



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER SUPPORT AGENCY**

JUN 5 2000

FROM: HQAFCESA/CES  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall AFB FL 32403-5319

SUBJECT: **Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 00-5: Seismic Design for Buildings and Other Structures**

**1. Purpose.** This ETL prescribes use of the following criteria publications for seismic evaluation, design, and construction of Air Force facilities:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Technical Instruction (TI) 809-4, *Seismic Design for Buildings*
- USACE TI 809-5, *Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation for Buildings*

Procedures in TI 809-4 and TI 809-5 are based upon the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) *Recommended Provisions for Seismic Regulations for New Buildings and Other Structures* (FEMA 302/Feb 98) and *NEHRP Guidelines for the Seismic Rehabilitation of Buildings* (FEMA 273/Oct 97). Use of TI 809-4 was effective for the FY 98 program and beyond.

**Note:** Documents are available (electronic only) at [www.hnd.usace.army.mil](http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil).

**2. Summary of Revisions.** This ETL supersedes ETLs 97-10, 97-11, and 97-12. It also replaces these joint-service publications:

- AFM 88-3, Chapter 13 [AFMAN 32-1149V1(I)]/TM 5-809-10, *Seismic Design for Buildings*. (AFM 88-3CH13 will be rescinded.)
- AFM 88-3, Chapter 13, Section A [AFMAN 32-1149V2(I)]/TM 5-809-10-1, *Seismic Design Guidelines for Essential Buildings*. (AFM 88-3CH13SecA will be rescinded.)
- AFM 88-3, Chapter 13, Section B [AFMAN 32-1149V3(I)]/TM 5-809-10-2, *Seismic Design Guidelines for Upgrading Existing Buildings*. (AFM 88-3CH13SecB will be rescinded.)

**3. Application.** The HQ AFCESA/CES criteria letter of 9 September 1998 (paragraph 3.1) established that the 1997 edition of the NEHRP *Recommended Provisions for Seismic Regulations for New Buildings and Other Structures* applied to all new design starts beginning with all new construction in the FY 00 construction program. The same letter specified that NEHRP criteria apply to all design starts for new buildings and new additions to existing buildings, regardless of funding source, effective on the date of the letter. These criteria do not apply to projects beyond project definition stage (35 percent design) as of 9 September 1998. The policy established for existing buildings by the AF/ILE letter of 23 April 1997 (paragraph 3.1) continues. Application of NEHRP

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standards to Air Force projects is described in TI 809-04 and TI 809-05. Seismic design procedures of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) are not equivalent.

**3.1. Authority:**

- AFPD 32-10, *Installations and Facilities*
- AFI 32-1023, *Design and Construction Standards and Execution of Facility Construction Projects*
- HQ USAF/ILE policy letter, 23 April 1997, *Mitigating Existing Building Seismic Deficiencies*
- HQ AFCESA/CES criteria letter, 9 September 1998, *Seismic Design Criteria for New Construction/All Geographic Locations*

**3.2. Effective Date:** Immediately.

**3.3. Ultimate Recipients:**

- Base Civil Engineers and other Air Force units responsible for design and construction.
- Corps of Engineers and Navy offices responsible for design and construction of Air Force facilities.

**4. Point of Contact:** Mr. Myron Anderson, HQ AFCESA/CESC, DSN 523-6164, commercial (850) 283-6164, Internet [Myron.Anderson@afcesa.af.mil](mailto:Myron.Anderson@afcesa.af.mil), FAX (850) 283-6219.

Michael J. Cook, Colonel, USAF  
Director of Technical Support

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1. Distribution List

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