

**Resilience Against Natural Disasters**

**Restrain Your Services**

**Design for Seismic Zones**

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*ASHRAE TC 2.6 Sound & Vibration Control*

**Fixing & Hangers** | **Vibration Isolation**  
**Seismic Restraint** | **Noise Control**





# Natural Disasters

## Nepal Earthquake, April 2015



- Earthquakes
- Storms
- Floods
- Avalanches
- Volcanic eruptions
- Wildfires

David Ramos - Getty Images



# Definitions and Goals

## Seismic

It is a subject relating to, or caused by an earthquake;  
*also:* relating to, an earth vibration caused by something else

## Restraint

A device that restricts movement

## Brace

Something that transmits, directs, resists, or supports weight or pressure

- What are non-structural components?
- How does seismic apply to non-structural?
- Which codes and standards should be followed?
- Who is responsible?
- How seismic restraint and bracing accomplished?



# Outline

## 1. Earthquakes and Non-Structural Building Components

- Earthquakes
- Non-structural Components
- The Importance of Non-structural Components
- Past Earthquakes: Non-structural Component Failure and Damage
- Non-structural Seismic Design Process

## 2. Seismic Restraint and Bracing Requirements

- Seismic Codes and Guides
- Building Performance Levels
- IBC /ASCE Seismic Design Requirements
- Seismic Force Equations
- Mounting System
- Support Attachment - Anchorage
- Quality Control
- What's Required for Designing a New Project?

## 3. Seismic Restraint and Bracing Installation Examples

- Floor, Wall Mounted and Suspended Equipment
- Suspended Services



Section 1.

# Earthquakes and Non-Structural Building Components

# Earthquakes



1. Earthquake science is faced with difficult task.
2. There is not enough data to improve the accuracy of prediction.
3. We need 1000 & 1000 of years of data to get confidence in the science.
4. There are many variables and the dynamic nature of the earth's core is one of them.







## Science Books are Rewritten After Major Earthquakes



### Christchurch, NZ, 2011

- \* The *vertical acceleration* was far greater than the horizontal acceleration
- \* The unknown fault that caught out Christchurch

### Tohoku, Japan, 2011

Powerful tsunami created waves that reached heights of up to 40.5 metres





## NUCLEAR DISASTER



### Cause

- Diesel generators flooded
- Reactors could not be cooled down causing catastrophic damage

### Most important lesson learned

- Ensure power supply
- Diesel generators could have been located on a higher ground

Structure survives the earthquake but lack of detailed attention to **Non-Structural** components proves to be fatal.





# Non-structural Components

## MEP Systems

- **Mechanical Systems**
  - HVAC equipment, air handling units, cooling towers, water heaters, boilers, pumps, chillers, compressors, etc.
- **Electrical Power Systems**
  - Transformers, panel boards, Motor Control Centers (MCCs), control panels, conduit & cable trays
- **Piping & Plumbing**



# Non-structural Components

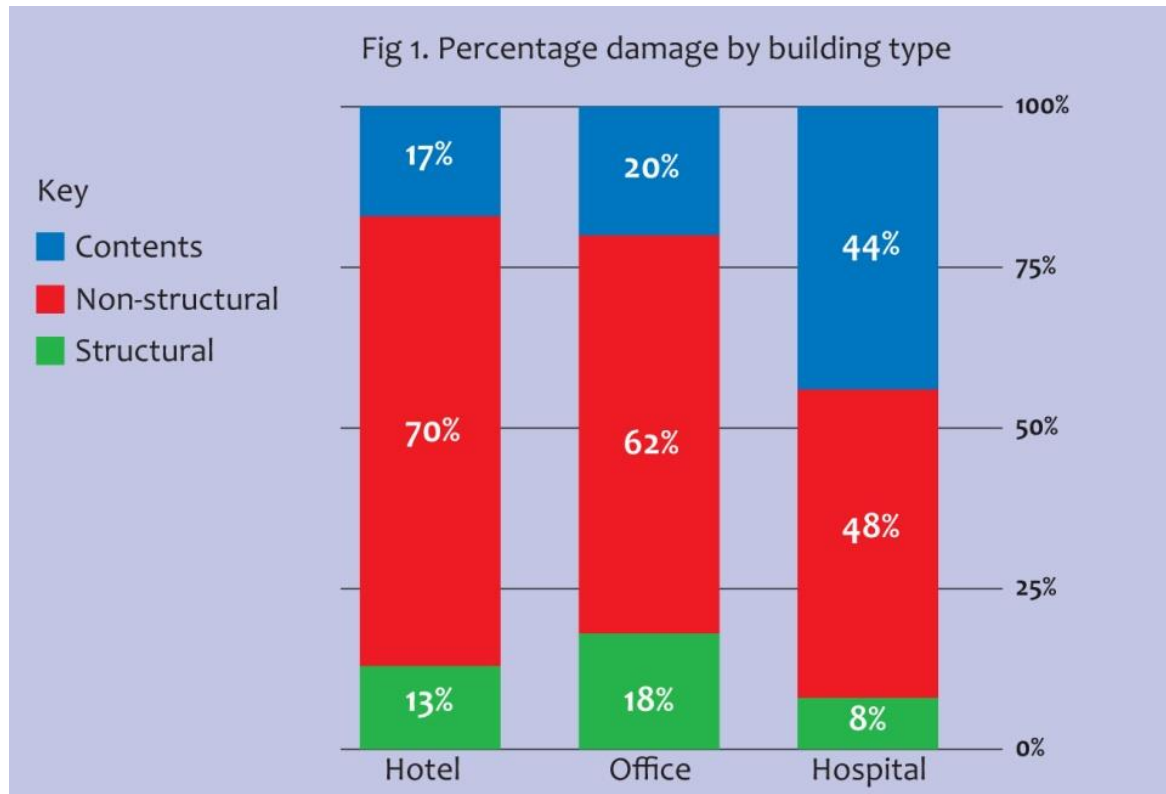
## Life Safety Systems

- **Fire Protection Systems**
  - Piping, pumps, tanks, etc.
- **Safety Systems**
  - Alarm, smoke detection, emergency lighting
- **Emergency Power Systems**
  - Engine generators, start batteries, fuel oil systems, fuel oil storage tanks, control equipment, disconnect switches, etc.
- **Security/Communication Systems**



# Non-structural Components

Nonstructural building components are critical for the proper functioning of a buildings.



**Data from  
Northridge, CA  
Earthquake - 1994**



# Past Earthquakes

Northridge, CA, USA ,1994



## Damage:

Horizontal tank shifted of support damaging attached pipe work

## Reason:

**Not anchored at all!!!**

## Solution:

**Anchors should have been installed as per engineer's seismic calculations.**

**Example of rigid (no vibration isolation) equipment failure - Granada Hills Hospital**  
*(Photo courtesy of OSHPD)*



# Past Earthquakes

Northridge, CA, USA ,1994



## Damage:

Vertical tank at hospital overturned damaging attached pipe work.

## Reason:

**Not anchored at all!!!**

## Solution:

Anchors should have been installed as per engineer's seismic calculations.

**Example of rigid (no vibration isolation) equipment failure**  
*(Photo courtesy of OSHPD)*



# Past Earthquakes

Bio-Bio, Chile, 2010



## Damage:

Numerous rooftop units toppled over.

## Reason:

Poorly anchored!!!

## Solution:

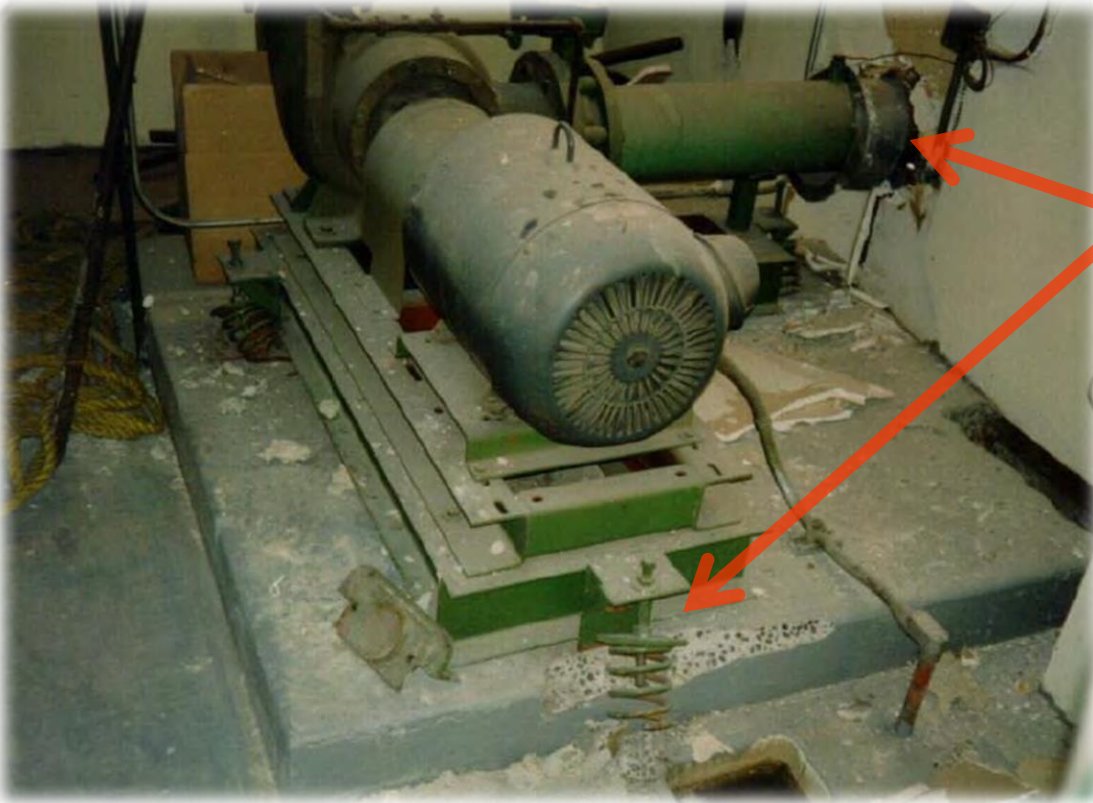
Anchors should have been installed as per engineer's seismic calculations.

