



City and County of San Francisco
 Department of Building Inspection
 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Structural Bulletin

SB 06-08

Subject: **Use of Steel Moment Frames in Light-Frame Construction**

Date: October 3, 2008

ASCE 7-05 Sections 12.2.5.7 and 12.2.5.9 provide conditions whereby steel ordinary moment frames (OMF) and steel intermediate moment frames (IMF) are permitted in multi-story light-frame construction for structures assigned to Seismic Design Categories D, E, or F. Where OMF and IMF are not permitted, steel special moment frames (SMF) shall be required.

The following table indicates when OMF, IMF, and SMF are permitted or required.

Building Conditions	Seismic Design Category		
	D	E	F
Height of 35 feet or less where neither the roof nor the floor dead load supported by and tributary to the moment frames exceeds 35 psf and the dead load of the exterior walls tributary to the moment frame shall not exceed 20 psf	OMF IMF SMF	OMF IMF SMF	IMF SMF
Height of 35 feet or less	IMF SMF	SMF	SMF
Height greater than 35 feet	SMF	SMF	SMF

The height of 35 feet is the building height, measured as the vertical distance from the base (per ASCE 7-05, the base is the level at which the horizontal seismic ground motions are considered to be imparted to the structure) to the average height of the highest roof surface. The height is not the height of the steel moment frame.

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