INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to provide design professionals, contractors, and building officials responsible for the MEP, Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing, with the information and guidance required to ensure that the seismic restraints required for a specific project are selected and/or designed, and installed in accordance with the code provisions. This guide will be written in several easily referenced sections that deal with specific portions of the code.

This guide is based on the National Building Code of Canada 2005 (NBCC 2005). The NBCC 2005 appears to be very different in the formulation of the design forces than the previous NBCC 1995 version. This document will be based entirely on the newer NBCC 2005 version.

1. National Building Code of Canada 2005; Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes and National Research Council of Canada, 1200 Montreal RD, Ottawa, ON K1A 9Z9 Chapter Division B – Part 4 Structural Design.

The selection and installation of the proper seismic restraints for MEP systems requires good coordination with the design professionals and contractors involved with the building project. A good spirit of cooperation and coordination is especially required for projects that have been designated as post-disaster buildings, such as hospitals, emergency response centers, police and fire stations. Coordination between the various design professionals and contractors will be a constant theme throughout this guide. This coordination is vital for the following reasons.

1. The seismic restraints that are installed for a system can and will interfere with those of another unless restraint locations are well coordinated.
2. The space required for the installed restraints can cause problems if non-structural walls need to be penetrated, or other MEP components are in the designed load path for the restraints.

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3. The building end of the seismic restraints must always be attached to structure that is adequate to carry the code mandated design seismic loads. It is the responsibility of the structural engineer of record to verify this.

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