



SIDEPLATE[®]

Structural Design Optimization

SidePlate Modeling Basics

in RAM Structural System

09/29/2017

How to Model SidePlate Moment Connections in RAM

1. Identify your lateral frame members in RAM Modeler, and Validate your model. Page 4-12.



2. RAM Frame – **Assign** – **Beams** – **Frame Beam Connection Type**: assign **SidePlate** to Both Ends, Left End, or Right End of SidePlate MF beams appropriately.

NOTE: if you pin a member to test its usefulness in your system, or to perform a rho check, but don't remove the SidePlate connections, it will remain partially fixed.

Assign Frame Beam Connection Type

Standard

Springs

Left: Rotational Stiffness Major Axis

No Spring

Use (kip-in/rad): 0.00

% of Beam Stiffness: 0.0

Right: Rotational Stiffness Major Axis

No Spring

Use (kip-in/rad): 0.00

% of Beam Stiffness: 0.0

Custom

Left: None Distance (in): 0.00

Modify: 0.00

Right: None Distance (in): 0.00

Modify: 0.00

Stiffness Multipliers						
Area	I _x	I _y	Torsion J	Shear A _x	Shear A _y	
1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Reduced Beam Section (RBS)

Use Reduced Section Properties in Analysis RBS Properties >>

Use Full Beam Section Properties in Analysis

SidePlate

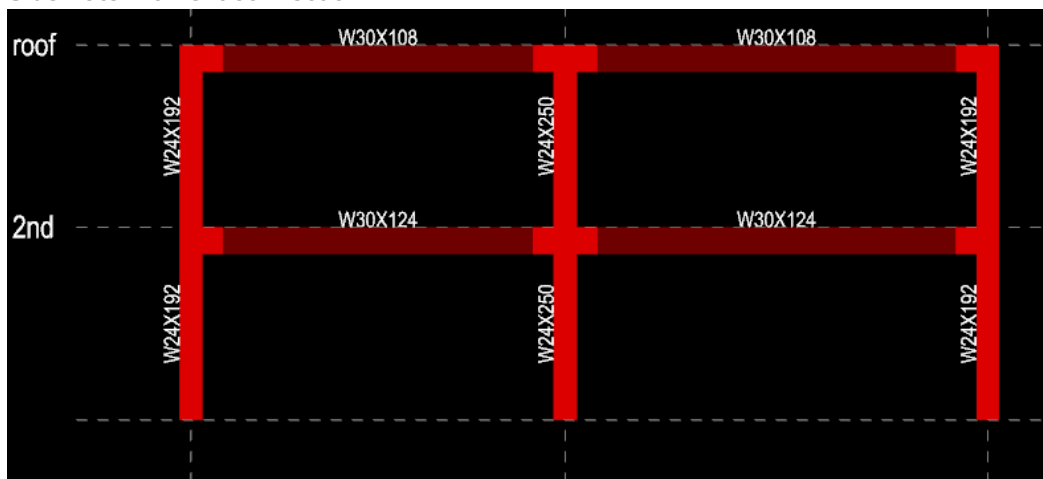
Both Ends

Left End

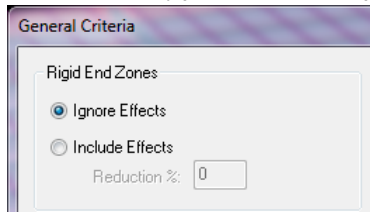
Right End

Assign

Once the beam ends have been assigned, RAM Frame will display a red rectangle symbolizing a SidePlate moment connection.

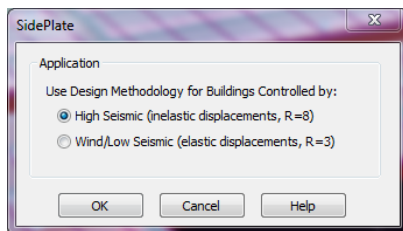



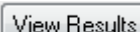
- RAM Frame – **Criteria – General**: Rigid End Zones can remain at Ignore Effects. For SidePlate, it does not matter what is checked here, as the SidePlate Feature will implement 100% rigid (or 0% Reduction) panel zone, as proven by testing.



- RAM Frame – **Criteria – SidePlate**: assign the correct SidePlate stiffness to the joints. R=8 for High Seismic connections (SMF, IMF or OMF applications), and R=3 for Low Seismic (R=3 Bolted applications).

NOTE: R=8 is the RAM default. If you are using an SMF, IMF or OMF connection (Field Bolted or Field Welded), you should use the *High Seismic (r=8)* stiffness for Both Seismic and Wind loading.



- RAM FRAME – **Drift Control Points**  – **View Results** : See 30% reduction in drifts due to the SidePlate stiffness for R=8 SMF Bolted or Welded.

NOTE: For R=3 Bolted (low seismic), the drift reductions could be between 15%-20%

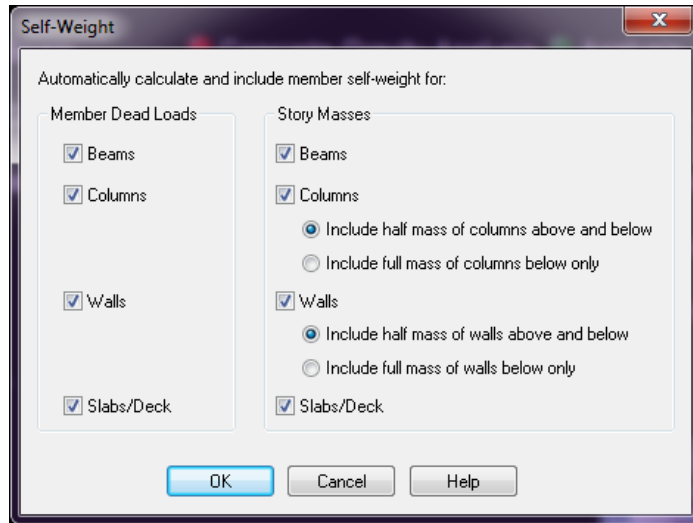
- Choose reduced beam and column sizes, optimized for SidePlate. For typical projects, choose a beam and column sizes that are 20% to 30% lighter than a conventional design, and start there. In really high seismic, choose beams that are 40% to 50% lighter.
- GEOMETRIC COMPATIBILITY (RAM 15.04 is programed to give you a warning if $b_{bf} + 1.5" < b_{cf}$, however this will be updated to the Bolted Geometric Compatibility limit below)
 - BOLTED GEOMETRIC COMPATIBILITY: $b_{bf} + 1" \leq b_{cf}$
 - WELDED GEOMETRIC COMPATIBILITY: $b_{bf} + 1.1 * t_{bf} + 1/2" \leq b_{cf}$

NOTE: For more background information regarding SidePlate and Geometric Compatibility, refer to our *Engineering Design Guidelines* document.

Model Validation Tips for RAM (General for any Moment Frame Systems)

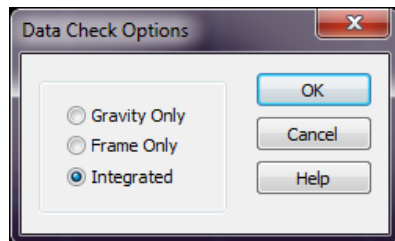
1. Under RAM Manager - **Criteria** – Self-Weight: check that you are self-calculating Beams, Columns, Walls, and Slabs/Decks as you have intended.




NOTE: Steel joists cannot be self-calculated and need to be added to the superimposed dead load and mass



2.  RAM Modeler – Integrity – **Data Check**  – Integrated: confirm there are no identified modeling errors or warnings.

NOTE: This simple step can save hours of headaches to identify modeling errors before they can cause invalid results.



3. RAM Modeler – Layout – Loads  **Surface Loads**  AND **Line Loads**  : check that Superimposed Loads and Line Loads have the correct Mass DL identified, and have been applied to every floor, as intended.

