

Who is Responsible for Seismic Design and Installation of Nonstructural Elements?

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Non-Structural Elements - In Theory

Structural Engineer

- Provides seismic design parameters: site coefficients, drifts, accelerations
- Limits of attachment to structure
- Reviews submittals, not calculations

Architect

- Coordinates project specifications, including nonstructural requirements

Contractor/Subs

- Facilitates seismic design of nonstructural elements by a PE, per Specifications and IBC
- Submits designs for review
- Installs per Specifications and IBC requirements

Owner

- Inspects finished work for compliance with construction documents

Non-Structural Elements - In Practice

Structural Engineer

- Provides seismic design parameters: site coefficients, drifts, accelerations
- No limits of attachment to structure
- Reviews submittals, not calculations

Architect

- Incomplete coordination of project specifications

Contractor/Subs

- Hires PE for design of only a few nonstructural elements
- Submits standard details for review
- Installs per guidelines (e.g. SMACNA, NFPA). MEP equipment not rated.

Owner

- Nonstructural inspection is limited
- Inspection based on experience with standard guidelines