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Engineering Societies Library (Linda Hall Library), a private library located on the campus of the University of Missouri 5109 Cherry Street Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2498 1-800-662-1545

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Table 1. Ductility-Based Reduction Factors (Q) for Existing Structures and Systems

A. STRUCTURES SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT	
This covers structures whose primary purpose is to support equipment, such as air coolers, spheres, horizontal vessels, exchangers, heaters, vertical vessels and reactors, etc.	Q
1. Steel structures	
Ductile moment frame (see Note 8) Use Q=6 if there is a significant departure from the intent of the 1988 (or later)	6 or 8
UBC for special moment-resisting frames.	
Ordinary moment frame (see Note 8) The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=2 value	2, 4 or 5
(also see Note 6):	
 There is a significant strength discontinuity in any of the vertical lateral force resisting elements, i.e., a weak story. 	
b. There are partial penetration welded splices in the columns of the	
moment resisting frames.	
c. The structure exhibits "strong girder-weak column" behavior, i.e., under combined lateral and vertical loading, hinges occur in a significant number of columns before occurring in the beams.	
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=4 value	
(also see Note 6):	
e. Any of the beam-column connections in the lateral force resisting	
moment frames does not have both: (1) full penetration flange welds;	
and (2) a bolted or welded web connection.	
that do not connect both flanges and the web.	
Braced frame	2, 4 or 5
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=2 value (also see Note 6):	
a. There is a significant strength discontinuity in any of the vertical lateral	
force resisting elements, i.e., a weak story (see SEAOC, 1996 Section C104.9).	
b. The bracing system includes "K" braced bays. Note: "K" bracing is normitted for frames of two stories or loss by using Q=2. For frames of two stories or loss by using Q=2.	
more than two stories, "K" bracing must be justified on a case-by-case	
basis.	
 c. Brace connections are not able to develop the capacity of the diagonals. d. Column online details connect develop the column connectiv. 	
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=4 value	
(also see Note 6):	
 Diagonal elements designed to carry compression have (kl/r) greater than 120 	
f. The bracing system includes chevron ("V" or inverted "V") bracing that	
was designed to carry gravity load.	
 g. Tension rod bracing with connections which develop rod strength. 	15 or 25
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=1.5 value	1.0 01 2.0
(also see Note 6):	
 a. Column splice details cannot develop the column capacity. b. Axial load demand represents more than 20% of the axial load capacity. 	
	1

