



Code/Section:	2024 IBC Table 1604.5, 1604.5.2, Amended Section 3105		
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Purpose:

To communicate the *risk category* interpretation for short freestanding signs, billboards, and fences; and low clear height parking lot shade structures without *photovoltaic (PV) panel systems*.

Interpretation:

Freestanding signs, billboards, and fences with maximum heights of 10 feet; as well as parking lot shade structures with 10-foot maximum clear heights without *PV panel systems* are permitted to be designed to a *risk category* of I per IBC Section 1604.5.

PV panel systems shall be designed to a minimum *risk category* per IBC Section 1604.5.2

Exception:

This policy shall not apply where the failure of the freestanding sign, billboard, fence, or parking lot shade structure could impact a larger community life safety need, such as damaging a hospital oxygen supply, releasing toxic materials or combusting hazardous materials of sufficient quantities to be an H occupancy, or blocking a building's only means of egress.

Rationale and Reference:

ASCE 7-22'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 those served by 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.

The 2024 IBC defines *ground-mounted PV panel systems*, as well as *elevated PV support structures*. These are assigned risk categories per Section 1604.5.2.