NOTE: partition loads are not included in the Mass, and need to be added, 10 psf Floor and 4 psf Roof, per code, when appropriate

Surface Load Layout Mode

Label	DL	Constr DL	LL	Reduction	Partition	Constr LL	Mass DL
Floor	30.0	5.0	100.0	Reducible	15.0	20.0	40.0
Roof	115.0	5.0	100.0	Reducible	0.0	20.0	125.0
Tree	968.0	5.0	0.0	Reducible	0.0	20.0	968.0
Mech	180.0	5.0	40.0	Reducible	0.0	20.0	190.0
Fountain	370.0	5.0	0.0	Reducible	0.0	20.0	370.0
1ST Floor	10.0	0.0	100.0	Reducible	15.0	0.0	15.0

Graphics Mode

Whole Floor Whole Diaphragm Property Table >>

Add

Change Change Polygon

Change Priority

Delete - Single Delete - Fence

Show Show Same

Show Labels

Cancel Help

Line Load Layout Mode

Label	DL	Constr DL	LL	Reduction	Partition	Constr LL	Mass DL
Cladding	0.525	0.000	0.000	Reducible	0.000	0.000	0.525
Cladding at Roof	0.330	0.000	0.000	Reducible	0.000	0.000	0.330

Graphics Mode

Whole Perimeter Whole Diaphragm Property Table >>

Add Add On Beam


Change

Delete - Single Delete - Fence

Show Show Same

Show Labels

Cancel Help


4. RAM Modeler – Layout – Slab – **Deck Assign** : check that deck properties and weights are as intended and applied to each level, especially when slab/deck is self-calculated. If you are using semi-rigid diaphragms, check that the Effic Thick, Poisson, and Elastic Mod are entered correctly.

Deck Assignment Mode

Slab Action

One-Way
 Two-Way

Orientation


Angle: 0.00

Parallel To

Perpendicular To

Framing System

Composite
 Noncomposite
 Concrete

Graphics Mode

Whole Floor Whole Diaphragm

Add

Change Change Polygon

Change Priority

Delete - Single Delete - Fence


Show Show Same

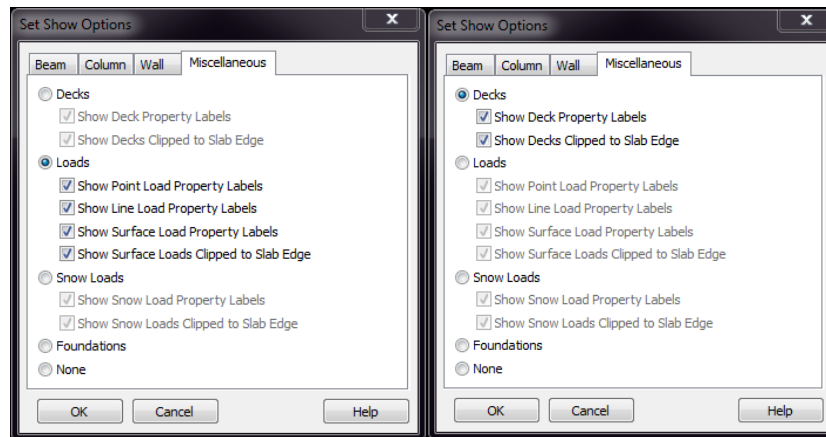
Property Table >>

Label	Deck Type	Thick	Stud	Weight	f _c	F _u	Diam	Deck Self-Wt	Shored	Effic Thick	Poisson	Elastic Mod
W3 + 2.5 LW	VERCO W3 Formlok	2.50	4.5	115.00	3.00	60.0	0.750	3.00	N	0.0000	0.00	0.00

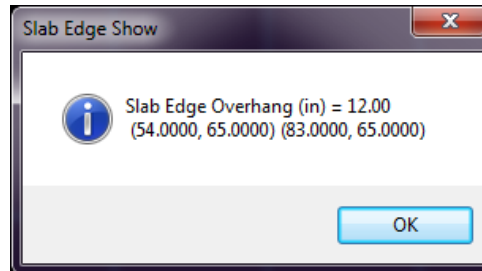
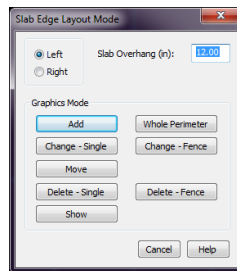
Show Labels

Cancel Help

5. RAM Modeler – Options – **Set Show Options** : allows you to quickly scroll through the layout levels to check that the correct loads or decks are applied.



6. RAM Modeler – Layout – Slab  **Slab Edge**  : confirm that your slab edge is adequate to fit $\frac{1}{2}$ your column depth or width plus SidePlate connection.

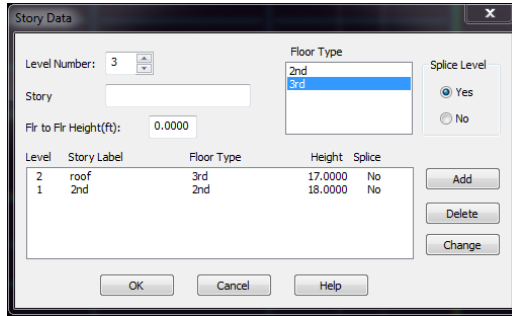


When information is not yet available for the exact slab edge, we recommend you use 12 inches. This will accommodate most SidePlate designs. SidePlate approximate minimum slab edge can be calculated below (we recommend you consider adding up to a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of tolerance to these minimum slab edge calculations):

- When column web is perpendicular to slab edge
 - SidePlate® Field Bolted or Welded – $\frac{1}{2} * d_c + t_{bf} + \frac{1}{2}$ "
 - If slab edge is critical, the column can be shifted inside the building, “off - grid”
- When column web is perpendicular to slab edge (Along Grid A in Fig 8)
 - SidePlate® Field Bolted or Welded – $\frac{1}{2} * d_c + b_{cf} + \frac{1}{2}$ "
- When column web is parallel to slab edge (Along Grid 1 in Fig 8)
 - SidePlate® Field Bolted, Standard – $\frac{1}{2} * b_{cf} + t_{bf} + 4$ "
 - SidePlate® SMF Field Bolted, Standard – $\frac{1}{2} * b_{cf} + 1.25 * t_{bf} + \frac{1}{8} + 4$ "
 - SidePlate® SMF Field Welded – $\frac{1}{2} * b_{cf} + 2 * t_{bf} + \frac{1}{2}$ "

NOTE: If slab edge is critical, we can use our narrow bolted configuration that moves the top set of angles from the outside face of the side plates to the inside face of the side plates to eliminate the 4" (or replace it with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for bolt nut).

- RAM Modeler – **Story...**: check story heights and column splice locations are as intended.



- Beam Design

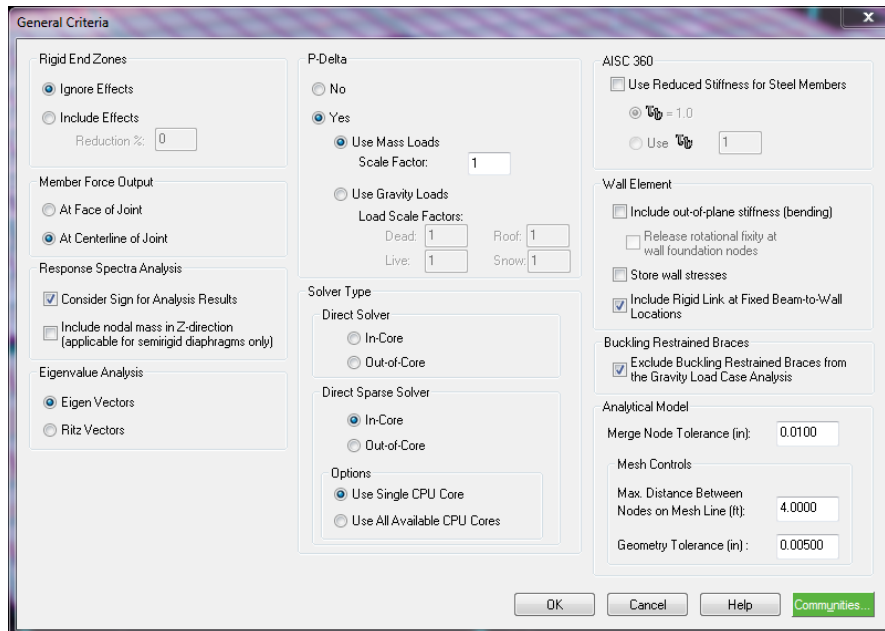
- Column Design

- RAM Frame – Criteria – General:**

- Check that Rigid End Zones are on “Ignore Effects.”

