

**Reclamation Building Seismic Safety Program**  
**Guideline No. 5**  
**Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for**  
**Potential Seismic Hazards: A Handbook. Second Edition (FEMA-154)**  
**Developing RVS Scores for Buildings With Partial URM**

**Date:** August 11, 2000 (Editorially Revised March 19, 2007)

**Background:** When a structure, comprised of any Model Building Type (MBT), rests on a unreinforced masonry (URM) or rock and mortar stem wall, basement wall or foundation system, will the behavior of the building be dictated by the URM components? Should the MBT be designated as URM and the Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) score completed assuming a URM MBT, regardless of the structure above?

**Policy:** For Low Seismic Zones:

Accelerations in the low seismic zone are not expected to cause damage to URM. The lateral-force-resisting system (LFRS) of the building should be entered as the MBT of the RVS, a note detailing the presence and extent of the URM should be provided and the RVS score should be based on the LFRS of the building, not the limited URM.

For Moderate and High Seismic Zones:

The LFRS of the building should be entered as the MBT of the RVS and a second RVS scoring column should be completed, using normal scoring procedures, for the URM components. As always, a note should be provided that details the presence and extent of the URM. The RVS score should be based on the MBT column that produces the lowest score.