



UDC FAQs

Wind Loads using ASCE 7 SPS 321.02(1)(c)

When designing wall bracing to comply with SPS 321.25(8), may I use the ASCE 7 standard as an option to determine wind loads on a dwelling even though the resultant wind pressure may be less than 20 PSF?

Yes. ASCE 7 is considered an accepted engineering practice. Conditions of acceptance are: that version 2005 is used, that a minimum wind speed of 90 MPH (3-second gust) be used, that the appropriate exposure factor be used, and that it be applied to the whole dwelling for determining wall bracing. The ASCE 7 standard may also be used to determine the wind pressure on tall walls only if the ASCE 7 design standard is also being used for determining the wall bracing requirements of the dwelling. This design methodology may also be used to determine wall bracing needs for an addition, and only the addition, to an existing dwelling as long as it is applied to the complete addition.

SPS 321.02 Loads and materials. (1) DESIGN LOAD.

(c) *Wind loads.* Dwellings shall be designed and constructed to withstand either a horizontal and uplift pressure of 20 pounds per square foot acting over the surface area or the wind loads determined in accordance with ASCE 7-05, *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*.

Shower Doors & Openings SPS 321.035 (1)(c)1. & 2.

We have a 2 story dwelling with a full bath on the first floor. The door to the bathroom is 32". In the bathroom there is a site-built walk in shower. The glass door to the shower does not have a clear opening of 30" to meet the code section of SPS 321.035(1)(c). How does the State look at this requirement?

The **permanent structural opening** of the shower has to have the minimum 30 inch net clear opening. A shower door that's part of a shower fixture does not have to meet this 30 inch requirement. This is in regards to the minimum one full bathroom requirements of SPS 321.035(1)(c) only.

This code does NOT apply to any pre-fabricated shower and/or bath unit.

SPS 321.035 Interior circulation. (1) DOORS AND

OPENINGS. All doors and openings to the following areas shall be at least 80 inches high and provide either a net clear opening width of 30 inches or be a 32-inch door:

(c) 1. At least one full bathroom, including doors or openings to a sink, toilet and tub or shower. If this bathroom is accessible only through a bedroom, the bedroom door shall meet the minimum width requirements of this section.

2. If one or more full bathrooms are provided on the first floor, the bathroom meeting the requirements under this section shall be on the first floor.

Note: This section does not require a full bathroom on the first floor.

Fire Separation and Living Unit Separation SPS 321.08(1)

Is there additional information on fire separation and living unit separation?

Yes, see [PDF file](#).