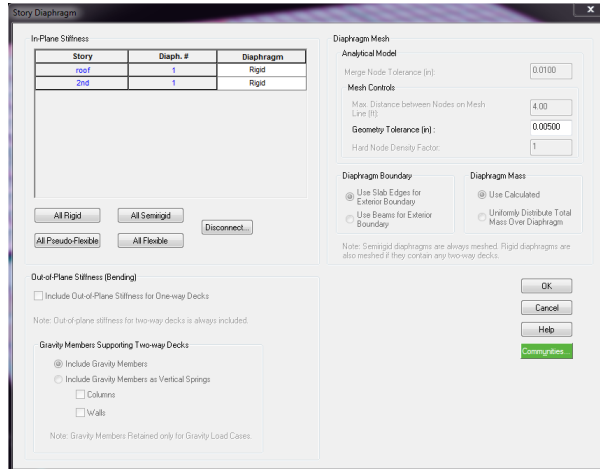
NOTE: For conventional moment frames, the latest research shows that a centerline analysis is not always conservative, and counting partial rigidity of the joint further overestimates its stiffness in many buildings.

- Check that P-Delta is applied using Mass or Gravity Loads.
- Check that T_b is Off for Drift.



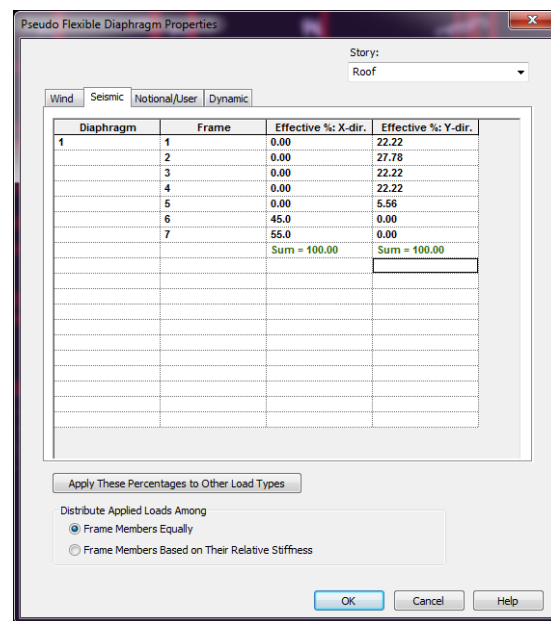
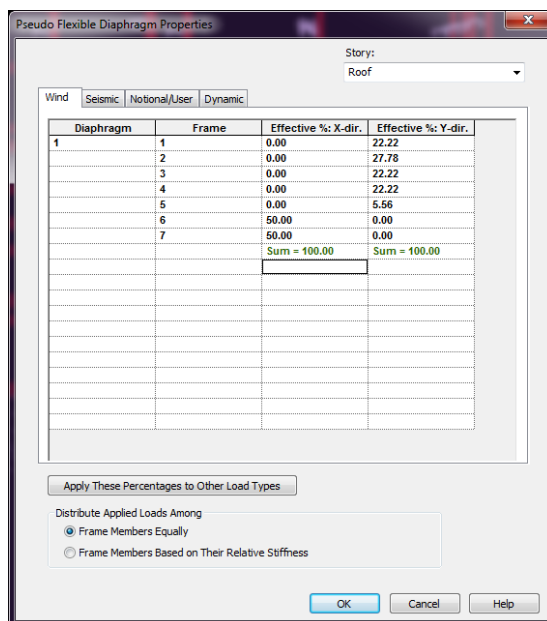
12. RAM Frame – **Criteria – Diaphragm**: check that intended diaphragms are Rigid or Semi-Rigid.

NOTE: If you are using Semi-Rigid diaphragms, check that the Mesh Controls are not larger than your smallest (lateral frame beam span)/4 to ensure accurate results. The current RAM default is 4 ft.

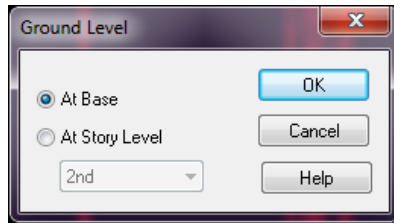


If you are using Pseudo-Flexible diaphragms verify the correct distribution of loads are applied at **Loads – Pseudo Flexible Diaphragm Properties**: every frame must be manually assigned the correct proportion of Wind, Seismic, Notional, and Dynamic loads, as applies. Every frame must be carefully numbered at **Assign – Frame Numbers**.

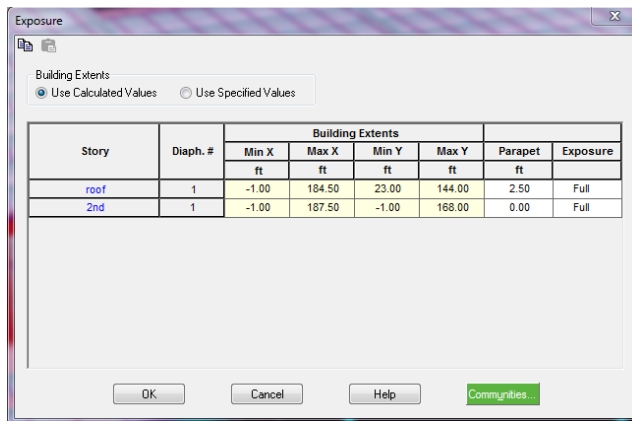
NOTE: When you add a frame member it is automatically assigned to 0, and must be re-numbered. Also, Pseudo Flexible Diaphragms can cause short buildings to have inaccurate periods.



13. RAM Frame – **Criteria – Ground Level**: confirm that the lateral analysis is starting at the base, or the correct level, when modeling a basement or steel grade beams.

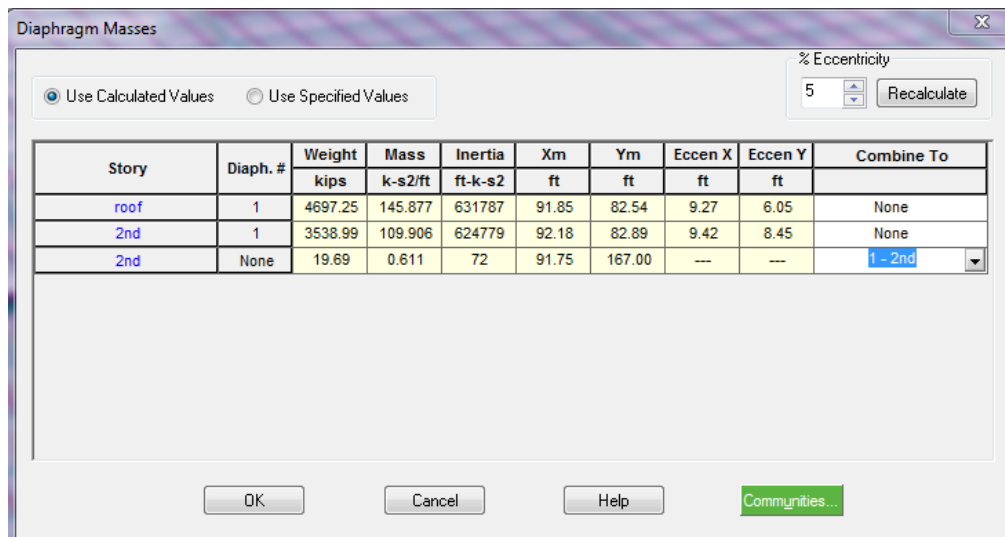



14. RAM Frame – **Loads – Exposure**: confirm that the appropriate parapet(s) have been assigned.




15. RAM Frame – **Loads – Diaphragm Masses**: confirm that there are no masses in the list without a number under “Diaph.#,” and if any are listed as “none,” determine the appropriate floor and assign that diaphragm under “Combine To.”

