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USACE / NAVFAC / AFCEA UFGS-15070A (January 2002)  
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Preparing Activity: USACE Superseding  
UFGS-15070A (November 2001)

UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

References are in agreement with UMRL dated 25 June 2004

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SECTION 15070A

SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT  
01/02

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NOTE: This guide specification covers the requirements for seismic protection of mechanical equipment, building piping, and exterior utilities. This guide specification will be used in conjunction with Section 13080 SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT.

Comments and suggestions on this guide specification are welcome and should be directed to the technical proponent of the specification. A listing of technical proponents, including their organization designation and telephone number, is on the Internet.

Recommended changes to a UFGS should be submitted as a Criteria Change Request (CCR).

Use of electronic communication is encouraged.

Brackets are used in the text to indicate designer choices or locations where text must be supplied by the designer.

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PART 1 GENERAL

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NOTE: The intent of this specification is to provide for adequate resistance to lateral forces induced by earthquakes for mechanical equipment and systems described herein. The design seismic lateral forces are in addition to the "normal" gravity forces (weight) acting on the components of a system.

Equipment in the following seismic design categories do not require protection from seismic events (refer to Chapter 4 of TI 809-04 for definition of categories A through F; note that Chapter 10 of TI

809-04 uses the word "components" instead of "equipment").

a. Equipment in Seismic Design Categories A and B.

b. Equipment in Seismic Design Category C when the importance factor is equal to 1.0.

c. Equipment in Seismic Design Categories D, E, and F that are mounted at 1.2 m (4 feet) or less above a floor level and weigh 1780 N (400 lbs) or less and are not critical to the continued operation of the structure.

d. Equipment in Seismic Design Categories C, D, E, and F weighing 95 N (20 lbs) or less or distribution systems weighing 7 N/m (5 lb/ft) or less.

This section can be used for bracing details of medical equipment by editing the specification accordingly.

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## 1.1 REFERENCES

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NOTE: Issue (date) of references included in project specifications need not be more current than provided by the latest guide specification. Use of SpecsIntact automated reference checking is recommended for projects based on older guide specifications.

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The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to within the text by the basic designation only.

SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
(SMACNA)

SMACNA Seismic Restraint Mnl (1998, 2nd Ed) Seismic Restraint Manual:  
Guidelines for Mechanical Systems

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

TI 809-04 (1998) Seismic Design for Buildings

## 1.2 SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

### 1.2.1 General Requirements

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NOTE: Designer should verify that specified details do not interfere with the performance of the cathodic protection system (when used) or of the vibration isolation systems.

For systems and equipment in buildings that have a performance objective higher than life-safety, the designer should show a "G" classification for the items under SD-02 Shop Drawings in the SUBMITTALS paragraph. The Engineer of Record (EOR) should review the details of these essential systems and assess their impact on the structural supporting system of the essential building.

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The requirements for seismic protection measures described in this section shall be applied to the mechanical equipment and systems listed below. Structural requirements shall be in accordance with Section 13080 SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT.

#### 1.2.2 Mechanical Equipment

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NOTE: The designer must ensure that the list below includes all mechanical items to be braced. Delete the items which are not part of the project and add items which are not included in the list.

For equipment and systems in buildings with a performance objective greater than life-safety, the designer should provide two separate lists of equipment and systems: 1) Items that are essential to the higher level of post-earthquake performance, and 2) Items that are not essential but are necessary to provide a life-safety level of earthquake protection.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mechanical equipment to be seismically protected shall include the following items to the extent required on the drawings or in other sections of these specifications:

Boilers and furnaces	Storage Tanks for Oil and Water
Water Heaters	Steam, Water, Oil and Gas Piping
Expansion Air Separator Tanks	Valves and Fittings for Piping
Heat Exchangers	Steam-fed Kitchen Appliances
Water Chiller Units	Thermal Storage Units
Cooling Towers	Air and Refrigerant Compressors
Refrigerant Piping	Air Handling Units
Pumps with Motors	Lab Scrubbers
Large Commercial Dryers	Pollution Control Equipment
Gas Dryers	Ducts
Flash Tanks	Unit Heaters
Accumulator Tank	Exhaust and Return Fans
[_____]	Solar Heating Units

