



Code/Section:	2018 IBC: Table 1604.5, 1704.2, 1705.6, Amended 1803.2, Amended Table 1806.2, Amended Section 3105
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Purpose:

To communicate a plan review policy for freestanding signs, billboards, and fences with maximum heights of 10 feet; and parking lot shade structures with 10-foot maximum clear heights.

Policy:

Foundations: A geotechnical report and special geotechnical inspections will not be required for foundations of freestanding signs, billboards, and fences with maximum heights of 10 feet; and parking lot shade structures with a 10-foot maximum clear height, if the foundation is designed in conformance with TRT/DOC/00878 Special Inspection for Presumptive Load-Bearing Design https://www.phoenix.gov/pddsit/Docs/Docs/TRT/dsd_trt_pdf_00878.pdf.

Design Parameters: The risk category for freestanding signs, billboards, and fences with maximum heights of 10 feet; and parking lot shade structures with a 10-foot maximum clear height shall be I per IBC Table 1604.5.

Embedded posts and poles for freestanding signs, billboards, and fences with maximum heights of 10 feet; and parking lot shade structures with a 10-foot maximum clear height, designed using the prescriptive soil values for class 4 or 5 material identified in IBC Table 1806.2, shall be allowed to utilize the end bearing and frictional resistance simultaneously without a geotechnical report.

Exception:

This policy shall not apply where the failure of the freestanding sign, billboard, fence, or parking lot shade structure will impact a larger community life safety need, such as damaging a hospital oxygen supply or blocking a building’s only means of egress.

Rationale and Reference:

ASCE 7-16’s commentary C1.5.1 identifies that the population at risk should include not purely the occupants of the structure, but also the importance of the structure to other lives, such as hospitals and fire stations. The identified items in the vast majority of situations do not serve a larger community life safety function. People coincidentally adjacent to or coincidentally directly under the non-occupiable or rarely occupied structures identified herein are not intended to be considered a part of a larger community life safety need.