**Example of rigid (no vibration isolation) equipment failure**  
*(Photos courtesy of Rodrigo Retamales, Rubn Boroschek & Associates)*





# Past Earthquakes



**Damage:**

Failure of pump mounted on three vibration isolators and damage at wall penetration.

**Reason:**

**Wrong type of isolators used!!!**

**Solution:**

Restrained (housed) isolators should have been installed and properly anchored as per engineer's seismic calculations.

**Example of resiliently (vibration isolated) mounted equipment failure**  
*(Photo courtesy of Mason Industries)*



# Past Earthquakes



**Damage:**

Complete failure of vibration isolators .

**Reason:**

Correct type of isolators but with wrong housing (**NON-DUCTILE**) material !!!

**Solution:**

Isolators housing should have been manufactured from **DUCTILE** materials.

**Example of resiliently (vibration isolated) mounted equipment failure**



# Past Earthquakes



**Damage:**

Complete failure of vibration isolators .

**Reason:**

**Poorly anchored!!!**

**Solution:**

Anchors should have been installed as per engineer's seismic calculations.

**Example of resiliently (vibration isolated) mounted equipment failure**





# Past Earthquakes



**Damage:**

Complete failure of supporting structure (I-Beam).

**Reason:**

Supporting structure not able to carry the loads !!!

**Solution:**

Supporting structures should have been designed to resist earthquake loads as well.

**Example of resiliently (vibration isolated) mounted equipment failure**  
*(Photo courtesy of Mason Industries)*



# Past Earthquakes

Bio-Bio, Chile, 2010



## Damage:

Suspended HVAC equipment drops down from the ceiling.

## Reasons:

**No bracing !!!**

**Threaded rod failure!!!**

## Solution:

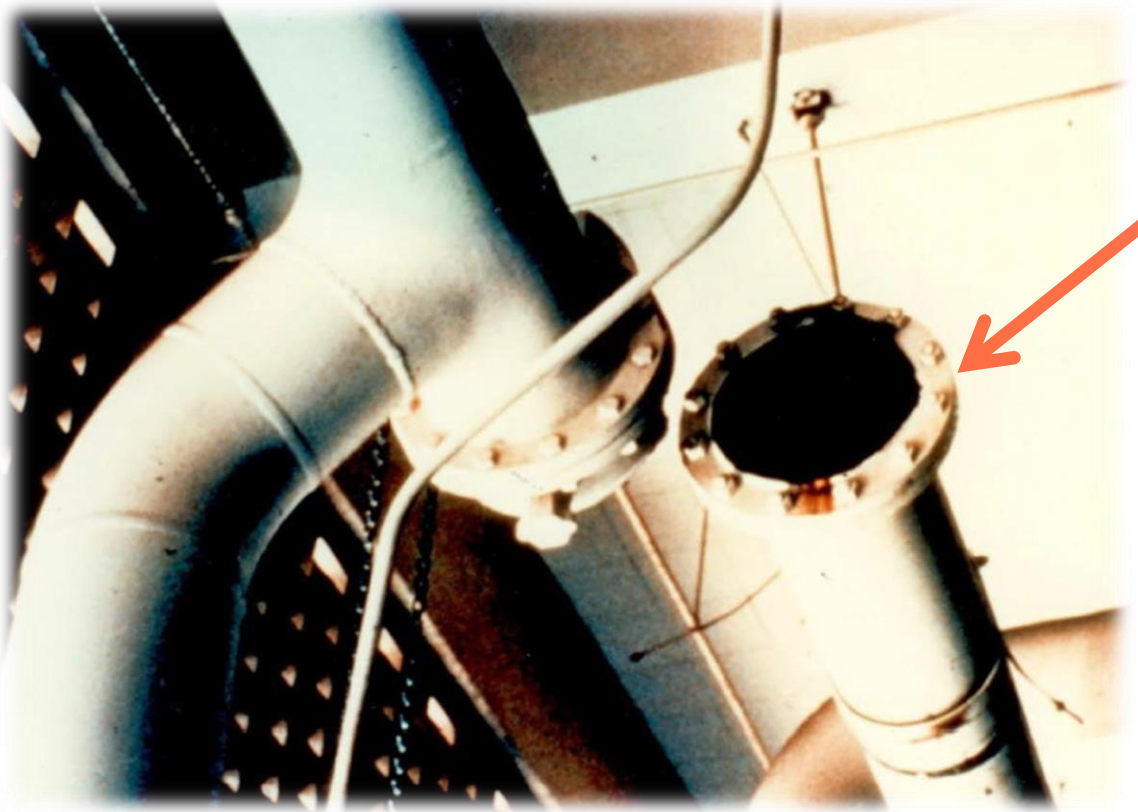
Bracing and rod stiffens should have been installed as per engineer's seismic calculations.

**Example of suspended HVAC equipment failure – Santiago Airport Terminal**  
*(Photo courtesy of Gokhan Pekcan)*



# Past Earthquakes

San Fernando, CA, USA ,1971



**Damage:**

Complete failure of pipe joint.

**Reasons:**

**No bracing !!!**

**Solution:**

Bracing should have been installed as per engineer's seismic calculations.

**Example of suspended piping failure**  
*(Photo courtesy of John F. Meehan)*





# Past Earthquakes



## Damage:

Complete failure of pipe joint.

## Reasons:

**NON-DUCTILE material used !!!**

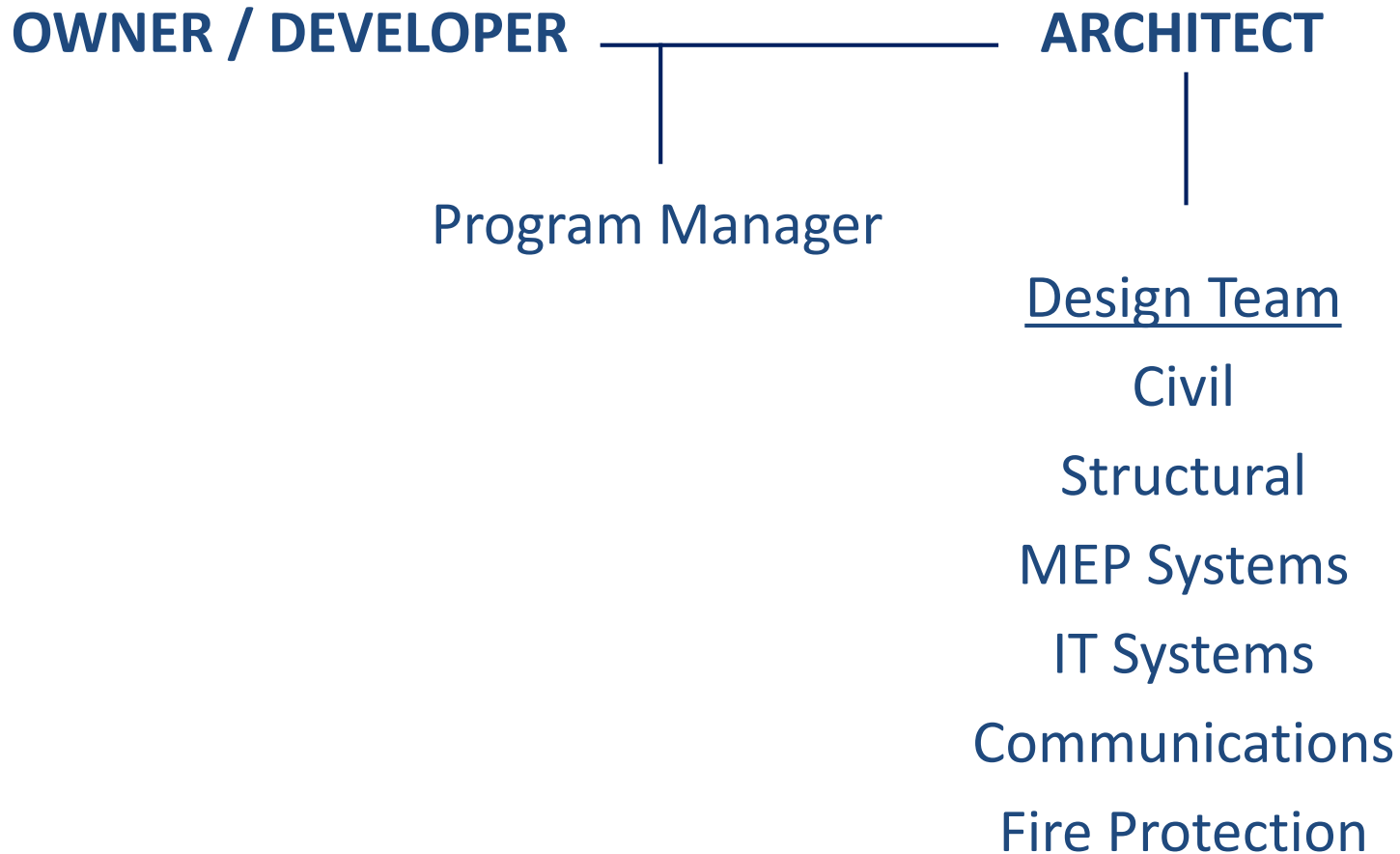
## Solution:

Piping which has been manufactured from DUCTILE material should have been used.

**Example of ground piping failure**



# Non-structural Seismic Design Process





# Non-structural Seismic Design Process

## 18. SEISMIC DATA:

SEISMIC USE GROUP I

$I = 1.0$

$SDS = 47.1\%g$

$SD1 = 24.7\%g$

SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY D

SITE CLASSIFICATION D

SEISMIC RESISTING SYSTEM: STEEL MOMENT FRAMES

SEISMIC BASE SHEARS:  $V_x = 48.6K$   $V_y = 52.5K$

EQUIVALENT LATERAL FORCE ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

ADDITIONAL SEISMIC BRACING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL UTILITIES SHALL BE DESIGNED BY THE PLUMBING, MECHANICAL OR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, AS APPLICABLE.

**Structural engineer's approach to non-structural component design**



Section 2.