#### 1.2.3 Mechanical Systems

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NOTE: The designer must ensure that the list below includes all piping and mechanical systems which are to be installed or modified. Delete the items which are not part of the project and add items which are

not included in the list.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following mechanical systems shall be installed as required on the drawings and other sections of these specifications and shall be seismically protected in accordance with this specification:

All Piping Inside the Building Except as Specifically Stated Below  
Under "Items Not Covered By This Section".  
Chilled Water Distribution Systems Outside of Buildings  
Fuel Piping Outside of Buildings  
All Water Supply Systems  
Storm and Sanitary Sewer Systems  
All Process Piping  
Heat Distribution Systems (Supply, Return, and Condensate Return)  
Outside of Buildings  
Condenser Water Piping Outside the Building  
Pneumatic Tube Distribution System  
Cold Storage Refrigeration Systems  
Fuel Storage Tanks  
Water Storage Tanks  
[\_\_\_\_\_]

#### 1.2.4 Contractor Designed Bracing

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NOTE: Retain this paragraph when the Contractor will design the bracing. The designer will refer and/or modify the listings above or will list below the equipment and systems to receive seismic bracing. Delete this paragraph when all bracing details and locations are indicated on the drawings.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Contractor shall design the bracing in accordance with TI 809-04 and additional data furnished by the Contracting Officer. Resistance to lateral forces induced by earthquakes shall be accomplished without consideration of friction resulting from gravity loads. TI 809-04 uses parameters for the building, not for the equipment in the building; therefore, corresponding adjustments to the formulas shall be required. Loadings determined using TI 809-04 are based on strength design; therefore, AISC 325 Specifications shall be used for the design. The bracing for the following mechanical equipment and systems shall be developed by the Contractor: [\_\_\_\_\_].

#### 1.2.5 Items Not Covered By This Section

##### 1.2.5.1 Fire Protection Systems

Seismic protection of piping for fire protection systems shall be installed as specified in Sections 13920 FIRE PUMPS, 13930A WET PIPE SPRINKLER SYSTEM, FIRE PROTECTION, 13935A DRY PIPE SPRINKLER SYSTEM, FIRE PROTECTION, 13945A PREACTION AND DELUGE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, FIRE PROTECTION, and 13955A AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAM (AFFF) FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM.

##### 1.2.5.2 Items Requiring No Seismic Restraints

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NOTE: Retain only those items found in the project

for this list of pipes and ducts that do not require seismic restraints. For facilities designated as critical, hazardous, or essential, delete or make exceptions for piping and ducts which will require seismic restraint.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seismic restraints are not required for the following items:

- a. Gas piping less than 25 mm 1inch inside diameter.
- b. Piping in boiler and mechanical equipment rooms less than 32 mm 1-1/4 inches inside diameter.
- c. All other piping less than 64 mm 2-1/2inches inside diameter.
- d. Rectangular air handling ducts less than 0.56 square meters 6 square feet in cross sectional area.
- e. Round air handling ducts less than 711 mm 28 inches in diameter.
- f. Piping suspended by individual hangers 300 mm 12 inches or less in length from the top of pipe to the bottom of the supporting structural member where the hanger is attached, except as noted below.
- g. Ducts suspended by hangers 300 mm 12inches or less in length from the top of the duct to the bottom of the supporting structural member, except as noted below.

In exemptions f. and g. all hangers shall meet the length requirements. If the length requirement is exceeded by one hanger in the run, the entire run shall be braced. Interior piping and ducts not listed above shall be seismically protected in accordance with the provisions of this specification.

### 1.3 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

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NOTE: Seismic Control does not guarantee that the equipment itself is rugged enough to survive earthquake shaking. When a piece of equipment is required to remain operational after an earthquake, the manufacturer should be consulted regarding the capabilities of the equipment to withstand seismic loading.

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#### 1.3.1 Rigidly Mounted Equipment

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NOTE: Rigidly mounted equipment is defined as having a period of vibration of 0.06 seconds or less for the equipment plus its mounting. Equipment with a fundamental period greater than 0.06 seconds should be assumed to be flexibly mounted or nonrigid and designed in accordance with the next paragraph below.

List items that may require additional reinforcements (internally) to prevent permanent deformation, dislocations, separation of components, or other damage, which would render the equipment inoperative for significant periods of time following a seismic event and to meet the specified requirements (such as boilers, chillers, cooling towers, etc., which consist of a number of individual components built into an assembly by the manufacturers).

