



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

CITY OF CHICAGO

Date: April 12th, 2013

To: Department of Buildings, Structural Plan Examiners

From: Michael Merchant - Commissioner
Department of Buildings

**Re: ASCE7-05 and SEAOC PV2 Standards Are Allowed For the Review
Of Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Panel Wind Loading.**

Effective immediately, The following Structural Engineering Standards may be used to determine the wind loads for solar photovoltaic panels (PV Panels) mounted on the rooftops of buildings:

1. ASCE/SEI 7-05 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures by the American Society of Civil Engineers
2. SEAOC PV-2-2012 Wind Design For Low-Profile Solar Photovoltaic Arrays on Flat Roofs by the Structural Engineers Association of California

The use of these standards is subject to the following:

1. The SEAOC Standard may only be used to determine wind loads for PV panels mounted on flat roofs. This Standard can not be used to determine the wind loads on PV panels mounted on sloped or curved roofs.
2. These Standards are intended only for the determination of wind loads for PV panels mounted on roofs of buildings and may not be used for the determination of wind loads on solar panels which are mounted on building walls, used as window awnings or bris-de-soleils, or vertically mounted on poles or pedestals.
3. Where PV panels are mounted at an angle to a flat roof, consideration must be given to the potential for snow drifting under and around the panels.