# Seismic Restraint and Bracing Requirements



# Seismic Codes and Guides

### International Code Council (ICC)

- IBC -2018 *“International Building Code”*

### American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

- ASCE/SEI 7-16 *“Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures ”*

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- FEMA 412-2002 *“Installing Seismic Restraints for Mechanical Equipment”*
- FEMA 413-2004 *“Installing Seismic Restraints for Electrical Equipment”*
- FEMA 414-2004 *“Installing Seismic Restraints for Duct and Pipe”*
- FEMA 460-2005 *“Seismic Considerations for Steel Storage Racks”*



# Seismic Codes and Guides

## ❑ American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

- *A Practical Guide to Seismic Restraint, 2012*

## ❑ Sheet Metal & Air-Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA)

- *The Seismic Restraint Manual: Guidelines for Mechanical Systems, 3rd edition 2008, ANSI/SMACNA 001-2008*
- *Seismic Restraint Manual, OSHPD Edition, 1<sup>st</sup> edition 2009*

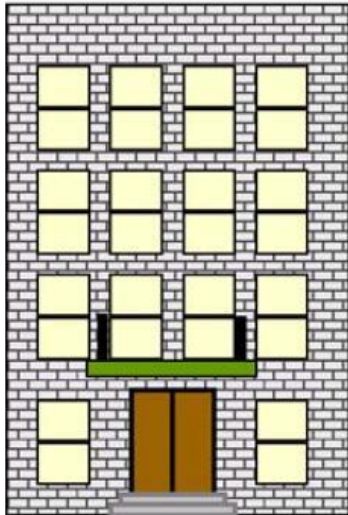
## ❑ National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

- *NFPA 13-2019: Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*



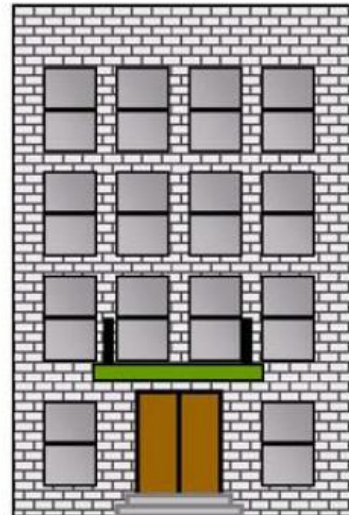


# Building Performance Levels



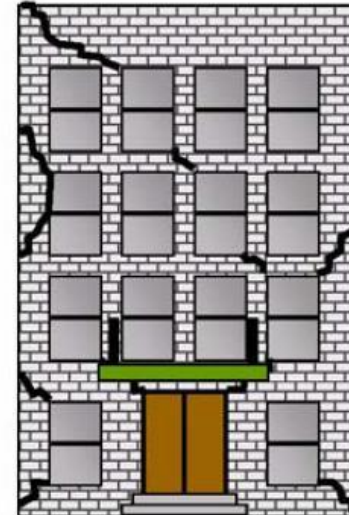
**Operational**

Essential facilities such as:  
**Hospitals**  
**Police and Fire Stations**  
**Military Facilities**  
**Embassies, Consulates**  
**City Halls** .....



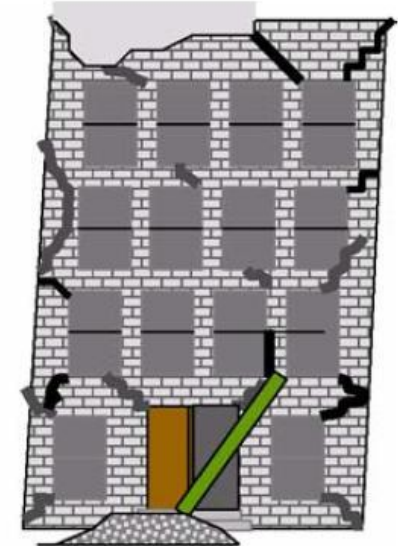
**Immediate  
Occupancy**

Buildings accommodating  
large number of people  
such as:  
**Airports**  
**Schools and Universities**  
**Large Supermarkets**  
**Hotels, Jails** .....



**Life Safety**

Most other buildings that  
are not classified as  
essential or for immediate  
use, such as:  
**Office Buildings, Hotels**  
**Shopping malls,**  
**Convention centres** .....



**Collapse  
Prevention**

Low occupancy structures  
such as:  
**Farm / Agricultural  
buildings, Warehouses**  
.....



# Seismic Design Requirements

- **IBC Section 1613.1**

“Every structure and portion thereof, including nonstructural components ..... shall be designed ..... for earthquake motions in accordance with ASCE 7.”



- **ASCE/SEI 7-16 Chapter 13**

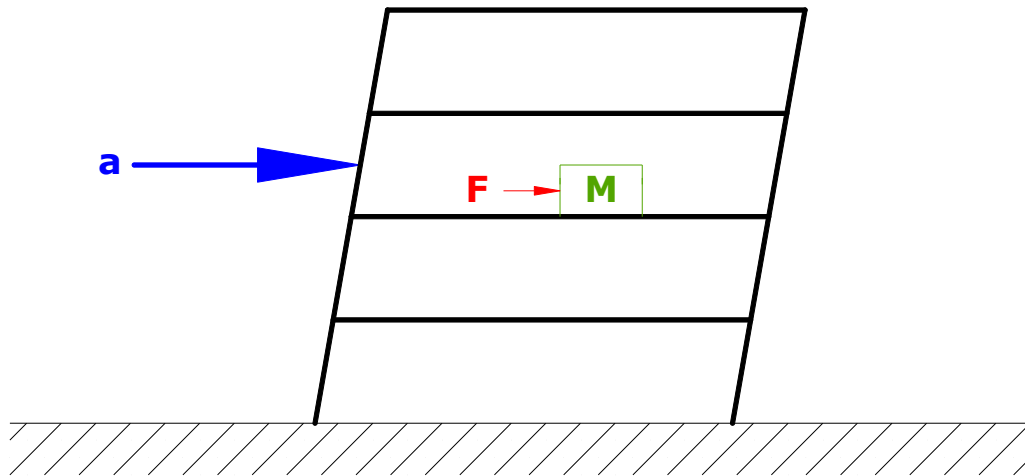
Seismic Design Requirements for Nonstructural Components



# Seismic Force Equations

Seismic loads are calculated according to the basic formula of:

$$\text{Force (F)} = \text{Mass (m)} \times \text{Acceleration (a)}$$



**F** : Seismic load

**M** : Mass of equipment  
or pipe

**a** : Acceleration



# Seismic Force Design Equations

Design Equations: (ASCE 7-10, Section 13.3)

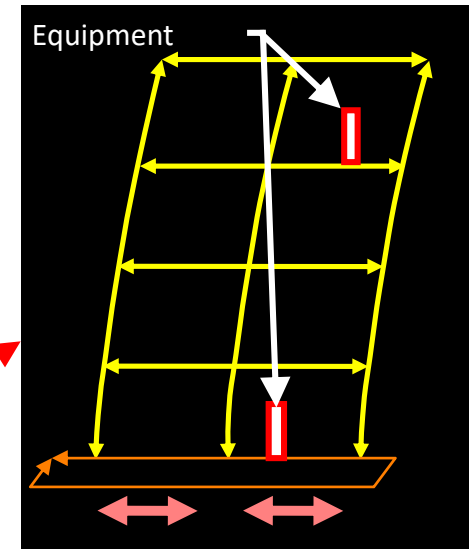
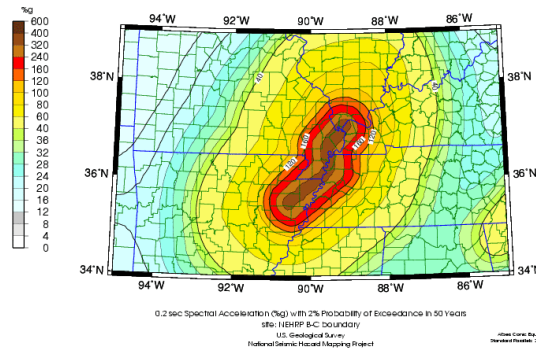
□ Seismic Design Force  $\rightarrow F_p = \frac{0.4a_p S_{DS} W_p}{\left[ \frac{R_p}{I_p} \right]} \left[ 1 + 2 \frac{z}{h} \right]$

□ Seismic Force not greater  $\rightarrow F_p = 1.6 S_{DS} I_p W_p$

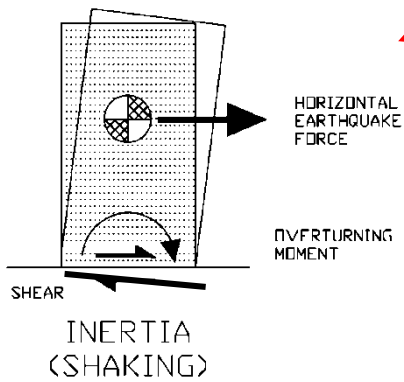
□ Seismic Force not less  $\rightarrow F_p = 0.3 S_{DS} I_p W_p$



# Seismic Force Design Equation



$$F_p = \frac{0.4 a_p S_{DS} W_p}{R_p} \left[ 1 + 2 \frac{z}{h} \right]$$





# Mounting Systems

Floor Mounted

Mounting systems should be designed, manufactured and constructed to carry the seismic loads to the main supporting structure safely. **Seismic loads can not be resisted by friction forces only.**

- MEP Equipment
- Mounting (Equipment) Base  
(Structural steel...)
- Mounting Component  
(Restrained Vibration Isolators, Snubbers...)
- Mounting Support  
(Steel structure, Housekeeping pads...)
- Main Structural Support  
(Concrete, Steel...)







# Mounting Systems

Suspended

Mounting systems should be designed, manufactured and constructed to carry the seismic loads to the main supporting structure safely. **Seismic loads can not be resisted by friction forces only.**



Main Structural Support  
(Concrete, Steel...)

Mounting Component  
(Vibration Isolation Hangers...)

Mounting Support  
(Steel structure...)

Piping

Seismic Bracing  
(Steel wire rope, rigid brace ...)