\*\*\*\*\*

The following specific items of equipment: [\_\_\_\_\_] to be furnished under this contract shall be constructed and assembled to withstand the seismic forces specified in TI 809-04, Chapter 10. Each item of rigid equipment shall be entirely located and rigidly attached on one side only of a building expansion joint. Piping, duct, electrical conduit, etc., which cross the expansion joint shall be provided with flexible joints that are capable of accommodating displacements equal to the full width of the joint in both orthogonal directions.

Boilers  
Chillers  
Air-Handling Units  
Cooling Towers  
Surge Tanks  
[\_\_\_\_\_]

#### 1.3.2 Nonrigid or Flexibly-Mounted Equipment

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NOTE: The appropriate lateral force coefficient, based on the guidelines in Section 13080 SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT for nonrigid or flexibly-mounted equipment, should be calculated and inserted in the second bracketed blank.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following specific items of equipment to be furnished: [\_\_\_\_\_] shall be constructed and assembled to resist a horizontal lateral force of [\_\_\_\_\_] times the operating weight of the equipment at the vertical center of gravity of the equipment.

#### 1.4 SUBMITTALS

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NOTE: Submittals must be limited to those necessary for adequate quality control. The importance of an item in the project should be one of the primary factors in determining if a submittal for the item should be required.

A "G" following a submittal item indicates that the submittal requires Government approval. Some submittals are already marked with a "G". Only delete an existing "G" if the submittal item is not complex and can be reviewed through the Contractor's Quality Control system. Only add a "G" if the submittal is sufficiently important or complex in



context of the project.

For submittals requiring Government approval on Army projects, a code of up to three characters within the submittal tags may be used following the "G" designation to indicate the approving authority. Codes for Army projects using the Resident Management System (RMS) are: "AE" for Architect-Engineer; "DO" for District Office (Engineering Division or other organization in the District Office); "AO" for Area Office; "RO" for Resident Office; and "PO" for Project Office. Codes following the "G" typically are not used for Navy projects.

Submittal items not designated with a "G" are considered as being for information only for Army projects and for Contractor Quality Control approval for Navy projects.

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Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" designation; submittals not having a "G" designation are [for Contractor Quality Control approval.] [for information only. When used, a designation following the "G" designation identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government.] The following shall be submitted in accordance with Section 01330 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

#### SD-02 Shop Drawings

Coupling and Bracing.  
Flexible Couplings or Joints.  
Equipment Requirements.  
Contractor Designed Bracing[; G][; G, [\_\_\_\_]].

Detail drawings along with catalog cuts, templates, and erection and installation details, as appropriate, for the items listed. Submittals shall be complete in detail; shall indicate thickness, type, grade, class of metal, and dimensions; and shall show construction details, reinforcement, anchorage, and installation with relation to the building construction.

#### SD-03 Product Data

Coupling and Bracing[; G][; G, [\_\_\_\_]].  
Equipment Requirements[; G][; G, [\_\_\_\_]].

Copies of the design calculations with the detail drawings. Calculations shall be stamped by a registered engineer and shall verify the capability of structural members to which bracing is attached for carrying the load from the brace.

Contractor Designed Bracing[; G][; G, [\_\_\_\_]].

Copies of the design calculations with the drawings. Calculations shall be approved, certified, stamped and signed by a registered Professional Engineer. Calculations shall verify the capability of structural members to which bracing is attached for carrying the load from the brace.

## SD-07 Certificates

### Flexible Ball Joints.

Flexible ball joints shall be certified to be suitable for the service intended by the manufacturer. Information verifying experience at not less than 3 locations of 2 years' satisfactory operation in a similar application shall be submitted.

## PART 2 PRODUCTS

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NOTE: Appropriate materials for structural supports must be used in corrosive environments. Dissimilar metals must be isolated.  
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### 2.1 FLEXIBLE COUPLINGS

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NOTE: Designer should include reference to other specification sections containing provisions for pipe pressure and temperature ratings, if deemed necessary.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Flexible couplings shall have same pressure and temperature ratings as adjoining pipe.

### 2.2 FLEXIBLE BALL JOINTS

Flexible ball joints shall have cast or wrought steel casing and ball parts capable of 360-degree rotation with not less than 15-degree angular movement.