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A. STRUCTURES SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT (Continued)	Q
2. Concrete structures	
Ductile moment frame	6 or 8
Use Q=6 if there is a significant departure from the intent of the 1988 (or later) UBC for	
special moment-resisting frames. If shear failure occurs before flexural failure in either	
beam or column, the frame should be considered an ordinary moment frame.	
Intermediate moment frame	4
Ordinary moment frame	1.5, 2.5 or
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=1.5 value (also see	3.5
Note 6):	
 a. There is a significant strength discontinuity in any of the vertical lateral force registing elements is a sweak start. 	
h The structure optimistic structure grider weak column" hohevier i.e. under	
b. The structure exhibits strong girder - weak column behavior, i.e., under	
combined lateral and vertical loading, ninges occur in a significant number of	
columns before occurring in the beams.	
c. There is visible deterioration of concrete or reinforcing steel in any of the frame	
elements, and this damage may lead to a brittle failure mode.	
 Shear failure occurs before flexural failure in a significant number of the column 	s.
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=2.5 value (also see	
Note 6):	
 The lateral resisting frames include prestressed (pretensioned or post-tensioned elements) 	t
 The beam stirrups and column ties are not anchored into the member cores with books of 135° or more. 	n
g. Columns have ties spaced at greater than d/4 throughout their length. Beam	
stirrups are spaced at greater than d/2.	
 Any column bar lap splice is less than 35db long. Any column bar lap splice is r enclosed by ties spaced 8db or less. 	iot
i. Development length for longitudinal bars is less than 24d _b .	
j. Shear failure occurs before flexural failure in a significant number of the beams	
Shear wall	1.5, 3 or 5
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=1.5 value (also see Note 6):	
a. There is visible deterioration of concrete or reinforcing steel in any of the frame	
elements, and this damage may lead to a brittle failure mode.	
 There is a significant strength discontinuity in any of the vertical lateral force 	
resisting elements i e a weak story	
c Any wall is not continuous to the foundation	
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=3 value (also see	
Note 61-	
d. The reinforcing steel for concrete walls is not greater than 0.0025 times the group	
d. The end of the wall slong both the longitudinal and transverse avec. The spacing of	of t
relation and a long but the original and transverse axes. The spacing of	
reinforcing steel along ether as exceeds to inclus.	ad .
e. For shear waits with h/b greater than 2.0, the boundary elements are not community elements are not community elements are not community elements are not community and the second se	ieu
with entering. (1) spirals, or (2) use at spacing of less than $\partial \sigma_b$.	
 For coupled shear wall buildings, surrups in any coupling beam are spaced at the shear of the second state of the	
greater than 80_b or are not anchored into the core with nooks of 135 or more.	45.05
Cantilever pier/column	1.5, 2.5 or
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=1.5 value (also see	3.5
Note 6):	
a. There is visible deterioration of concrete or reinforcing steel in any of the	
elements, and this damage may lead to a brittle failure mode.	
b. Axial load demand represents more than 20% of the axial load	1
capacity.	
The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=2.5 value (also see	1
Note 6):	1
c. The ties are not anchored into the member cores with hooks of 135° or more.	1
 Columns have ties spaced at greater than d/4 throughout their length. Piers ha 	ve
ties spaced at greater than d/2 throughout their length.	1
e. Any pier/column bar lap splice is less than 35db long. Any pier/column bar lap	1
splice is not enclosed by ties spaced 8d _b or less.	1
f. Development length for longitudinal bars is less than 24d _b .	

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В.	EQUIPMENT BEHAVING AS STRUCTURES WITH INTEGRAL SUPPORTS	Q
1.	Vertical vessels/heaters or spheres supported by: Steel skirts The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=2 value (also see Note 6):	2 or 4
	 a. The diameter (D) divided by the thickness (t) of the skirt is greater than 0.441*E/F_y, where E and F_y are the Young's modulus and yield stress of the skirt, respectively. 	
	Steel braced legs without top girder or stiffener ring The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=1.5 value (also see Note 6):	1.5, 3 or 4
	 a. The bracing system includes K^a braced bays. b. Brace connections are not able to develop the capacity of the diagonals. c. Column splice details cannot develop the column capacity. The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=3 value (also see Note 6): 	
2.	 d. Diagonal elements designed to carry compression have (kl/r) greater than 120. e. The bracing system includes chevron ("V" or inverted "V") bracing that was designed to carry gravity load. f. Tension rod bracing with connections which develop rod strength. Steel unbraced legs without top girder or stiffener ring The following structural characteristics are usually indicative of a Q=1.5 value (also see Note 6): a. Column splice details cannot develop the column capacity. b. Axial load demand represents more than 20% of the axial load capacity. 	1.5 or 2.5
	Steel guyed	4
	Steel cantilever	4
	Concrete	4

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C. PIPEWAYS	Q
Note: This includes pipeways supporting equipment that does not weigh more than 25% of the other dead loads. For pipeways supporting equipment that weighs more than 25% of the other dead loads, see Section A, STRUCTURES SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT.	
1. Steel	
Ductile moment frame (see Note 8)	8
Ordinary moment frame (see Note 8)	6
Braced frame	6
Cantilever column	4
2. Concrete	
Ductile moment frame	8
Ordinary moment frame	5
Cantilever column	3.5