# Mounting Systems

Load Capacity

1. Mounting Base (Structural Steel...)  
Engineering calculations based on well established design principles.
2. Mounting Components (Restrained Vibration Isolators, Snubbers...)
3. Seismic Bracing (Steel wire rope, rigid brace ...) - Engineering calculations are not adequate. Independent testing per recognised standards should be performed to verify load capacity.
3. Mounting Supports (Steel Bases, Housekeeping pads...) - Engineering calculations based on well established design principles.
4. Main Structural Support (Steel, Concrete) - Should be checked and verified by structural engineers.



**Testing of Mounting Component per ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 171-2008:**  
**Method of Test of Seismic Restraint Devices for HVAC&R Equipment**



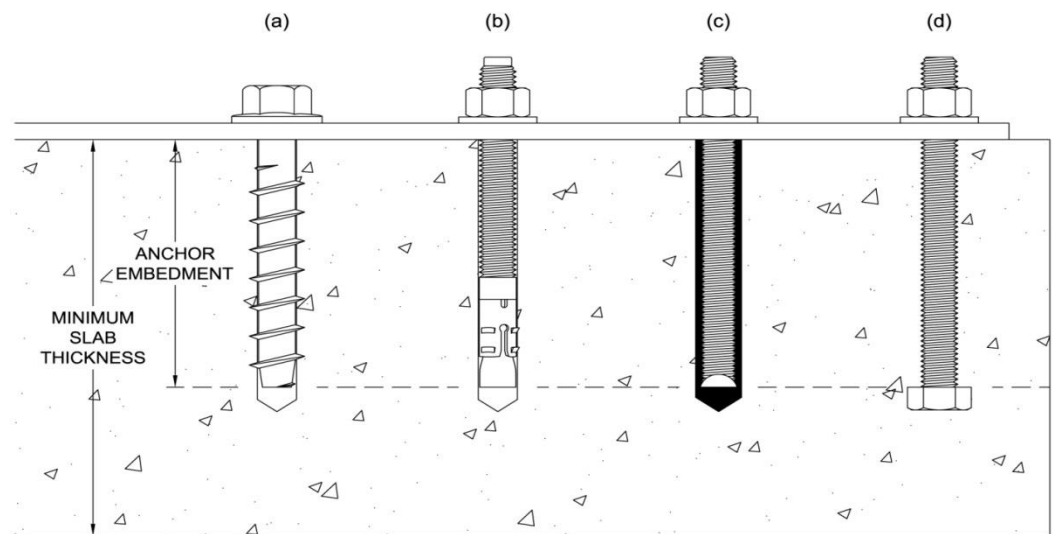
# Support Attachment - Anchorage

## ❑ Steel Supports: Weld, Bolts, Screws

## ❑ Concrete supports:

- Cast-in-place anchors
- Post-installed anchors

- a) Screw anchor
- b) Expansion anchor
- c) Adhesive anchor
- d) Cast-in-place bolt

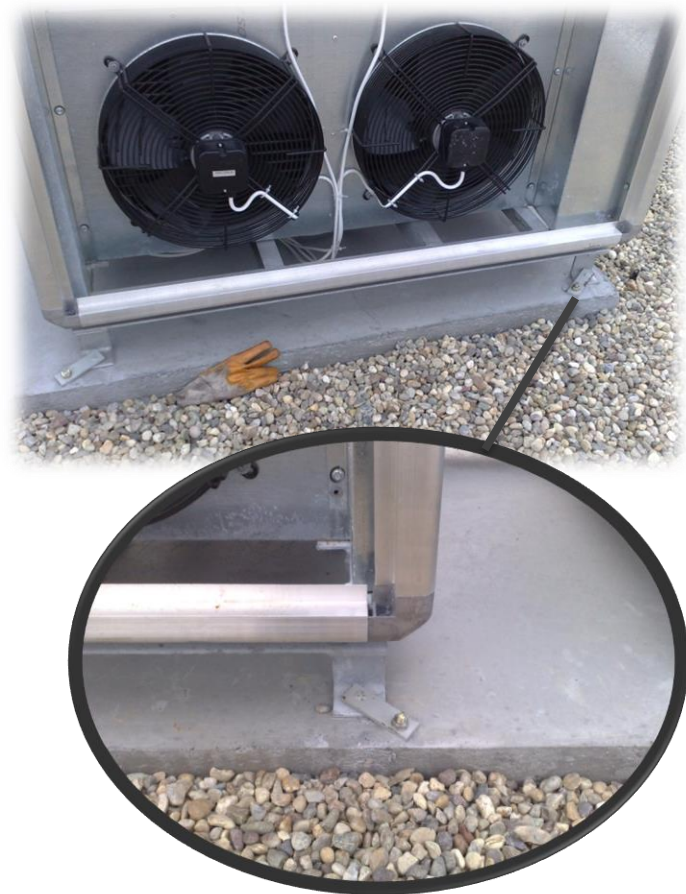




# Quality Control

Why is proper construction important? Because it ensures:

- Expected earthquake design performance objectives will be met.
- Reduction in life-safety risk to building occupants.
- Reduction in risk or damage to the component itself.
- Reduction in risk or damage to adjacent or closely located items – falling, overturning, swinging and impacting, leaking, etc.
- For critical facilities the needed operability assurances necessary for Immediate Occupancy (e.g., hospitals, fire stations, police stations, other critical facilities, etc.)





# Designing New Project

## What is Required?

- Building Code & Edition
- MEP Design Project Drawings
- Seismic specification *and* the component specification
- Design Parameters:
  - Occupancy Type (II, III, IV)
  - Building Importance Factor – I
  - Spectral Acceleration -  $S_{DS}$
  - Component Importance Factor –  $I_p$
  - Seismic Design Category – SDC (C, D, E, F)
- Structural Drawings for attachment design



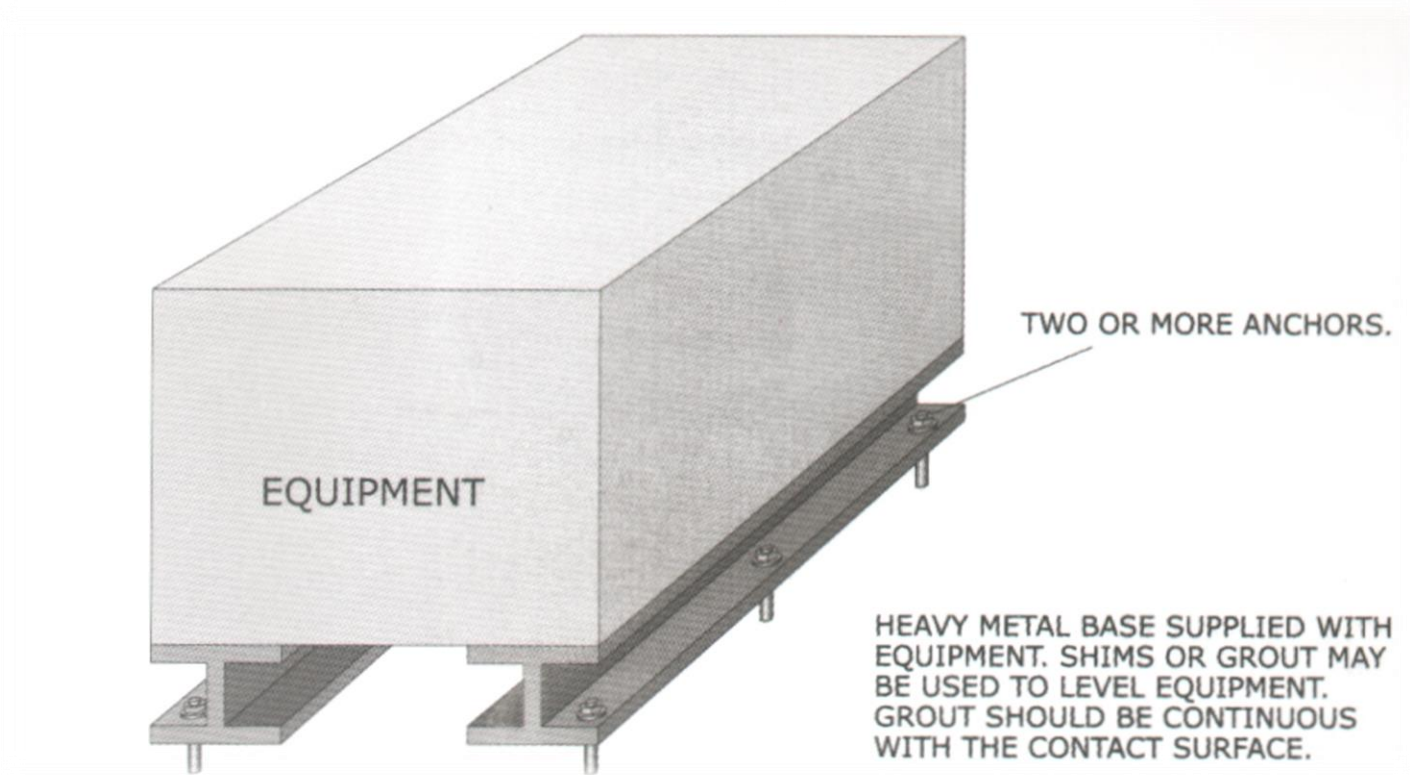
Section 3.