NOTE: This is usually caused by flying beams or columns that are outside the modeled diaphragm. The same can be repeated for gravity loads.



16. RAM Frame – Loads – **Show Member Options**:  to turn floors and gravity members off to see the frames better.

17. RAM Frame – Loads – **Show Member Options** : view **Fixity** – “All” and “Major Axis” in 3D and by floor, to determine that all Moment Frame Beams and Columns have appropriate Fixity applied.

NOTE: When changing gravity beams to lateral, they will be Pinned unless manually fixed. Columns are automatically Fixed, so watch pinned base situations.


18. RAM Frame – **Reports –Takeoff**, skip to bottom , TOTAL STRUCTURE FRAME TAKEOFF:

- Record the **Total Floor Area**, to be used to validate the building mass.


19. RAM Frame – **Process – Analyze**: run ALL load cases  with T_b Off.


20. RAM Frame – **Reports** – Loads and Applied Forces:

- Verify that all the seismic and wind factors are inputted accurately.
- Record the **Total Building Weight (kips)** from the seismic load case. Calculate Total Building Weight / Total Building Area (from Takeoff report) to get **Average Mass**. Verify that the average mass is reasonable:
 - Office Buildings are Typically 80 psf – 110 psf.
 - Hospitals are Typically 90 psf – 120 psf.

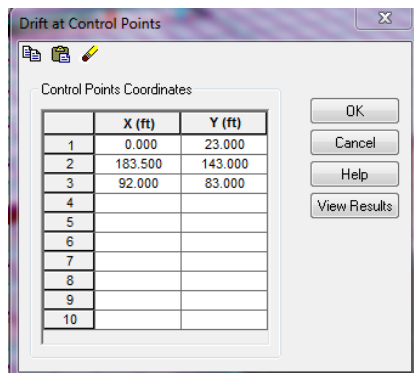
21. RAM Frame – **Process – Results – Mode Shape** : even for a wind governed project, run an Eigen load case to verify the model is behaving as expected, and the Periods & Modes Report is showing 90% mass participation.

22. RAM Frame – **Process –Analyze**: run only EQ Drift load cases (for this example) with T_b Off.

23. RAM FRAME – **Drift Control Points** : verify drift points are set up at reasonable corners of the building.

NOTE: We have seen errors in RAM, when drift points are not chosen Exactly ON frame members. We have the best success using the magnifying glass  in RAM Modeler to get the coordinate of appropriate columns or beam ends to use as our drift points.

When using semi-rigid diaphragms, gravity members are allowed to “stretch”, when points are not chosen on a perimeter Lateral member, and checked only in the direction of the frame. As such, if you are getting unexpected results, you can try adding “pinned lateral”



members at the perimeter of the building, and chord locations, to use as drift points until expected results are achieved.

24. RAM FRAME – Drift Control Points – View Results

[View Results](#)

: verify lateral drifts are within allowable. Seismic and Wind cases can be run separately to make this easier to view.

NOTE: Many engineers we work with feel more comfortable with modeling the RBS connection with a standard joint, and using the code commentary recommendation of 5% to 10% decrease in stiffness based on testing. Since most engineers use the mid-range of the cutout, they decrease their allowable drift by 7% for RBS.

For this example, allowable drift is $2\% \cdot I/Cd \cdot 93\% = 0.0036 \cdot 0.93 = 0.0034$ for the RBS design.

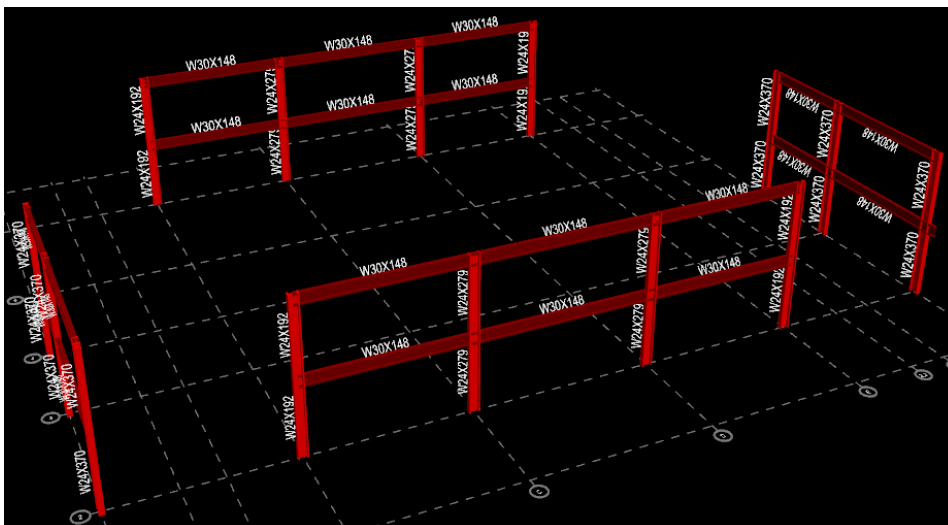
RESULTS:

Location (ft): (0.000, 23.000)

Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	E5	1.1041	0.0544	0.5901	0.0263	0.0029	0.0001
	E6	1.1754	-0.0552	0.6285	-0.0322	0.0031	0.0002
	E7	0.0535	1.0572	0.0292	0.5873	0.0001	0.0029
	E8	-0.0518	1.2193	-0.0284	0.6752	0.0001	0.0033
2nd	E5	0.5140	0.0282	0.5140	0.0282	0.0024	0.0001
	E6	0.5469	-0.0231	0.5469	-0.0231	0.0025	0.0001
	E7	0.0242	0.4699	0.0242	0.4699	0.0001	0.0022
	E8	-0.0234	0.5440	-0.0234	0.5440	0.0001	0.0025

Location (ft): (183.500, 143.000)

Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	E5	1.1753	-0.0544	0.6245	-0.0263	0.0031	0.0001
	E6	1.1031	0.0552	0.5864	0.0322	0.0029	0.0002
	E7	-0.0542	1.2219	-0.0291	0.6765	0.0001	0.0033
	E8	0.0525	1.0598	0.0283	0.5886	0.0001	0.0029
2nd	E5	0.5509	-0.0282	0.5509	-0.0282	0.0026	0.0001
	E6	0.5167	0.0231	0.5167	0.0231	0.0024	0.0001
	E7	-0.0251	0.5454	-0.0251	0.5454	0.0001	0.0025
	E8	0.0242	0.4712	0.0242	0.4712	0.0001	0.0022



Convert Lateral Connections to SidePlate (page 1-2)

See 30% reduction in drifts due to the SidePlate stiffness for R=8 SMF Bolted or Welded.

NOTE: For R=3 Bolted (low seismic), the drift reductions could be between 15%-20%.

