



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director

Dianne Black, Director of Development Services

Jeffrey S. Hunt, Director Long Range Planning

SUBJECT: Suspended ceiling inspections	DATE: 10/26/2011
BULLETIN NO. BC-2011-003	EFFECTIVE THE ABOVE DATE, ALL PREVIOUS POLICIES ON THIS SUBJECT ARE SUPERCEDED
FROM: MASSOUD ABOLHODA, BUILDING OFFICIAL	

CODE REFERENCE (S):

- ASCE 7-05 Section 13.5.6.2.2(h) – requires special inspection for suspended ceilings per Section 11A.1.3.9
- ASCE 7-05 Section 13.5.6 Suspended ceilings requirements

ISSUE (S):

- There is currently no certified special inspector for suspended ceiling. Besides Section 11A.1.13.9 is not adopted by IBC.
- ASCE requirement is not clear whether diagonal splay wires can be used instead of rigid braces. It is also not clear when tenant improvement projects are required to comply with all suspended ceiling requirements.

GUIDELINE/ INTERPRETATION:

1. Special inspection is not required for suspended ceiling.
2. Splayed wire compression post bracing system can be used. However, lateral deflections for sprinkler heads and other penetrations have to be oversized in accordance to ASCE Section 13.5.6.2.2 (e).
3. Suspended ceiling requirements is required only in the area of remodel when new ceiling is proposed. Where it is difficult to isolate the area of remodel by rooms or walls, designer will have to work out the proposed suspended ceiling design with the local jurisdiction.
4. When no work is proposed to be done in the existing T-bar ceiling in the area of remodel, existing ceiling design does not have to comply with the new code requirement, except that the ceiling has to have the proper support for seismic load.

g:\group\p&d\digital library\administrative & personnel\building & safety\bulletins, interpretations,ordinances, policy & procedures\suspended ceiling policy.docx