# Seismic Restraint and Bracing Installation Examples





# Floor Mounted Equipment

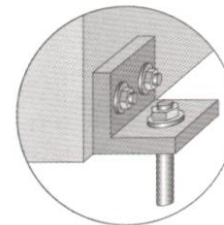
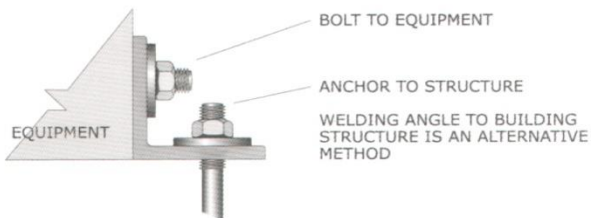
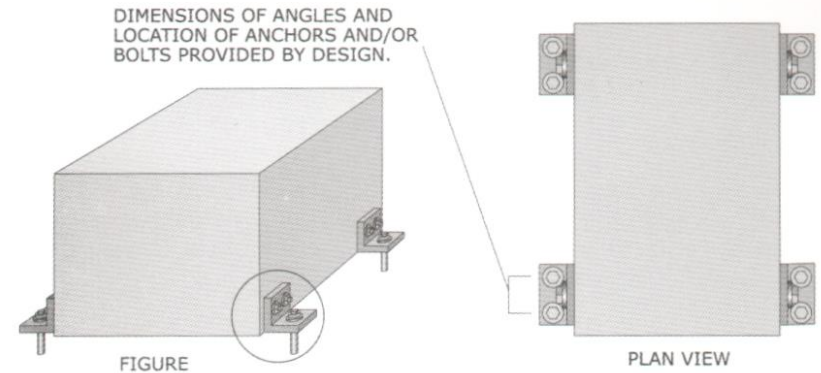
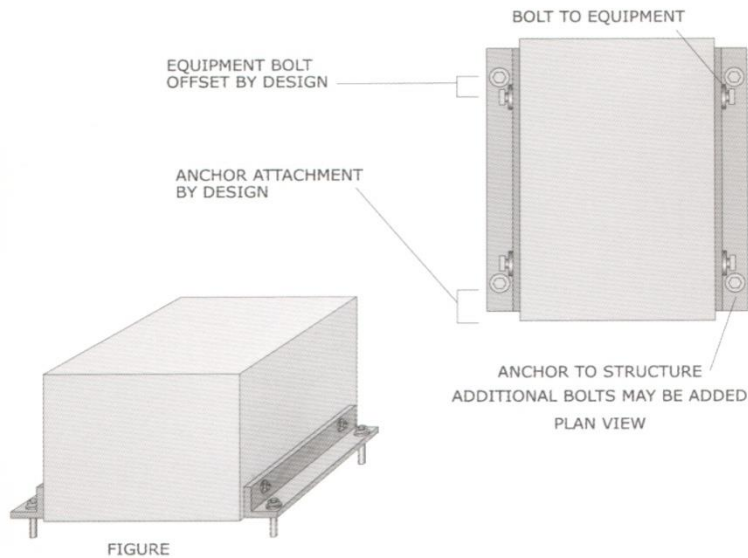


## Rigid Mounting

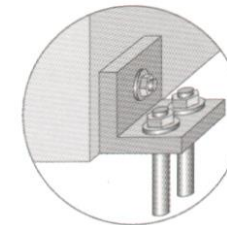
Typical attachment of equipment with structural steel to a supporting structure



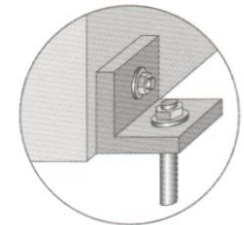
# Floor Mounted Equipment



ONE ANCHOR AND TWO BOLTS TO EQUIPMENT IS OK



TWO ANCHORS AND ONE BOLT TO EQUIPMENT IS OK



ONE ANCHOR AND ONE BOLT TO EQUIPMENT IS **NOT** OK

## Rigid Mounting Details

Typical attachment details of equipment with angle steels to a supporting structure



# Floor Mounted Equipment



## **Rigid Mounting Example**

Direct attachment of equipment with custom manufactured bracket to a supporting structure *(Photo courtesy of Eduardo Fierro, BFP Engineers )*



# Floor Mounted Equipment



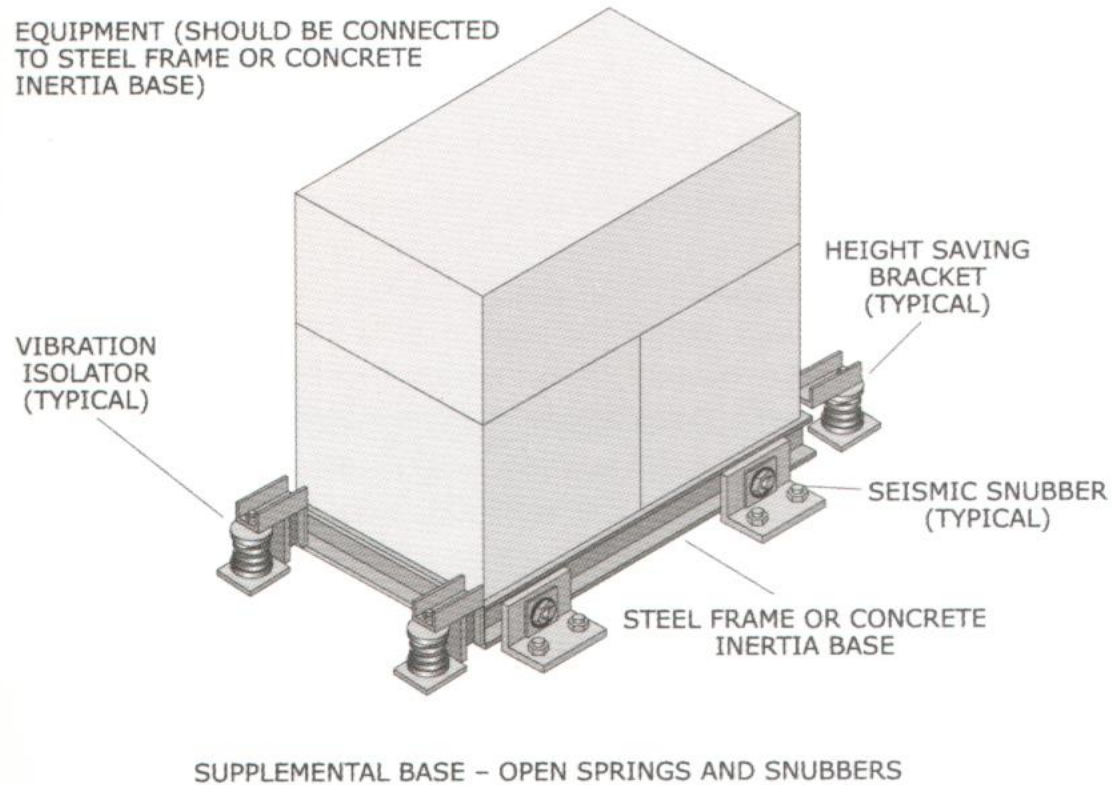
## **Rigid Mounting Example**

Direct attachment of equipment with the addition of snubbers to increase lateral capacity (*Photo courtesy of Eduardo Fierro, BFP Engineers*)





# Floor Mounted Equipment



## Resilient Mounting

Typical installation with open springs and snubbers



# Floor Mounted Equipment



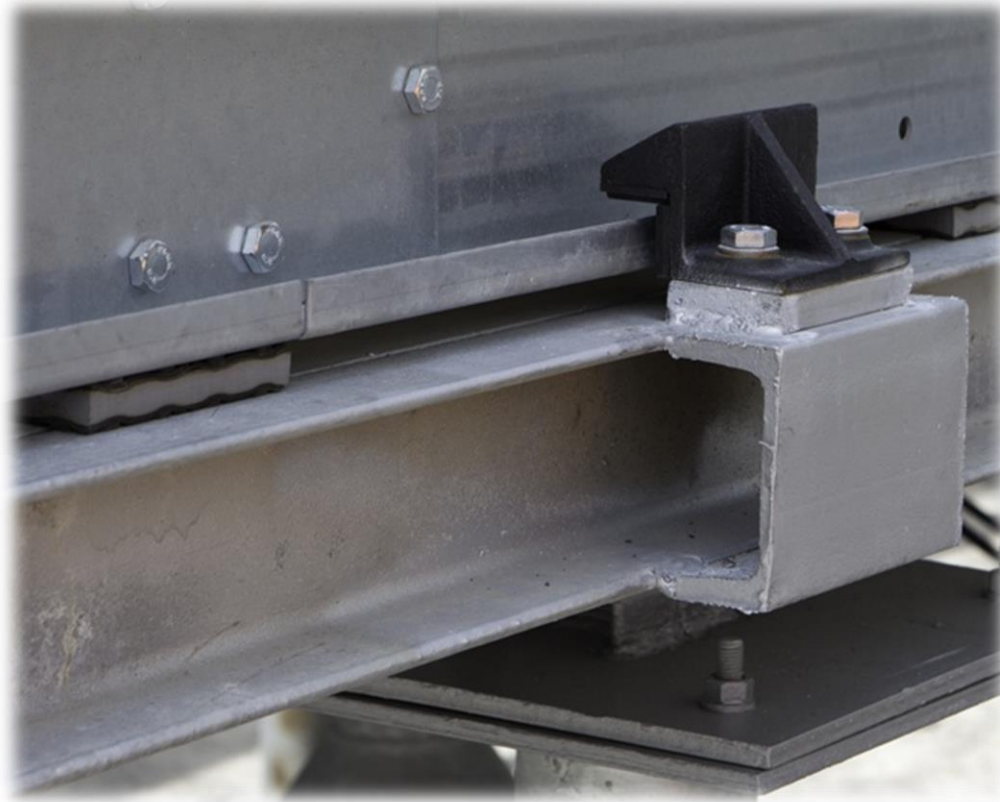
## **Resilient Mounting Example**

Open springs and snubbers used to support equipment  
*(Photo courtesy of Mason Industries)*





