

CHAPTER 2. GENERAL

20. STRUCTURES TO BE MARKED AND LIGHTED

Any temporary or permanent structure, including all appurtenances, that exceeds an overall height of 200 feet (61m) above ground level (AGL) or exceeds any obstruction standard contained in 14 CFR part 77, should normally be marked and/or lighted. However, an FAA aeronautical study may reveal that the absence of marking and/or lighting will not impair aviation safety. Conversely, the object may present such an extraordinary hazard potential that higher standards may be recommended for increased conspicuity to ensure safety to air navigation. Normally outside commercial lighting is not considered sufficient reason to omit recommended marking and/or lighting. Recommendations on marking and/or lighting structures can vary depending on terrain features, weather patterns, geographic location, and in the case of wind turbines, number of structures and overall layout of design. The FAA may also recommend marking and/or lighting a structure that does not exceed 200 (61m) feet AGL or 14 CFR part 77 standards because of its particular location.

21. GUYED STRUCTURES

The guys of a 2,000-foot (610m) skeletal tower are anchored from 1,600 feet (488m) to 2,000 feet (610m) from the base of the structure. This places a portion of the guys 1,500 feet (458m) from the tower at a height of between 125 feet (38m) to 500 feet (153m) AGL. 14 CFR part 91, section 119, requires pilots, when operating over other than congested areas, to remain at least 500 feet (153m) from man-made structures. Therefore, the tower must be cleared by 2,000 feet (610m) horizontally to avoid all guy wires. Properly maintained marking and lighting are important for increased conspicuity since the guys of a structure are difficult to see until aircraft are dangerously close.

22. MARKING AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Considerable effort and research have been expended in determining the minimum marking and lighting systems or quality of materials that will produce an acceptable level of safety to air navigation. The FAA will recommend the use of only those marking and lighting systems that meet established technical standards. While additional lights may be desirable

to identify an obstruction to air navigation and may, on occasion be recommended, the FAA will recommend minimum standards in the interest of safety, economy, and related concerns. Therefore, to provide an adequate level of safety, obstruction lighting systems should be installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the recommended standards herein.

23. LIGHT FAILURE NOTIFICATION

a. Sponsors should keep in mind that conspicuity is achieved only when all recommended lights are working. Partial equipment outages decrease the margin of safety. Any outage should be corrected as soon as possible. Failure of a steady burning side or intermediate light should be corrected as soon as possible, but notification is not required.

b. Any failure or malfunction that lasts more than thirty (30) minutes and affects a top light or flashing obstruction light, regardless of its position, should be reported immediately to the appropriate flight service station (FSS) so a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) can be issued. Toll-free numbers for FSS are listed in most telephone books or on the web at <http://www.afss.com>. This report should contain the following information:

1. Name of persons or organizations reporting light failures including any title, address, and telephone number.
2. The type of structure.
3. Location of structure (including latitude and longitude, if known, prominent structures, landmarks, etc.).
4. Height of structure above ground level (AGL)/above mean sea level (AMSL), if known.
5. A return to service date.
6. FCC Antenna Registration Number (for structures that are regulated by the FCC).

Note-

1. When the primary lamp in a double obstruction light fails, and the secondary lamp comes on, no report is required. However, when one of the lamps in an incandescent L-864 flashing red beacon fails, it should be reported.

2. After 15 days, the NOTAM is automatically deleted from the system. The sponsor is responsible for calling the nearest FSS to extend the outage date or to report a return to service date.

CHAPTER 4. LIGHTING GUIDELINE

40. PURPOSE

This chapter describes the various obstruction lighting systems used to identify structures that an aeronautical study has determined will require added conspicuity. The lighting standards in this circular are the minimum necessary for aviation safety. Recommendations on lighting structures can vary depending on terrain features, weather patterns, geographic location, and in the case of wind turbines, number of structures and overall layout of design.

41. STANDARDS

The standards outlined in this AC are based on the use of light units that meet specified intensities, beam patterns, color, and flash rates as specified in AC 150/5345-43.