RESULTS:

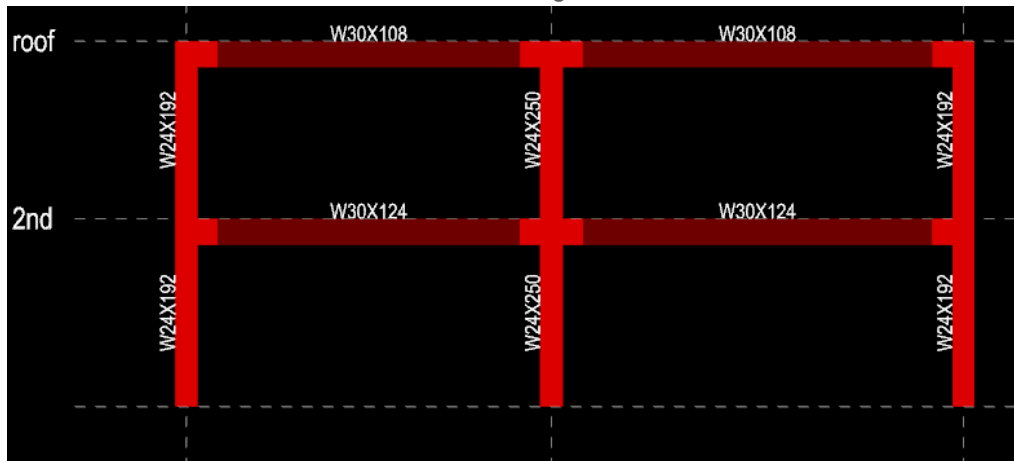
Location (ft): (0.000, 23.000)

Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	E5	0.9414	0.0446	0.4642	0.0193	0.0023	0.0001
	E6	1.0012	-0.0455	0.4936	-0.0246	0.0024	0.0001
	E7	0.0542	0.8688	0.0271	0.4424	0.0001	0.0022
	E8	-0.0353	1.0036	-0.0178	0.5094	0.0001	0.0025
2nd	E5	0.4773	0.0253	0.4773	0.0253	0.0022	0.0001
	E6	0.5076	-0.0209	0.5076	-0.0209	0.0024	0.0001
	E7	0.0271	0.4264	0.0271	0.4264	0.0001	0.0020
	E8	-0.0175	0.4942	-0.0175	0.4942	0.0001	0.0023

Location (ft): (183.500, 143.000)

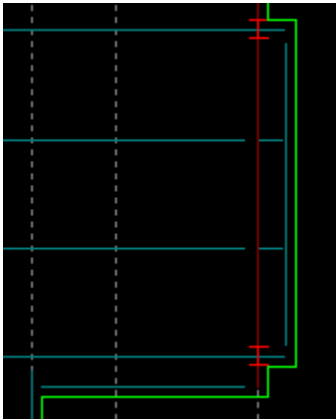
Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	E5	1.0009	-0.0464	0.4898	-0.0200	0.0024	0.0001
	E6	0.9404	0.0474	0.4607	0.0256	0.0023	0.0001
	E7	-0.0548	1.0354	-0.0268	0.5248	0.0001	0.0026
	E8	0.0357	0.8952	0.0176	0.4552	0.0001	0.0022
2nd	E5	0.5111	-0.0264	0.5111	-0.0264	0.0024	0.0001
	E6	0.4797	0.0218	0.4797	0.0218	0.0022	0.0001
	E7	-0.0280	0.5106	-0.0280	0.5106	0.0001	0.0024
	E8	0.0181	0.4399	0.0181	0.4399	0.0001	0.0020

One side of the model is softer than we expect because the cantilever beam is not yet modeled correctly. The drift should be even on both sides since the building is symmetrical. Choose reduced beam and column sizes, optimized for SidePlate, and fix cantilevers (see trouble shooting section below). For typical projects, choose a beam and column sizes that are 20% to 30% lighter, and start there. In really high seismic, choose beams that are 40% to 50% lighter.

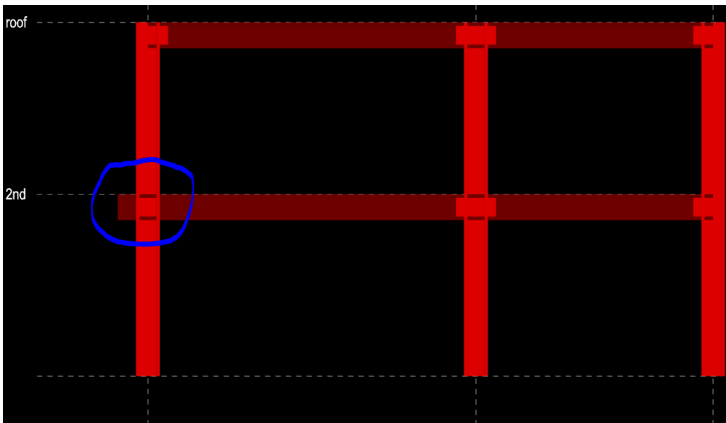


SidePlate troubleshooting for RAM








1. Cantilevers and SidePlate:

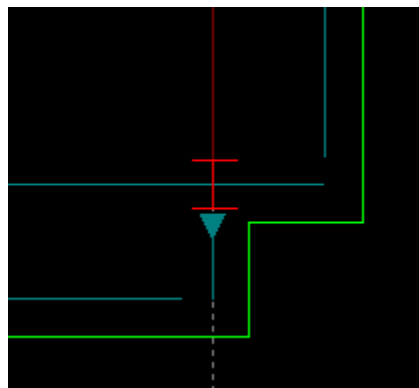
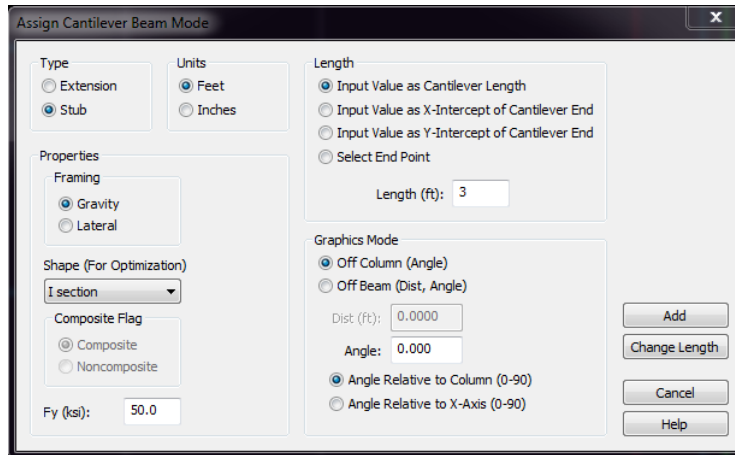


The SidePlate feature will not activate if a MF beam extends through the column with cantilever in the plane of the MF beam.



These type of cantilevers need to be converted to a “Gravity Stubs” in Modeler.

- Layout – Beams  - Show  or View – Measure Distance  to get the exact length of the cantilever.
- Layout – Beams  – Delete Cantilevers  to remove the extension.
- Layout – Beams  – Assign Cantilever  to Add a Gravity Stub.