### 2.3 FLEXIBLE MECHANICAL JOINTS

- a. Mechanical couplings for steel or cast iron pipe shall be of the sleeve type and shall provide a tight flexible joint under all reasonable conditions, such as pipe movement caused by expansion, contraction, slight settling or shifting of the ground, minor variations in trench gradients, and traffic vibrations. Where permitted in other sections of these specifications, joints utilizing split-half couplings with grooved or shouldered pipe ends may be used.
- b. Sleeve-type couplings shall be used for joining plain-end pipe sections. The coupling shall consist of one steel middle ring, two steel followers, two gaskets, and necessary steel bolts and nuts to compress the gaskets.

### 2.4 MANUFACTURED BALL JOINTS

Manufactured ball joints shall be as recommended by the manufacturer for the intended use, and shall be approved by the Contracting Officer before installation.

## 2.5 SWAY BRACING MATERIALS

Sway bracing materials (e.g. rods, plates, rope, angles, etc.) shall be as specified in Section 13080 SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT.

## PART 3 EXECUTION

### 3.1 COUPLING AND BRACING

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**NOTE: Unless otherwise determined by the Contracting Officer, A-E designs must include complete seismic details showing coupling requirements. Government designer should furnish coupling details for Contractor designed systems if required by the project.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Coupling installation shall conform to the details shown on the drawings. Provisions of this paragraph apply to all piping within a 1.5 m 5 foot line around outside of building unless buried in the ground. Piping grouped for support on trapeze-type hangers shall be braced at the most frequent interval as determined by applying the requirements of this specification to each piping run on the common support. Bracing components shall be sized as required for the total load carried by the common supports. Bracing rigidly attached to pipe flanges, or similar, shall not be used where it would interfere with thermal expansion of piping.

### 3.2 BUILDING DRIFT

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**NOTE: Refer to Section 13080 SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT to determine the expected drift of the building. Insert the expected drift ratio (in terms of deflection per unit of height) in the blank space.**  
\*\*\*\*\*

Joints capable of accommodating seismic displacements shall be provided for vertical piping between floors of the building, where pipes pass through a building seismic or expansion joint, or where rigidly supported pipes connect to equipment with vibration isolators. Horizontal piping across expansion joints shall accommodate the resultant of the drifts of each building unit in each orthogonal direction. For threaded piping, swing joints made of the same piping material shall be provided. For piping with manufactured ball joints the seismic drift shall be [0.015] [\_\_\_\_\_] meters per meter feet per foot of height above the base where the seismic separation occurs; this drift value shall be used in place of the expansion given in the manufacturer's selection table.

### 3.3 FLEXIBLE COUPLINGS OR JOINTS

#### 3.3.1 Building Piping

Flexible couplings or joints in building piping shall be provided at bottom of all pipe risers for pipe larger than 90 mm 3-1/2 inches in diameter. Flexible couplings or joints shall be braced laterally without interfering with the action of the flexible coupling or joint. Cast iron waste and vent piping need only comply with these provisions when caulked joints are

used. Flexible bell and spigot pipe joints using rubber gaskets may be used at each branch adjacent to tees and elbows for underground waste piping inside of building to satisfy these requirements.

### 3.3.2 Underground Piping

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NOTE: This paragraph may not be required for some Seismic Design Category structures. The designer will coordinate the requirements for seismic isolation of piping with the structural and civil design drawings to locate flexible connections as required.

The amount of annular space will depend on the stiffness of the foundation assembly and of the surrounding soil, and the distance between the foundation wall and the point outside the building where the pipe is considered to be restrained. The geotechnical engineer will determine the pipe length necessary to provide fixity. As an approximation, a value of 76 mm (3 inches) would be necessary for a pipe penetration in a one-story basement in soft soil.

\*\*\*\*\*

Underground piping and 100 mm 4 inch or larger conduit, except heat distribution system, shall have flexible couplings installed where the piping enters the building. The couplings shall accommodate [\_\_\_\_\_] mm inches of relative movement between the pipe and the building in any direction. Additional flexible couplings shall be provided where shown on the drawings.