These standards may be obtained from:

Department of Transportation
 OTS
 Subsequent Distribution Office, M-30
 Ardmore East Business Center
 3341 Q 75th Avenue
 Landover, MD 20785

42. LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Obstruction lighting may be displayed on structures as follows:

a. Aviation Red Obstruction Lights. Use flashing beacons and/or steady burning lights during nighttime.

b. Medium Intensity Flashing White Obstruction Lights. Medium intensity flashing white obstruction lights may be used during daytime and twilight with automatically selected reduced intensity for nighttime operation. When this system is used on structures 500 feet (153m) AGL or less in height, other methods of marking and lighting the structure may be omitted. Aviation orange and white paint is always required for daytime marking on structures exceeding 500 feet (153m) AGL. This system is not normally recommended on structures 200 feet (61m) AGL or less.

c. High Intensity Flashing White Obstruction Lights. Use high intensity flashing white obstruction lights during daytime with automatically selected reduced intensities for twilight and nighttime operations. When this system is used, other methods of marking and lighting the structure may be omitted.

This system should not be recommended on structures 500 feet (153m) AGL or less, unless an FAA aeronautical study shows otherwise.

Note-

All flashing lights on a structure should flash simultaneously except for catenary support structures, which have a distinct sequence flashing between levels.

d. Dual Lighting. This system consists of red lights for nighttime and high or medium intensity flashing white lights for daytime and twilight. When a dual lighting system incorporates medium flashing intensity lights on structures 500 feet (153m) or less, or high intensity flashing white lights on structures of any height, other methods of marking the structure may be omitted.

e. Obstruction Lights During Construction. As the height of the structure exceeds each level at which permanent obstruction lights would be recommended, two or more lights of the type specified in the determination should be installed at that level. Temporary high or medium intensity flashing white lights, as recommended in the determination, should be operated 24 hours a day until all permanent lights are in operation. In either case, two or more lights should be installed on the uppermost part of the structure any time it exceeds the height of the temporary construction equipment. They may be turned off for periods when they would interfere with construction personnel. If practical, permanent obstruction lights should be installed and operated at each level as construction progresses. The lights should be positioned to ensure that a pilot has an unobstructed view of at least one light at each level.

f. Obstruction Lights in Urban Areas. When a structure is located in an urban area where there are numerous other white lights (e.g., streetlights, etc.) red obstruction lights with painting or a medium intensity dual system is recommended. Medium intensity lighting is not normally recommended on structures less than 200 feet (61m).

g. Temporary Construction Equipment Lighting. Since there is such a variance in construction cranes, derricks, oil and other drilling rigs, each case should be considered individually. Lights should be installed according to the standards given in Chapters 5, 6, 7, or 8, as they would apply to permanent structures.

43. CATENARY LIGHTING

Lighted markers are available for increased night conspicuity of high-voltage (69KV or greater) transmission line catenary wires. These markers should be used on transmission line catenary wires near airports, heliports, across rivers, canyons, lakes, etc. The lighted markers should be manufacturer certified as recognizable from a minimum distance of 4,000 feet (1219m) under nighttime conditions, minimum visual flight rules (VFR) conditions or having a minimum intensity of at least 32.5 candela. The lighting unit should emit a steady burning red light. They should be used on the highest energized line. If the lighted markers are installed on a line other than the highest catenary, then markers specified in paragraph 34 should be used in addition to the lighted markers. (The maximum distance between the line energizing the lighted markers and the highest catenary above the lighted marker should be no more than 20 feet (6m).) Markers should be distinctively shaped, i.e., spherical, cylindrical, so they are not mistaken for items that are used to convey other information. They should be visible in all directions from which aircraft are likely to approach. The area in the immediate vicinity of the supporting structure's base should be clear of all items and/or objects of natural growth that could interfere with the line-of-sight between a pilot and the structure's lights. Where a catenary wire crossing requires three or more supporting structures, the inner structures should be equipped with enough light units per level to provide a full coverage.

44. INSPECTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

To ensure the proper candela output for fixtures with incandescent lamps, the voltage provided to the lamp filament should not vary more than plus or minus 3 percent of the rated voltage of the lamp. The input voltage should be measured at the lamp socket with the lamp operating during the hours of normal operation. (For strobes, the input voltage of the power supplies should be within 10 percent of rated voltage.) Lamps should be replaced after being operated for not more than 75 percent of their rated life or immediately upon failure. Flashtubes in a light unit should be replaced immediately upon failure, when the peak effective intensity falls below specification limits or when the fixture begins skipping flashes, or at the manufacturer's recommended intervals. Due to the effects of harsh environments, beacon lenses should be visually inspected for ultraviolet damage, cracks, crazing, dirt

build up, etc., to insure that the certified light output has not deteriorated. (See paragraph 23, for reporting requirements in case of failure.)

