



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7842



Date September 30, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 1607.8.1.1

Question:

Does the 200 pound concentrated load need to be used in/with the Section 1605 "Load Combinations"?

Answer

It's pretty clear that the load combinations apply. For one, there's nothing in the code or ASCE 7 that exempts load combinations for handrail/guardrail design. Secondly, what's the justification for not applying the load combinations? There's not one. It's a structural member in that loads are required to be applied and it has to be designed, whether steel, wood, plastic, or glass (not to mention that loads for handrails/guardrails are located in the "Live Load" section of the code). Now, the 200 lb. load doesn't have to be applied concurrently with the 50 psf uniform load. You might ask does it make sense to design for these live loads on handrails/guardrails in combination with hurricane loads? Are people gonna be on their balconies during a hurricane? Probably not. But if you look at the load combinations for ASD, there's only 1 that includes live and wind which is

$$D + .75L + 0.75(0.6)W + 0.75(Lr \text{ or } S \text{ or } R)$$

So you are basically design for 75% of the Live load in combination with 45% of the Wind load. So in general, the load combinations take this into account.

Commentary:

None

Notice:

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