# Floor Mounted Equipment

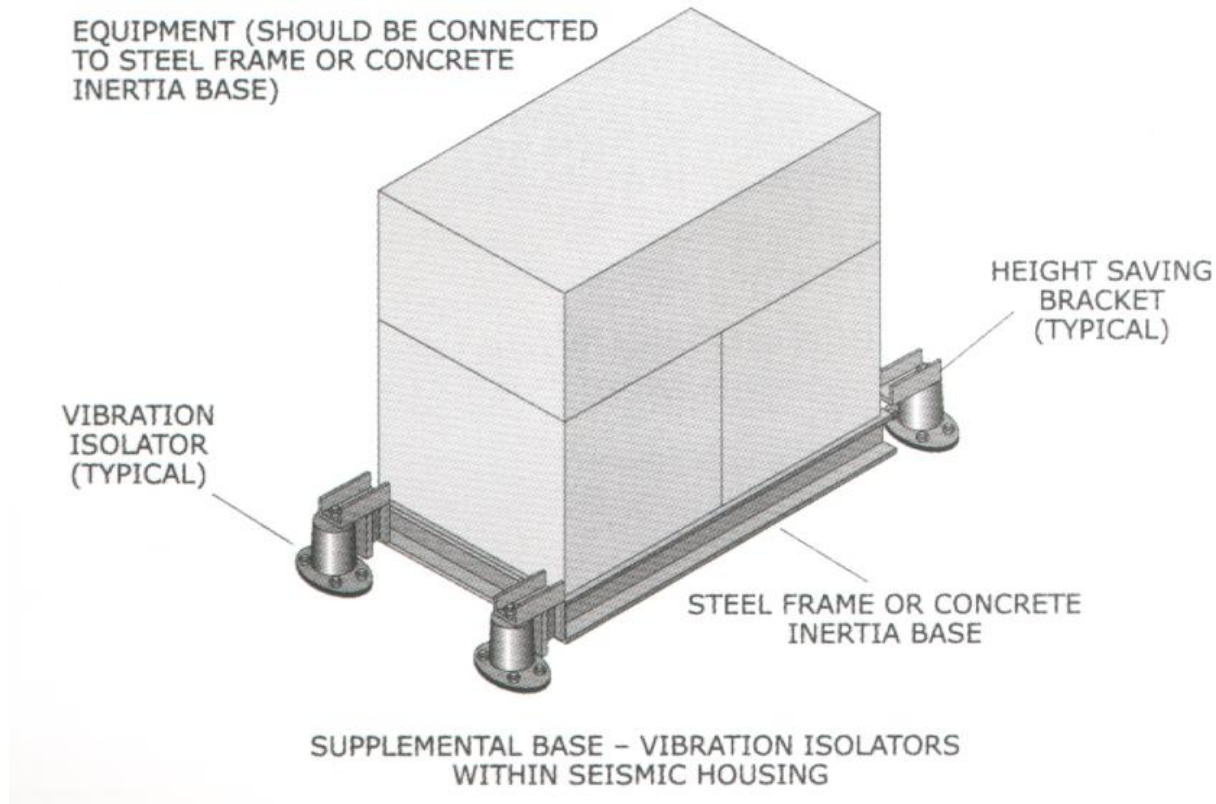


## **Resilient Mounting Example**

Rubber pads and snubbers used to install equipment  
*(Photo courtesy of Acrefine Engineering)*



# Floor Mounted Equipment



## Resilient Mounting

*(Typical installation with restrained vibration isolators)*



# Floor Mounted Equipment



## **Resilient Mounting Example**

Pumps with inertia bases installed with restrained vibration isolators

*(Photo courtesy of Ulus Yapi)*





# Floor Mounted Equipment



## Resilient Mounting Example

Cooling towers with custom structural base installed on restrained vibration isolators  
*(Photo courtesy of Acrefine Engineering)*



# Floor Mounted Equipment



## Resilient Mounting Example

Cooling towers with custom structural base installed on restrained vibration isolators  
*(Photo courtesy of Acrefine Engineering)*



# Floor Mounted Equipment



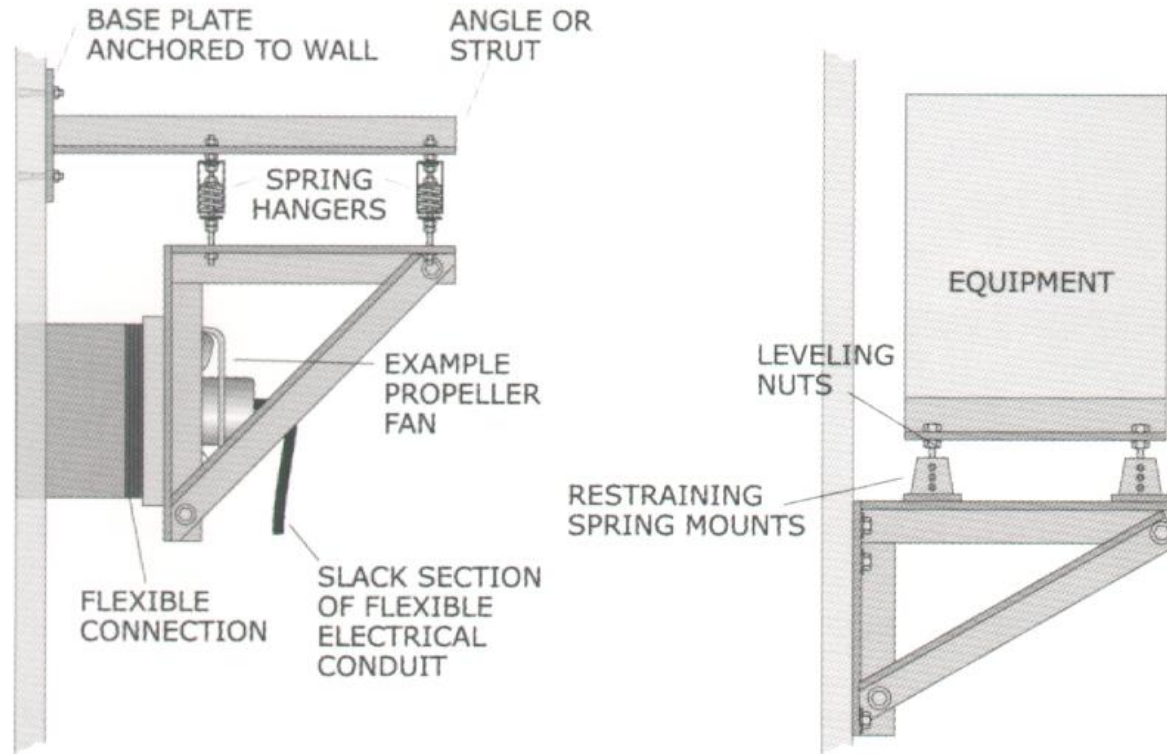
## Resilient Mounting Example

Diesel generators with custom structural base installed on restrained vibration isolators *(Photo courtesy of Acrefine Engineering)*





# Wall Mounted Equipment



## Resilient Mounting Using Vibration Isolators

*(Typical installation with isolation hangers and restrained vibration isolators)*



# Wall Mounted Equipment

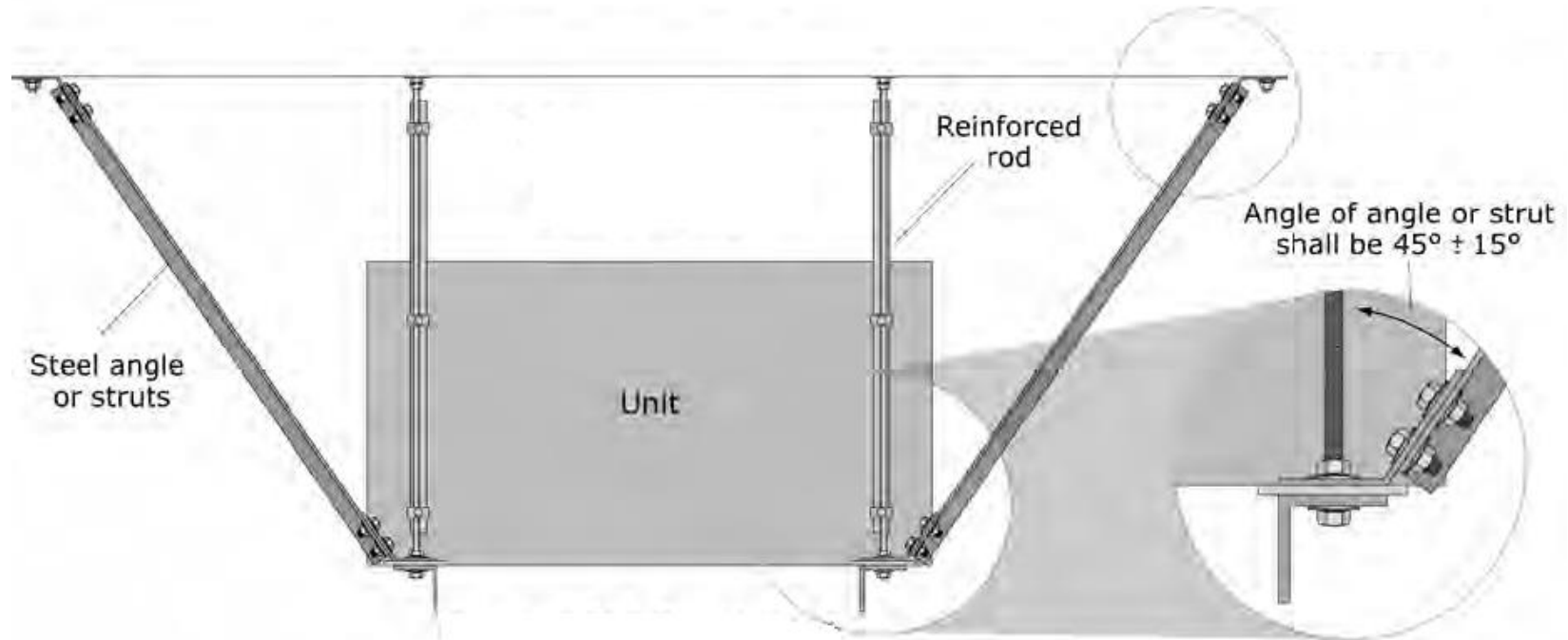


## Resilient Mounting Example

Condensing units on pads and suspended fan installed with restrained vibration isolators *(Photo courtesy of Acrefine Engineering)*