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D.	GROUND SUPPORTED TANKS (see Notes 4 and 9)	Q
1.	Anchored	4
2.	Unanchored	3
E.	FOUNDATIONS (See Note 5)	Q
1.	Piled	6
2.	Spread footings	6
F.	ANCHOR BOLTS (see Note 6)	Q
1.	Anchor bolt yield controls	As for structure
2.	Concrete failure or anchor bolt slippage controls, or there is a non-ductile force transfer mechanism between structure and foundation (see Note 7)	1.5
G.	PIPING	0
1.		y
	Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components with joints made by welding or brazing.	12
2.	Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components with joints made by welding or brazing. Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high- or limited-deformability materials, with joints made by threading, bonding, compression couplings, grooved couplings or flanges.	12 6
2. 3.	Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components with joints made by welding or brazing. Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high- or limited-deformability materials, with joints made by threading, bonding, compression couplings, grooved couplings or flanges. Piping and tubing not in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high-deformability materials, with joints made by welding or brazing.	12 6 9
2. 3. 4.	 Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components with joints made by welding or brazing. Piping in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high- or limited-deformability materials, with joints made by threading, bonding, compression couplings, grooved couplings or flanges. Piping and tubing not in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high-deformability materials, with joints made by welding or brazing. Piping and tubing not in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high-deformability materials, with joints made by welding or brazing. Piping and tubing not in accordance with ASME B31, including in-line components, constructed of high- or limited-deformability materials, with joints made by threading, bonding, compression couplings, grooved couplings or flanges. 	12 6 9 4.5

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NOTES:

- 1. The use of the highest Q-factors in each category requires that the elements of the primary load path of the lateral force resisting system have been proportioned to assure ductile rather than brittle system behavior. This can be demonstrated by showing that each connection in the primary load path has an ultimate strength of at least equal to 150% of the load capacity (governed by either yielding or stability) of the element to which the load is transferred. Alternatively, Q-factors should be reduced consistent with the limited ductility of the governing connection and/or the governing connection should be modified as required.
- A Q-factor different from the tabulated values (higher or lower) may be justified on a case-by-case basis.
- 3. If more than one of the conditions specified in the table applies, the lowest Q-factor associated with those conditions should be used.
- 4. Other approved national standards for the seismic assessment of tanks may be used in lieu of these guidelines.
- These values of Q apply to overturning checks, soil bearing, and pile capacities. For the remaining items including connection between piles and pile caps, use the Q factor for the supported structure.
- 6. If bolt yielding controls the evaluation of the anchor bolts (as opposed to concrete failure or anchor bolt slippage), and there is a ductile force transfer mechanism between the structure and foundation (such as the use of properly proportioned anchor bolt chairs between skirts or tank shells and the foundation), then the Q-factor to be used for both the evaluation of the anchor bolts and the rest of the structural system corresponds to that for the structural system itself.

If concrete failure or anchor bolt slippage controls the evaluation of anchor bolts (as opposed to bolt yielding), or there is a non-ductile force transfer mechanism between the structure and foundation, then a Q-factor of 1.5 should be used for the evaluation of the anchor bolts and the rest of the structural system. Also see Note 7.

7. Alternatively, for structures that may contain localized/single features with limited ductility, such as limiting connections or splices, non-compact steel members, high (Kl/r) members and non-ductile anchor bolts, that do not occur at a significant number of locations, the load capacity of the specific limiting feature(s) may be evaluated and/or improved in lieu of using system-wide lower Q-factors that tend to generically penalize all elements of the structural system. The evaluation for these localized features may be performed using a Q-factor equal to 0.4 times the Q-factor normally recommended (i.e., unreduced) for the system. The evaluation for the remainder of the system may then be performed using the Q-factor normally recommended without consideration of the localized feature with limited ductility.

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8. Figure 1 below shows a common connection detail which has been used in the building industry. In the aftermath of the January, 1994 Northridge, California earthquake, over 100 buildings were found, where cracks occurred in connections based on this detail. This Committee suggests that for determining the connection forces using a Q-value equal to one half (1/2) of Q for the structure system, but not less than 2, where this type of connection is present, unless justified otherwise.



- Figure 1: Former Standard Ductile Moment Connection Detail. (As a result of the Northridge Earthquake, this connection was shown to have major problems.)
- 9. For tanks made of fiberglass or similar materials, non-ductile anchorage and its attachments should be evaluated for a Q equal to 1.5.

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