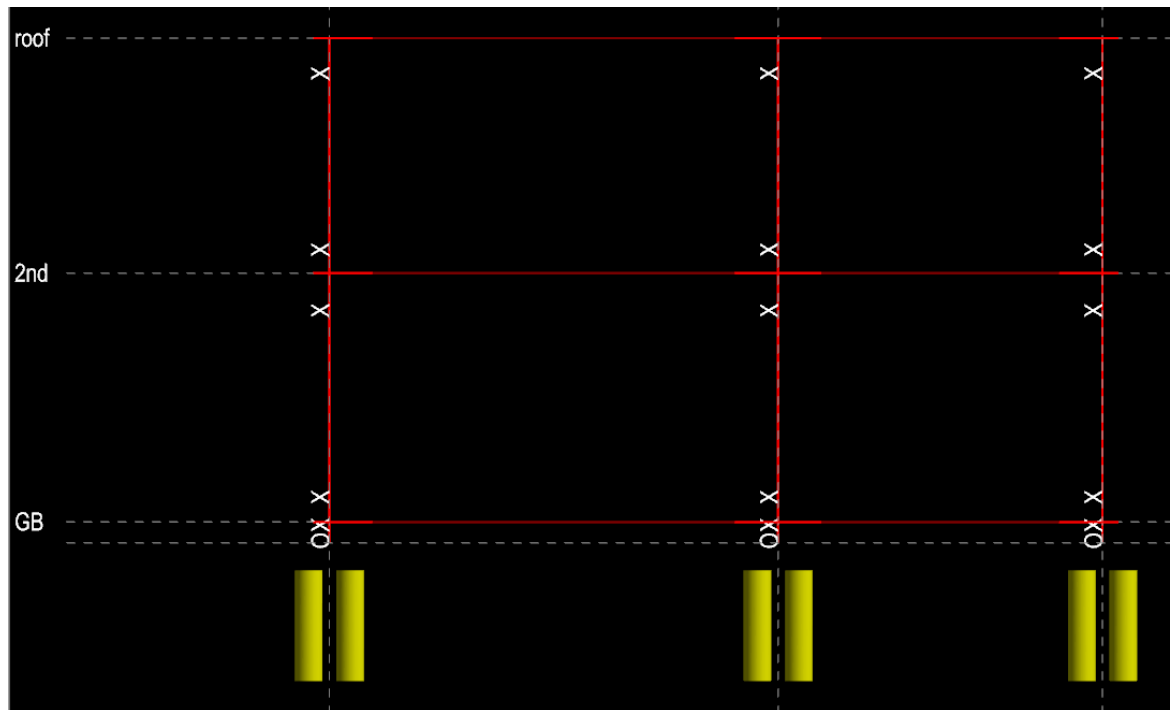


- Layout – Beams  – Assign Size  : match MF beam size.

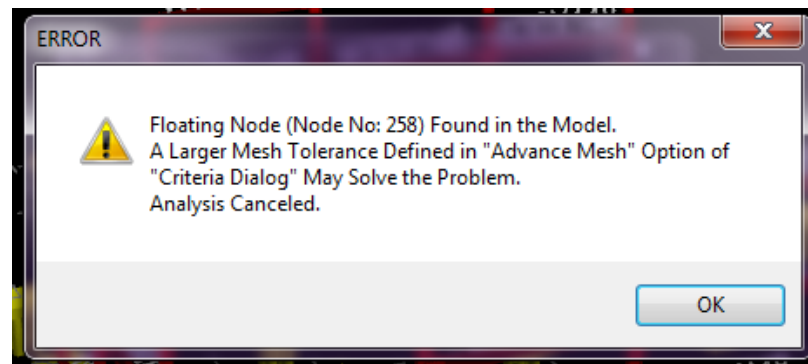
NOTE: Any cantilevers that run perpendicular to the MF beam should be left as “extension cantilevers,” as shown above, or RAM will assume they have no back span, and will falsely introduce weak axis bending in the MF column. This is not a problem for the in-plane cantilever because the MF beam is fixed to the column to resist the back span moment.

2. Short Story for grade beams or screen walls


- In high seismic, for high demand projects, some of our clients prefer to use steel grade beams to “Fix” the base of the moment frames instead of concrete. This allows for simple and less expensive detailing of the concrete “surround,” used only for soil bearing and cover with only temperature steel required.
- When modeling steel grade beams, it is standard practice to create a “Grade Beam” level with the columns Pinned at the base.



When modeling any short story like this, or dummy levels for screen walls (so the parapet can be assigned to a defined area smaller than a whole level), the minimum height of the short level is $\frac{1}{2}$ the SidePlate beam depth + 3 inches. If the story is too short (causing a clash in the model), you will get an error, and the model will not run.



Checking a SidePlate Model for Accuracy & Code Compliance

- RAM Frame – **Reports – Takeoff**, skip to bottom  , under TOTAL STRUCTURE FRAME TAKEOFF:

- Verify that the correct number of SidePlate Joints have been applied.

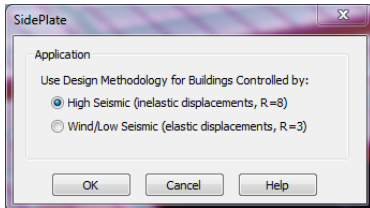
NOTE: RAM gives an estimated SidePlate connection weight (this is the weight of the side plates only and is only accurate for our SMF Field Welded connection at this time.) This will be updated in future versions.


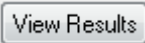
- For Field Bolted R=3 (low seismic) use reported value *0.9
- For SMF Field Bolted R=8 (high seismic) use reported value *1.2
- For SMF Field Welded R=8 (high seismic) use reported value

- Verify that the beam and column sizes, and quantities, look correct.

NOTE: Sometimes a beam or column cannot be modified correctly in RAM Frame, or can be missed when changing sizes by fence. We have had success erasing and re-drawing the member in RAM Modeler to remove the error.

- RAM Frame – **Process – Analyze**: run only EQ Drift load cases with T_b Off.
- RAM Frame – **Criteria – SidePlate**: Set SidePlate to R=8 or R=3, see #4 on Page 3:



- RAM FRAME – **Drift Control Points**  – **View Results** : Drift: Since there is no stiffness reduction for SidePlate because of the 100% rigidity of the panel zones, the allowable seismic drift at 2%h is $0.02 \cdot I/C_d = 0.0036$ for this example.

RESULTS:

Location (ft): (0.000, 23.000)

Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	E5	1.2915	0.0541	0.6726	0.0237	0.0033	0.0001
	E6	1.3637	-0.0562	0.7079	-0.0299	0.0035	0.0001
	E7	0.0610	1.0982	0.0292	0.5438	0.0001	0.0027
	E8	-0.0549	1.2752	-0.0284	0.6314	0.0001	0.0031
2nd	E5	0.6189	0.0304	0.6189	0.0304	0.0029	0.0001
	E6	0.6558	-0.0263	0.6558	-0.0263	0.0030	0.0001
	E7	0.0318	0.5544	0.0318	0.5544	0.0001	0.0026
	E8	-0.0264	0.6438	-0.0264	0.6438	0.0001	0.0030

Location (ft): (183.500, 143.000)

Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	E5	1.3627	-0.0547	0.7036	-0.0237	0.0034	0.0001
	E6	1.2899	0.0567	0.6687	0.0300	0.0033	0.0001
	E7	-0.0615	1.2856	-0.0289	0.6326	0.0001	0.0031
	E8	0.0552	1.1069	0.0281	0.5449	0.0001	0.0027
2nd	E5	0.6591	-0.0310	0.6591	-0.0310	0.0031	0.0001
	E6	0.6212	0.0267	0.6212	0.0267	0.0029	0.0001
	E7	-0.0327	0.6529	-0.0327	0.6529	0.0002	0.0030
	E8	0.0271	0.5620	0.0271	0.5620	0.0001	0.0026

NOTE: Even when you don't think wind will govern, you should do a quick check. As you can see wind is not even close to $h/400$ or 0.0025 in this example, but this is a 2 story, square building in high seismic. Many taller buildings will have wind govern even in high seismic, especially when doing a dynamic analysis.

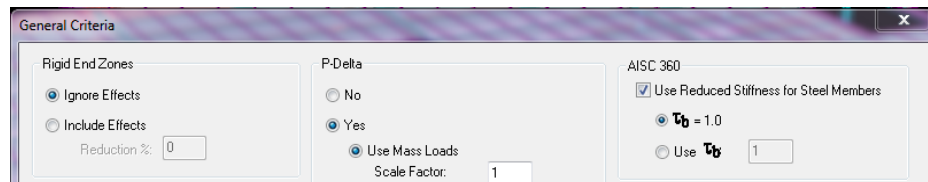
Location (ft): (0.000, 23.000)


Story	LdC	Displacement		Story Drift		Drift Ratio	
		X in	Y in	X in	Y in	X	Y
roof	W13	0.1343	0.0008	0.0589	-0.0000	0.0003	0.0000
	W14	0.0007	0.1540	0.0001	0.0636	0.0000	0.0003
	W15	0.0914	0.0148	0.0406	0.0054	0.0002	0.0000
	W16	0.1101	-0.0137	0.0477	-0.0054	0.0002	0.0000
	W17	0.0176	0.0893	0.0072	0.0369	0.0000	0.0002
	W18	-0.0166	0.1417	-0.0071	0.0585	0.0000	0.0003
2nd	W13	0.0754	0.0008	0.0754	0.0008	0.0003	0.0000
	W14	0.0006	0.0904	0.0006	0.0904	0.0000	0.0004
	W15	0.0508	0.0095	0.0508	0.0095	0.0002	0.0000
	W16	0.0623	-0.0082	0.0623	-0.0082	0.0003	0.0000
	W17	0.0105	0.0524	0.0105	0.0524	0.0000	0.0002
	W18	-0.0095	0.0832	-0.0095	0.0832	0.0000	0.0004

5. Scaling Dynamic Stress in RAM (If you are using Equivalent Lateral Force, skip to step 6)
 - RAM Frame – **Process – Analyze:** run EQ Stress load cases with T_b OFF.
 - RAM Frame – **Reports – Building Story Shear:** to obtain the Largest appropriate Equivalent Lateral Force (ELF).