# Suspended Equipment

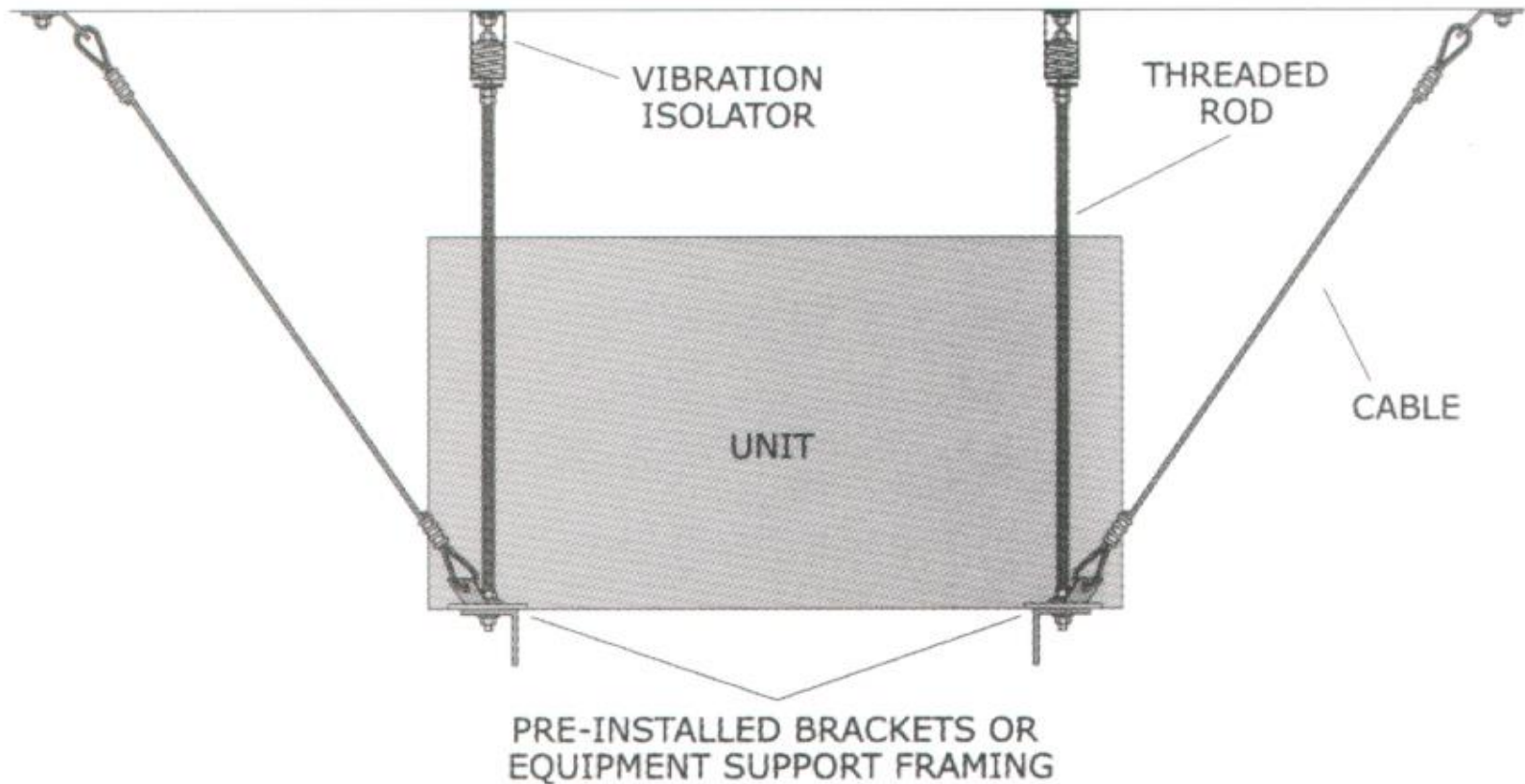


## Suspended Equipment

*(Typical installation with threaded rods, rod stiffeners and rigid bracing)*



# Suspended Equipment



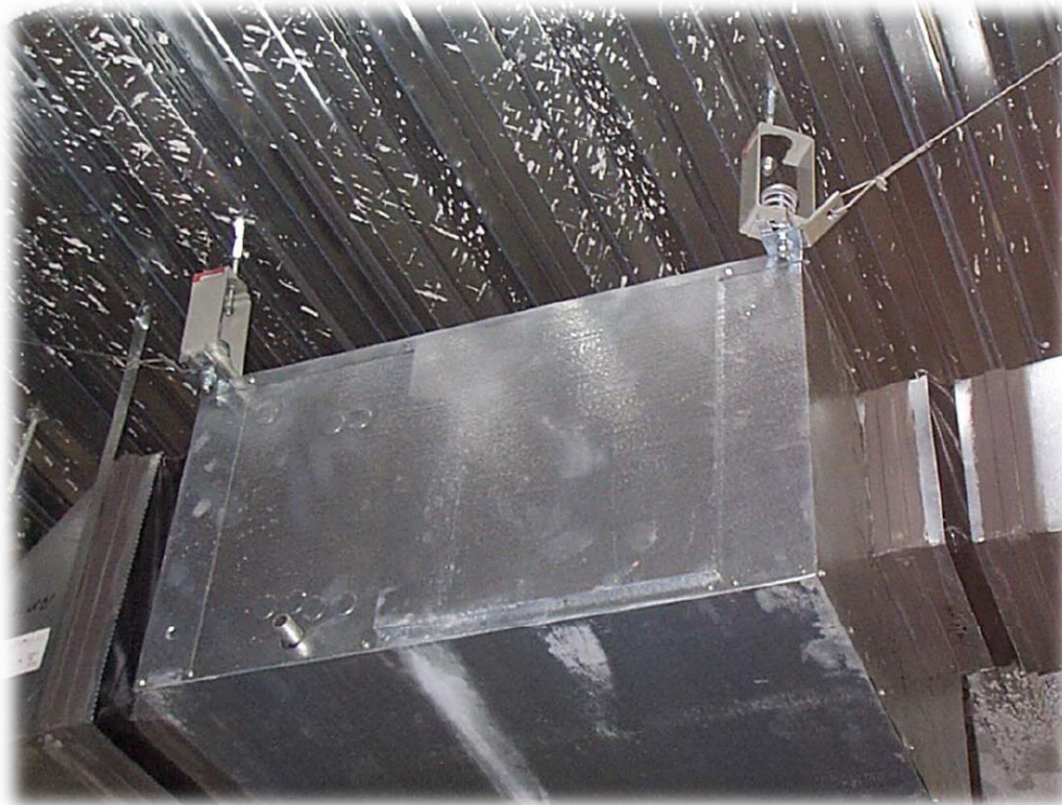
## **Suspended Equipment with Isolation Hangers**

*(Typical installation with threaded rods, vibration isolation hangers and wire rope bracing)*





# Suspended Equipment



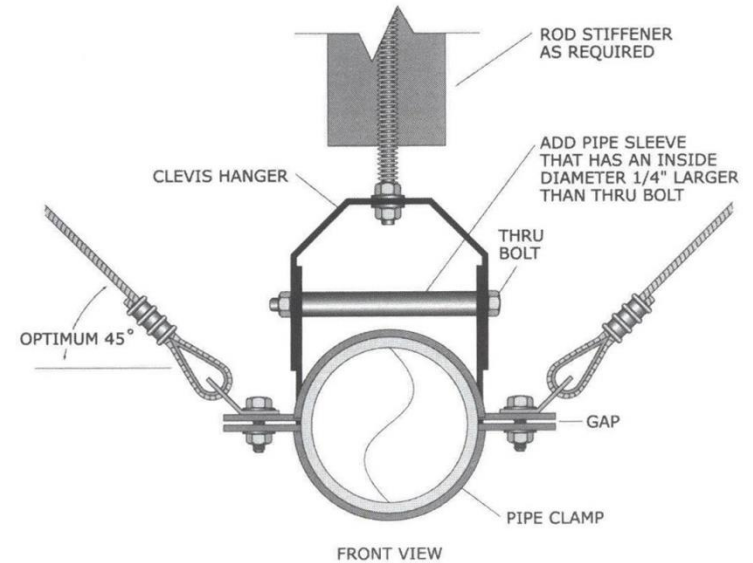
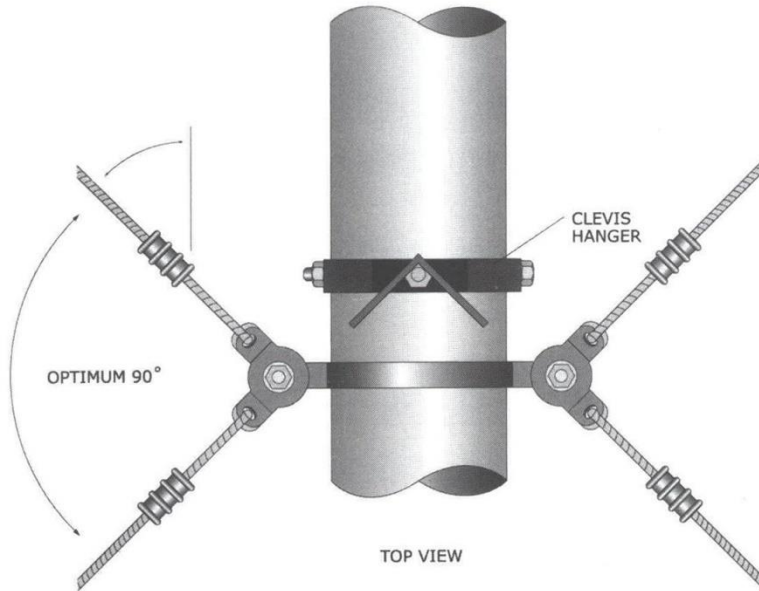
## **Suspended Equipment**

