

where the basic wind speed is 120 mph (53 m/s) or greater; or Hawaii.

**1609.3 Basic wind speed.** The basic wind speed, in mph, for the determination of the wind loads shall be determined by Figure 1609. Basic wind speed for the special wind regions indicated, near mountainous terrain and near gorges shall be in accordance with local jurisdiction requirements. Basic wind speeds determined by the local jurisdiction shall be in accordance with Section 6.5.4 of ASCE 7.

In nonhurricane-prone regions, when the basic wind speed is estimated from regional climatic data, the basic wind speed shall be not less than the wind speed associated with an annual probability of 0.02 (50-year mean recurrence interval), and the estimate shall be adjusted for equivalence to a 3-second gust wind speed at 33 feet (10 m) above ground in Exposure Category C. The data analysis shall be performed in accordance with Section 6.5.4.2 of ASCE 7.

**1609.3.1 Wind speed conversion.** When required, the 3-second gust basic wind speeds of Figure 1609 shall be converted to fastest-mile wind speeds,  $V_{fm}$ , using Table 1609.3.1 or Equation 16-34.

$$V_{fm} = \frac{(V_{3S} - 10.5)}{1.05} \quad \text{(Equation 16-34)}$$

where:

$V_{3S}$  = 3-second gust basic wind speed from Figure 1609.

**1609.4 Exposure category.** For each wind direction considered, an exposure category that adequately reflects the characteristics of ground surface irregularities shall be determined for the site at which the building or structure is to be constructed. Account shall be taken of variations in ground surface roughness that arise from natural topography and vegetation as well as from constructed features.

*Exception: [OSHPD 2] The wind design shall comply with Exposure C requirements unless the architect or structural engineer in general responsible charge can justify to the enforcement agency that the building site and surrounding terrain conform to the criteria for Exposure B. Minimum data to establish the exposure category shall be a topographic map (e.g., United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps) and aerial photographs except that for Exposure B sites located within urban areas, a vicinity map of sufficient size and scale to verify compliance may be provided.*

**1609.4.1 Wind directions and sectors.** For each selected wind direction at which the wind loads are to be evaluated,

the exposure of the building or structure shall be determined for the two upwind sectors extending 45 degrees (0.79 rad) either side of the selected wind direction. The exposures in these two sectors shall be determined in accordance with Sections 1609.4.2 and 1609.4.3 and the exposure resulting in the highest wind loads shall be used to represent winds from that direction.

**1609.4.2 Surface roughness categories.** A ground surface roughness within each 45-degree (0.79 rad) sector shall be determined for a distance upwind of the site as defined in Section 1609.4.3 from the categories defined below, for the purpose of assigning an exposure category as defined in Section 1609.4.3.

**Surface Roughness B.** Urban and suburban areas, wooded areas or other terrain with numerous closely spaced obstructions having the size of single-family dwellings or larger.

**Surface Roughness C.** Open terrain with scattered obstructions having heights generally less than 30 feet (9144 mm). This category includes flat open country, grasslands, and all water surfaces in hurricane-prone regions.

**Surface Roughness D.** Flat, unobstructed areas and water surfaces outside hurricane-prone regions. This category includes smooth mud flats, salt flats and unbroken ice.

**1609.4.3 Exposure categories.** An exposure category shall be determined in accordance with the following:

**Exposure B.** Exposure B shall apply where the ground surface roughness condition, as defined by Surface Roughness B, prevails in the upwind direction for a distance of at least 2,600 feet (792 m) or 20 times the height of the building, whichever is greater.

**Exception:** For buildings whose mean roof height is less than or equal to 30 feet (9144 mm), the upwind distance is permitted to be reduced to 1,500 feet (457 m).

**Exposure C.** Exposure C shall apply for all cases where Exposures B or D do not apply.

**Exposure D.** Exposure D shall apply where the ground surface roughness, as defined by Surface Roughness D, prevails in the upwind direction for a distance of at least 5,000 feet (1524 m) or 20 times the height of the building, whichever is greater. Exposure D shall extend inland from the shoreline for a distance of 600 feet (183 m) or 20 times the height of the building, whichever is greater.

TABLE 1609.3.1  
EQUIVALENT BASIC WIND SPEEDS<sup>a,b,c</sup>

$V_{3S}$	85	90	100	105	110	120	125	130	140	145	150	160	170
$V_{fm}$	71	76	85	90	95	104	109	114	123	128	133	142	152

For SI: 1 mile per hour = 0.44 m/s.

a. Linear interpolation is permitted.

b.  $V_{3S}$  is the 3-second gust wind speed (mph).

c.  $V_{fm}$  is the fastest mile wind speed (mph).