NOTE: Since we can only obtain the Dynamic base shear from the Building Story Shear report, we need to get the Static Force base shear from the same report so that they both include P-delta and eccentricity affects. It will be larger than the base shear reported in Loads and Applied Forces.

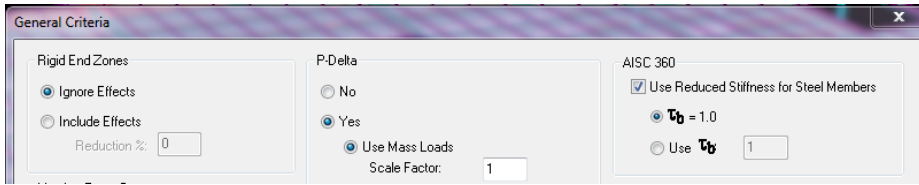
- RAM Frame – **Process – Analyze:** run Dynamic Stress load cases with T_b ON.
 - RAM Frame – **Criteria:** turn T_b ON



- RAM Frame – **Reports – Building Story Shear:** skip to bottom , and ensure that the Smallest Dyn base shear in each direction is 85% of ELF.

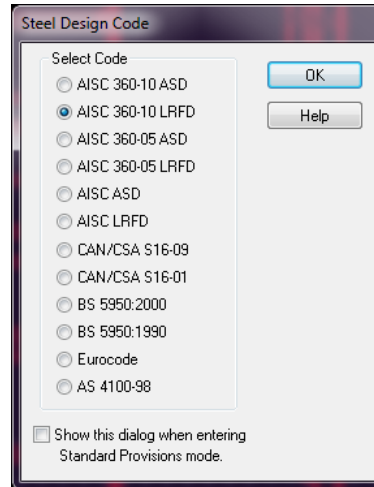
NOTE: If your analytical base is not the “base” of your model, you will have to get your story shear from your analytical base level instead of the bottom. Since you will check stress with T_b ON, and you cannot set the period for a dynamic load case, you should have T_b ON when you run the Dynamic load cause for scaling. This ensures proper scaling.

6. RAM Frame – **Criteria**: turn T_b ON to check stress

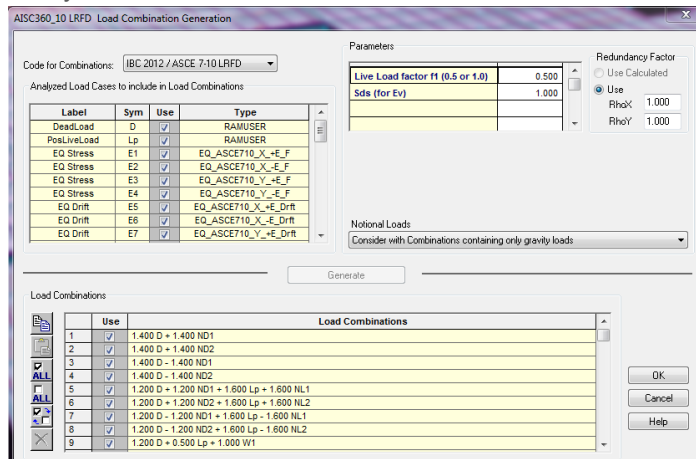


7. RAM Frame – **Process – Analyze**: run all appropriate load cases with T_b ON.

- Switch Analysis to Steel.

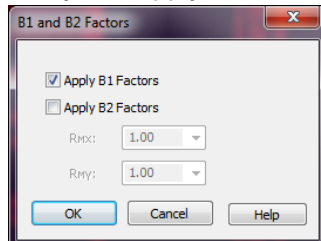


- Verify appropriate Steel Design Code.
- Verify f_1 , Live Load Factor, Sds, RhoX, and RhoY are entered correctly.

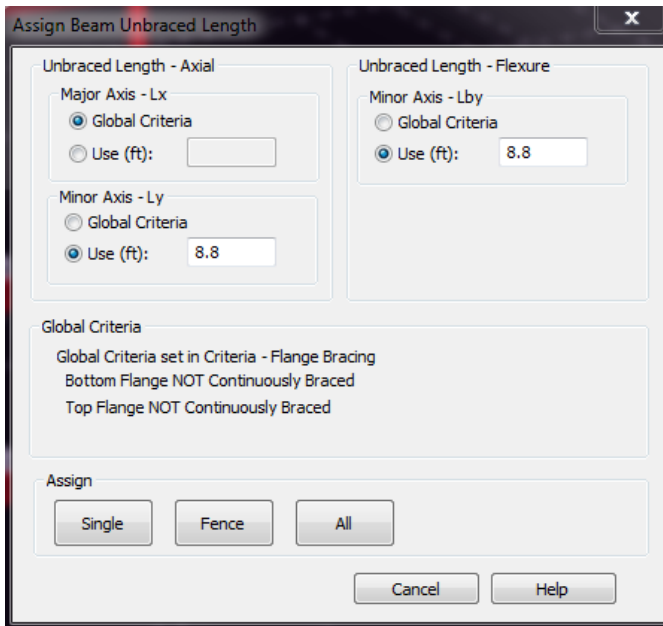


8. RAM Frame – **Criteria – B1 and B2 factors**: (must be in steel, not analyze to get this menu)

- Verify that Apply B1 Factors are Checked, to account for small displacements.
- Verify that Apply B2 Factors are NOT Checked, so that P-Delta is not double counted.



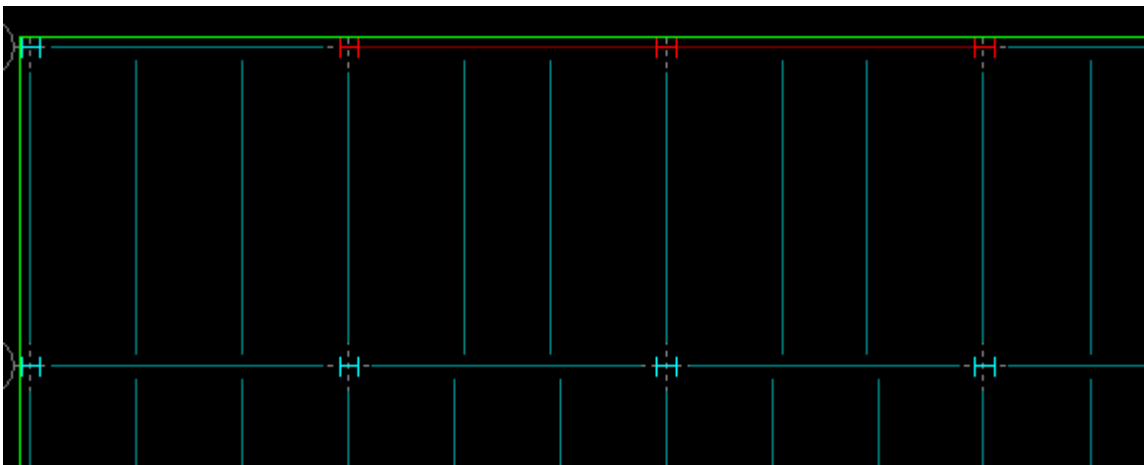
9. RAM Frame – **Assign – Beam - Lateral Bracing**: assign lateral bracing as will be required by code to ensure that stress will be checked with the appropriate unbraced length.