Inline fan installation with vibration isolation hangers and wire rope bracing





# Suspended Services

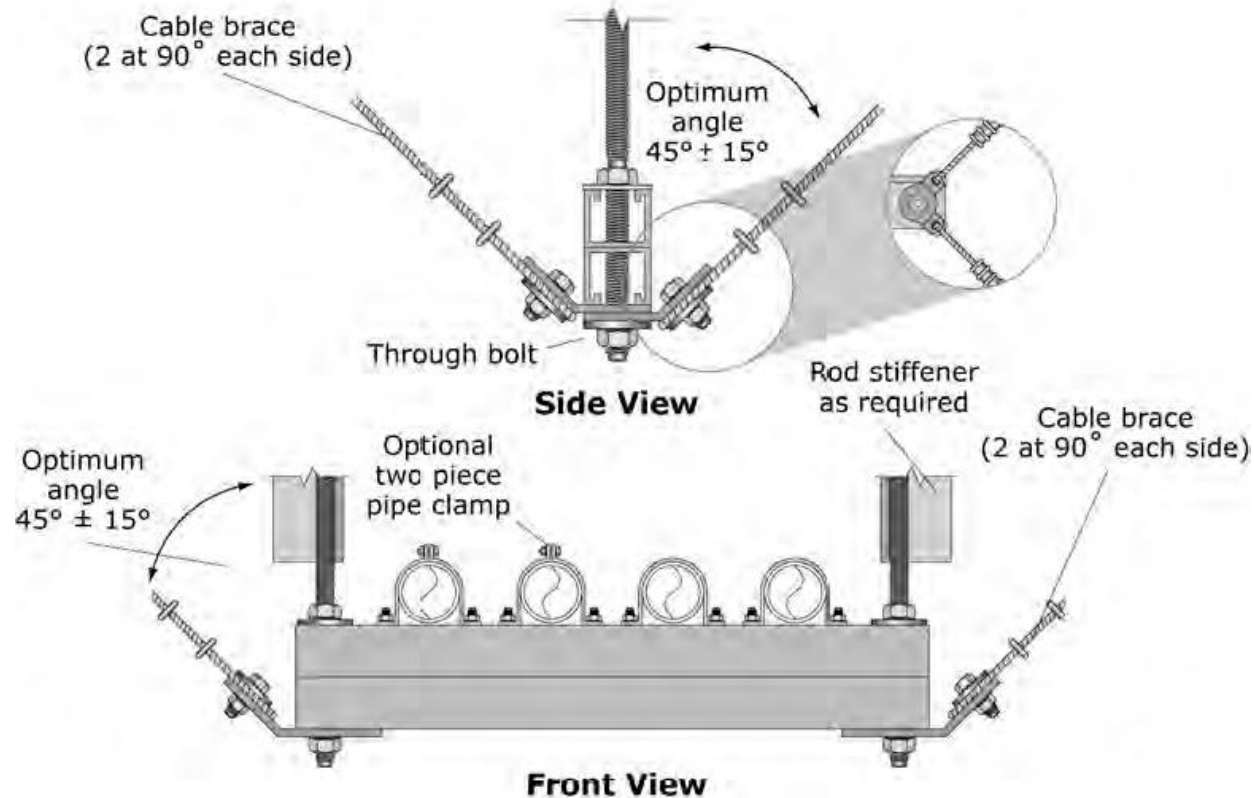


## Single Line Installation

*(Typical pipe installation with all directional wire rope bracing)*



# Suspended Services

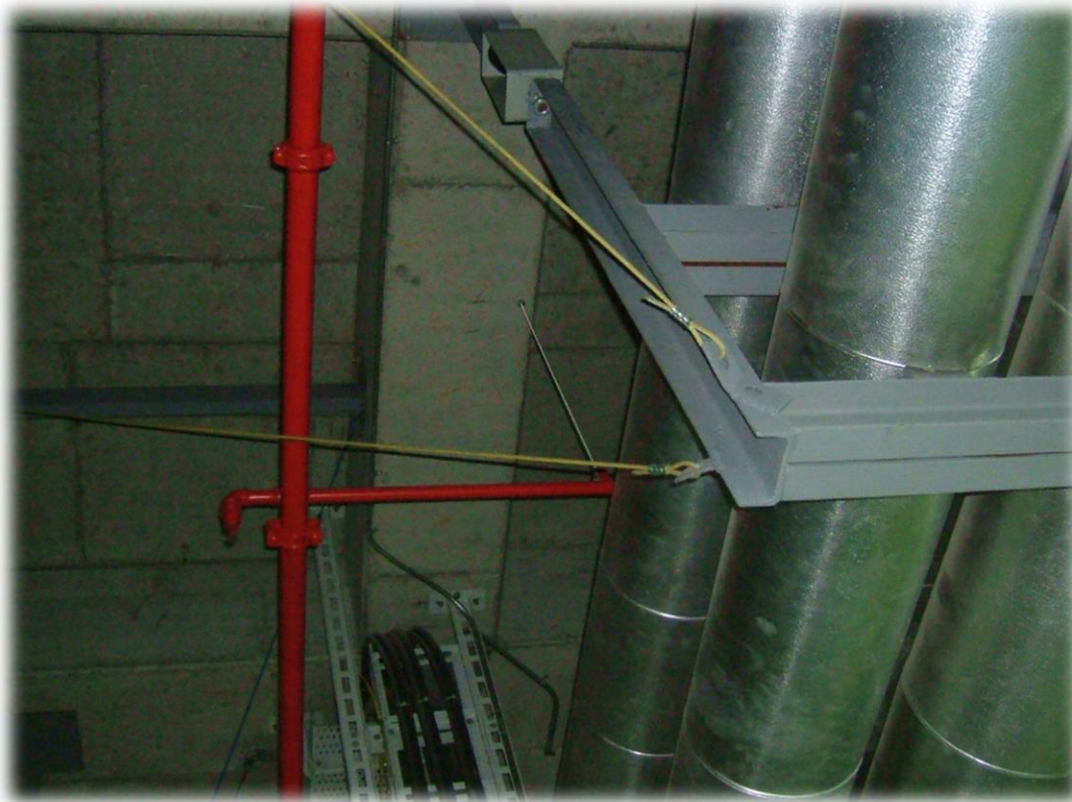


## Trapeze Pipe Support Installation

*(Typical pipe installation with all directional wire rope bracing)*



# Suspended Services



## Pipe Line Installation Example

Steel wire rope bracing *(Photo courtesy of Ulus Yapi)*



# Suspended Services



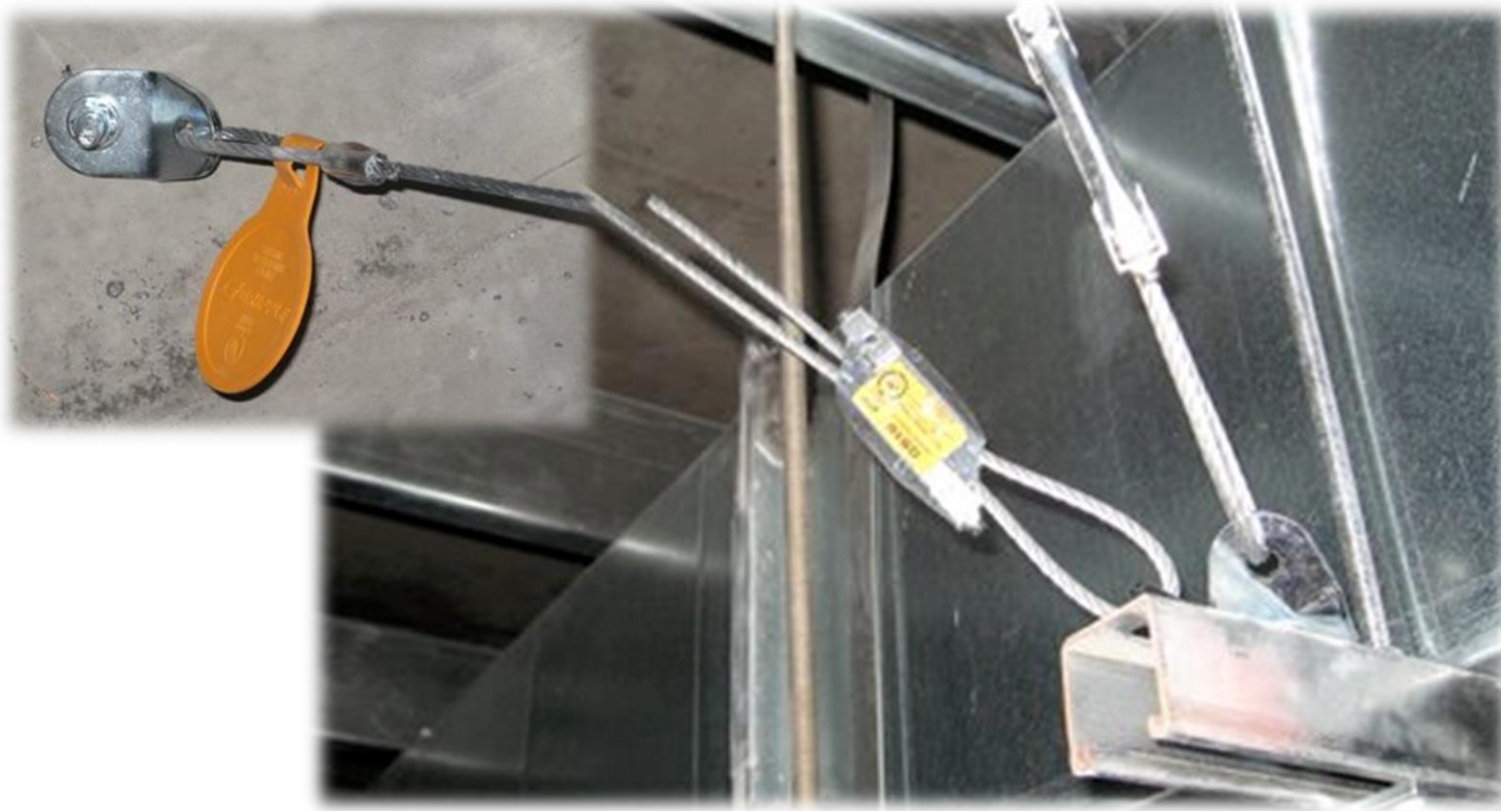
## Pipe Line Installation Example

Rigid bracing of piping (*Photo courtesy of Maryann Phipps, Estructure*)





# Suspended Services



## Ductwork Installation Example

Cable bracing of suspended ductwork *(Photo courtesy of Acrefine Engineering)*

# Seismic Restraint and Bracing



## Why it should be done?

- To SAVE LIVES and maximize PUBLIC SAFETY
- To minimize DOWNTIME after an earthquake
- To COMPLY with local and /or international codes and standards  
(in USA; UBC-1997, IBC-2009, NFPA-13, SMACNA, FEMA ...)
- To COMPLY with job specifications.
- To PROTECT the investment.
- To LOWER the insurance premiums.
- To CREATE competitive advantage.



# Haiti Earthquake 2010



**Haiti Government Palace**  
**Suffered major damage that was beyond repair**

# Haiti Earthquake 2010



**US Embassy**  
**Suffered minimal damage and it was operational**

# The End

Thank you very much

Presented by:

Martin M. Deveci

[www.acrefine.com](http://www.acrefine.com)

Fixing & Hangers | Vibration Isolation  
**Seismic Restraint** | Noise Control

