

United States Department of Agriculture
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Directive

APHIS 1650.3

2/5/01

APHIS NATIONAL SEISMIC SAFETY PROGRAM

1. PURPOSE

The APHIS National Seismic Safety Program has been established in response to the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 12941 *Seismic Safety of Existing Federally Owned and Leased Facilities*. This Directive describes the program, identifies the need for an APHIS national policy on seismic safety, establishes a methodology for evaluating seismic risks in APHIS facilities, and presents a plan and implementation schedule to evaluate and decrease seismic risks in APHIS-owned and direct-leased facilities.

2. SCOPE

The APHIS National Seismic Safety Program covers all buildings owned and directly-leased by APHIS. Seismic safety of existing facilities assigned to APHIS by the General Services Administration (GSA) is the responsibility of GSA and is not addressed in this Program. However, buildings leased by APHIS for other USDA agencies are covered by this Program. APHIS has implemented regulations for facilities leased or constructed after December 31, 1993, which require compliance with the most current seismic safety standards. The regulations require incorporation of appropriate restrictions and other language into standard lease agreements and architectural and engineering design criteria.

3. AUTHORITIES

- a. The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-124).
- b. Public Law 101-614: Amendment to the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-124).
- c. EO 12941, December 1, 1994, *Seismic Safety of Existing Federally Owned or Leased Facilities*.

4. POLICY

It is APHIS policy to comply with the requirements of EO 12941, as outlined below:

- a. Adopt the Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction (ICSSC) standards.
- b. Develop an agency National Seismic Safety Policy.
- c. Establish a National Seismic Safety Program. The Program must include a plan for inventory, evaluation, cost estimation, and mitigation based on ICSSC standards and recommendations.

APHIS is specifically cited in the EO for "...participation, assistance, and cooperation..." with those Federal agencies with principal roles and responsibilities for the Program. APHIS' continuing involvement in the activities of the ICSSC will be critical to ensuring the successful implementation of the EO.

5. SEISMIC SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- a. The APHIS Seismic Safety Implementation Plan will:
 - (1) Identify the actions APHIS will take to fulfill the responsibilities established in EO 12941.
 - (2) Present a methodology and time frame for analyzing APHIS-owned and direct-leased buildings in order to select the required sample of buildings for detailed seismic evaluation.
 - (3) Identify specific building data that is required for the selection process as well as data that will be generated in the seismic evaluation process.
- b. The implementation schedule will be separated into short-term (less than one year) and long-range (the following five years) activities that APHIS will undertake to fulfill the requirements of the applicable Public Laws and Executive Orders. Execution of the elements of this plan, in conjunction with issuance of APHIS policy on seismic safety in owned and direct-leased buildings, will ensure that seismic-related risks to APHIS employees, customers, and physical assets will be mitigated in the most cost-effective manner.

6. SELECTING APHIS FACILITIES FOR SEISMIC EVALUATION

The Implementation Plan will define the criteria by which APHIS will select buildings for seismic evaluation. The criteria will establish acceptable performance objectives for APHIS buildings during and subsequent to seismic events. Using the methodology which will be developed, the Seismic Safety Coordinator will ensure that the risks to APHIS buildings from seismic activity can be assessed in the most comprehensive and cost-effective manner possible.

This Directive can be accessed on the [APHIS](#) Administrative Issuances homepage.

/s/ W.J. Hudnall
Deputy Administrator
MRP Business Services