is met.

NOTE: The California Registered Design Professional of record in responsible charge of the structural design or, the Architect of record may at their option elect to specify special inspections for suspended ceiling systems and their anchorage in the project's statement of special inspections, when the design importance factor  $I_p$  is equal to 1.

This Code Interpretation is subject to change at any time. To determine if this interpretation is still current please visit our website at <http://www.iccsandiego.org>