### 3.4 PIPE SLEEVES

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NOTE: The designer will determine the amount of differential movement of piping at pipe sleeves passing through non-fire rated walls and partitions and will indicate on the drawings the amount of clearance required between the pipe and the sleeve based on deflection of the pipe between sway braces on either side of the wall.

The designer should avoid pipe penetrations through fire rated assemblies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pipe sleeves in interior non-fire rated walls shall be sized as indicated on the drawings to provide clearances that will permit differential movement of piping without the piping striking the pipe sleeve. Pipe sleeves in fire rated walls shall conform to the requirements in Section 07840 FIRESTOPPING.

### 3.5 SPREADERS

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NOTE: Refer to Chapter 10 of TI 809-04 for guidance on separation between pipes and requirements for

## **spreaders.**

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Spreaders shall be provided between adjacent piping runs to prevent contact during seismic activity whenever pipe or insulated pipe surfaces are less than [100] [\_\_\_\_\_] mm [4] [\_\_\_\_\_] inches apart. Spreaders shall be applied at same interval as sway braces at an equal distance between the sway braces. If rack type hangers are used where the pipes are restrained from contact by mounting to the rack, spreaders are not required for pipes mounted in the rack. Spreaders shall be applied to surface of bare pipe and over insulation on insulated pipes utilizing high-density inserts and pipe protection shields in accordance with the requirements of Section 15080A THERMAL INSULATION FOR MECHANICAL SYSTEMS.

### **3.6 SWAY BRACES FOR PIPING**

Sway braces shall be provided to prevent movement of the pipes under seismic loading. Braces shall be provided in both the longitudinal and transverse directions, relative to the axis of the pipe. The bracing shall not interfere with thermal expansion requirements for the pipes as described in other sections of these specifications.

#### **3.6.1 Transverse Sway Bracing**

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**NOTE: Piping can be either rigid or flexible.  
Rigid piping has a period of vibration of 0.06  
seconds or less. Piping systems with spacing  
between braces that exceeds allowable spacing for  
rigid piping will be deemed flexible and will be  
designed accordingly.**

**The designer should provide requirements for bracing  
PVC pipes.**

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Transverse sway bracing for steel and copper pipe shall be provided as specified in Section 13080 SEISMIC PROTECTION FOR MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT. All runs (length of pipe between end joints) shall have a minimum of two transverse braces. Transverse sway bracing for pipes of materials other than steel and copper shall be provided at intervals not to exceed the hanger spacing as specified in Section 15400A PLUMBING, GENERAL PURPOSE.

#### **3.6.2 Longitudinal Sway Bracing**

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**NOTE: Locate longitudinal sway braces on the  
drawings for systems subject to thermal expansion  
because indiscriminate placement of sway braces may  
interfere with expansion requirements.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Longitudinal sway bracing shall be provided at 12 m 40 foot intervals unless otherwise indicated. All runs (length of pipe between end joints) shall have one longitudinal brace minimum. Sway braces shall be constructed in accordance with the drawings. Branch lines, walls, or floors shall not be used as sway braces.

### 3.6.3 Vertical Runs

Run is defined as length of pipe between end joints. Vertical runs of piping shall be braced at not more than 3 m 10 foot vertical intervals. Braces for vertical runs shall be above the center of gravity of the segment being braced. All sway braces shall be constructed in accordance with the drawings. Sway branches shall not be connected to branch lines, walls, or floors.

### 3.6.4 Clamps and Hangers

Clamps or hangers on uninsulated pipes shall be applied directly to pipe. Insulated piping shall have clamps or hangers applied over insulation in accordance with Section 15080A THERMAL INSULATION FOR MECHANICAL SYSTEMS.

## 3.7 SWAY BRACES FOR DUCTS

### 3.7.1 Braced Ducts

Bracing details and spacing for rectangular and round ducts shall be in accordance with [SMACNA Seismic Restraint Mnl, including Appendix E] [TI 809-04 procedures]. However, the design seismic loadings for these items shall not be less than loadings obtained using the procedures in TI 809-04.

### 3.7.2 Unbraced Ducts

Hangers for unbraced ducts shall be attached to the duct within 50 mm 2 inches of the top of the duct [with a minimum of two #10 sheet metal screws] [in accordance with SMACNA Seismic Restraint Mnl]. Unbraced ducts shall be installed with a 150 mm 6 inch minimum clearance to vertical ceiling hanger wires.

-- End of Section --