



*of the National Institute of Building Sciences*

*Program on  
Improved Seismic Safety  
Provisions*

**2003 Edition**

**RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS  
FOR SEISMIC REGULATIONS  
FOR NEW BUILDINGS  
AND OTHER STRUCTURES (FEMA 450)**

**Part 2: Commentary**

The **Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC)** was established in 1979 under the auspices of the National Institute of Building Sciences as an entirely new type of instrument for dealing with the complex regulatory, technical, social, and economic issues involved in developing and promulgating building earthquake hazard mitigation regulatory provisions that are national in scope. By bringing together in the BSSC all of the needed expertise and all relevant public and private interests, it was believed that issues related to the seismic safety of the built environment could be resolved and jurisdictional problems overcome through authoritative guidance and assistance backed by a broad consensus.

The BSSC is an independent, voluntary membership body representing a wide variety of building community interests. Its fundamental purpose is to enhance public safety by providing a national forum that fosters improved seismic safety provisions for use by the building community in the planning, design, construction, regulation, and utilization of buildings.

See the back of this *Commentary* volume for a full description of BSSC activities.

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*BSSC Program on Improved Seismic Safety Provisions*

**NEHRP RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS**  
(National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program)  
**FOR SEISMIC REGULATIONS**  
**FOR NEW BUILDINGS AND**  
**OTHER STRUCTURES (FEMA 450)**

**2003 EDITION**

**Part 2: COMMENTARY**

Prepared by the  
Building Seismic Safety Council  
for the  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

**BUILDING SEISMIC SAFETY COUNCIL**  
**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES**  
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Building Seismic Safety Council activities and products are described at the end of this report. For further information, see the Council website ([www.bssconline.org](http://www.bssconline.org)) or contact the Building Seismic Safety Council, 1090 Vermont, Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20005; phone 202-289-7800; fax 202-289-1092; e-mail [bssc@nibs.org](mailto:bssc@nibs.org).

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