NOTE: SidePlate testing and approvals show that lateral bracing is never required at the hinge location and can be counted from the Ends (except OSHPD) of the side plates. Even though a SidePlate design has lighter beam sizes, the required lateral bracing is often less than a conventional design.




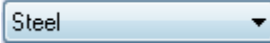

Also, sometimes a small tweak in gravity framing can save in lateral braces. In the example below of a typical 30' bay with gravity purlins spaced at 10' o.c., the spacing can be changed to at 11'-9"-11' at the lateral frames. This allows bracing for typical lateral beams like W24x76, W27x94, W30x108, etc. to only be braced at the 2 purlin locations, and eliminates the need for 3 extra lateral braces that would be required in a conventional design.

***For R=3 projects, lateral bracing is NOT required by code.

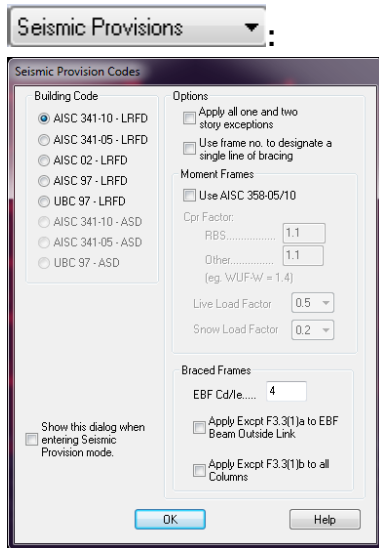


10. RAM Frame – **Process** – Member Code Check : verify members are within allowable stress.
- RAM Frame – Process – Member View Update: look at details of any members in question.
 - RAM Frame - Assign – Beam – Size: change member size

NOTE: For Ram version 15.03 and older, if you change beam or column sizes in Frame and run your analysis you may get inaccurate results, like increased stress in just those members, or some members showing a stress of 0, or inaccurate drifts. To ensure accurate final results, you need to re-run the Beam and Column design. We have alerted RAM of this issue, and they are working on a solution.

-  Beam Design
-  Column Design
-  RAM Frame – **Process** – **Analyze**: run all load cases with T_b ON.
- Switch Analysis to **Steel**  **Process** – Member Code Check 

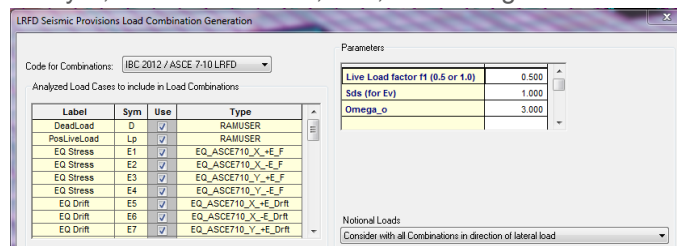
11. Switch Standard Provisions to – **Seismic Provisions (as applicable for R=8)**



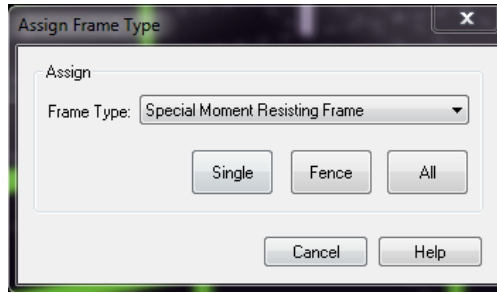
- Verify appropriate Seismic Provision Codes:




NOTE: You can un-check the Cpr factor when you have SidePlate assigned, as the appropriate calculated Cpr will be applied regardless of what is checked here.


- Verify f_1 , Live Load Factor, Sds, and Omega are entered correctly.



- RAM Frame - **Assign – Frame Type**: assign all lateral beams and columns as part of the SMF lateral load resisting system.



- RAM Frame – Process – Member Code Check  Process – Member View Update 
- RAM Frame – Process – Joint Code Check : verify members meeting SCWB.

Increase size of “green or red dots”  until they are clearly visible. Red dots can get lost in the red members and go un-noticed.

NOTE: There can be false green dots, especially with a dynamic analysis, where the member actually fails SCWB. So, each joint should be checked with View Joint/Update. The details will show accurate results.



Seismic Provisions Member Code Check

RAM Frame v14.05.03.00

DataBase: 20120518_FLS Office 2 revised atrium floor plan-SP4a

Building Code: IBC

07/03/13 11:07:40

Steel Code: AISC341-05 - LRFD

Beam Parameters

Story: 1st Floor Frame No: 7 Member No: 2
 Fy (ksi): 50.00 Size: W24X76
 Frame Type: Special Moment Resisting Frame
 Left Connection - SidePlate Connection
 Right Connection - SidePlate Connection

9.2 Beam-to-Column Joints and Connections

SidePlate beam-to-column connection must be capable of sustaining a 0.04 radian interstory drift ratio. **OK**
 Required flexural strength of connection (kip-ft) = 666.67 at story drift angle in (1)
 All SidePlate beam-to-column joints to demonstrate conformance with 9.2a as indicated in 9.2b per ICC-ES ESR-1275. **OK**

9.4 Beam and Column Limitations --- **OK**

Flange b/tf =	6.61	Limit =	7.22	OK
Web h/tw =	48.95	Limit =	59.00	OK

9.8 Lateral Bracing of Beams --- **OK**

Max Lu (in) = 64.67 Lu Limit = 95.73 **OK**
 Lateral Bracing Requirements along Beam
 Required strength of lateral brace along beam = 9.47 kip
 Required stiffness of bracing (A-6-8) = 6316.39 kip / Lb
 Lateral Bracing Requirements at Plastic Hinge
 Not Required per ICC-ES ESR-1275
Cd = 1.0 assumed for eqns (A-6-7/8)
Lb = distance between braces (in)

Hinge-to-Hinge / Beam Depth Ratio

Hinge-to-Hinge Length L' (ft) = 25.87
 Minimum L' / Depth = 4.5
 L' / Depth = 12.99 **OK**

Protected Zone

Protected Zone i (ft): 2.44 to 4.10
 Protected Zone j (ft): 27.98 to 29.64
 No members frame into Protected Zone **OK**

Verify SidePlate Connections with SidePlate prior to finalizing structural design.

SidePlate vs. RBS

Description:		2-Story Store or Restaurant		Area:		49,998 s.f. (model)	
Material Take-Off:							
Structural Steel System	RBS	RBS		SP1	SidePlate Welded®		
Foundation Type		Fixed			Fixed		
		(psf)	(tons)		(psf)	(tons)	
Gravity Beams		7.47	187		7.63	191	
Gravity Columns		0.83	21		0.93	23	
Lateral Columns	Comp Joints	W24x		SP Joints	W24x		
	28	2.88	72	24	1.77	44	
Lateral Beams	Bm Ends	W30x		Bm Ends	W30x		
	40	1.97	49	32	1.23	31	
Connection Weight of	SidePlates	0.00	0		0.55	14	
Misc Steel (% of total steel)	15%	1.97	49		1.97	49	
TOTAL STEEL WEIGHT		15.12	378		14.08	352	
Export	Model/MS Reviewed By	EK	Steel Savings (psf/tons)		1.04	26	
	Fee APPROVED by	HG					

Questions?

SidePlate is here to help you

Please send us your SidePlate model for review, even in the preliminary design phase. We are happy to run your model through our connection design software to catch any flags or special checks to ensure that you have the best performing and most optimal lateral design for your client.

If your client is requesting pricing, we are happy to provide you with a pricing package containing detailed connection information, and an Excel file with all take-off information, to facilitate an accurate price from fabricators.

Please feel free to contact SidePlate at solutions@sideplate.com anytime with questions or concerns. We are happy to set up a WebEx meeting to walk you through SidePlate and or RAM. If you are not getting the results you would expect, we are happy to look at your model to trouble shoot any possible problems.