45. NONSTANDARD LIGHTS

Moored balloons, chimneys, church steeples, and similar obstructions may be floodlighted by fixed search light projectors installed at three or more equidistant points around the base of each obstruction. The searchlight projectors should provide an average illumination of at least 15 foot-candles over the top one-third of the obstruction.

46. PLACEMENT FACTORS

The height of the structure AGL determines the number of light levels. The light levels may be adjusted slightly, but not to exceed 10 feet (3m), when necessary to accommodate guy wires and personnel who replace or repair light fixtures. Except for catenary support structures, the following factors should be considered when determining the placement of obstruction lights on a structure.

a. Red Obstruction Lighting Systems. The overall height of the structure including all appurtenances such as rods, antennas, obstruction lights, etc., determines the number of light levels.

b. Medium Intensity Flashing White Obstruction Lighting Systems. The overall height of the structure including all appurtenances such as rods, antennas, obstruction lights, etc., determines the number of light levels.

c. High Intensity Flashing White Obstruction Lighting Systems. The overall height of the main structure including all appurtenances such as rods, antennas, obstruction lights, etc., determines the number of light levels.

d. Dual Obstruction Lighting Systems. The overall height of the structure including all appurtenances such as rods, antennas, obstruction lights, etc., is used to determine the number of light levels for a medium intensity white obstruction light/red obstruction dual lighting system. The overall height of the structure including all appurtenances is used to determine the number of light levels for a high intensity white obstruction light/red obstruction dual lighting system.

e. Adjacent Structures. The elevation of the tops of adjacent buildings in congested areas may be used as the equivalent of ground level to determine the proper number of light levels required.

f. Shielded Lights. If an adjacent object shields any light, horizontal placement of the lights should be adjusted or additional lights should be mounted on that object to retain or contribute to the definition of the obstruction.

47. MONITORING OBSTRUCTION LIGHTS

Obstruction lighting systems should be closely monitored by visual or automatic means. It is extremely important to visually inspect obstruction lighting in all operating intensities at least once every 24 hours on systems without automatic monitoring. In the event a structure is not readily accessible for visual observation, a properly maintained automatic monitor should be used. This monitor should be designed to register the malfunction of any light on the obstruction regardless of its position or color. When using remote monitoring devices, the communication status and operational status of the system should be confirmed at least once every 24 hours. The monitor (aural or visual) should be located in an area generally occupied by responsible personnel. In some cases, this may require a remote monitor in an attended location. For each structure, a log should be maintained in which daily operations status of the lighting system is recorded. Beacon

lenses should be replaced if serious cracks, crazing, dirt build up, etc., has occurred.

48. ICE SHIELDS

Where icing is likely to occur, metal grates or similar protective ice shields should be installed directly over each light unit to prevent falling ice or accumulations from damaging the light units.

49. DISTRACTION

a. Where obstruction lights may distract operators of vessels in the proximity of a navigable waterway, the sponsor must coordinate with the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, to avoid interference with marine navigation.

b. The address for marine information and coordination is:

<p>Chief, Aids to Navigation Division (OPN) U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters 2100 2nd Street, SW., Rm. 3610 Washington, DC 20593-0001 <i>Telephone: (202) 267-0980</i></p>
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CHAPTER 6. MEDIUM INTENSITY FLASHING WHITE OBSTRUCTION LIGHT SYSTEMS

60. PURPOSE

Medium intensity flashing white (L-865) obstruction lights may provide conspicuity both day and night. Recommendations on lighting structures can vary depending on terrain features, weather patterns, geographic location, and in the case of wind turbines, number of structures and overall layout of design.

61. STANDARDS

The medium intensity flashing white light system is normally composed of flashing omnidirectional lights. Medium intensity flashing white obstruction lights may be used during daytime and twilight with automatically selected reduced intensity for nighttime operation. When this system is used on structures 500 feet (153m) AGL or less in height, other methods of marking and lighting the structure may be omitted. Aviation orange and white paint is always required for daytime marking on structures exceeding 500 feet (153m) AGL. This system is not normally recommended on structures 200 feet (61m) AGL or less.

The use of a 24-hour medium intensity flashing white light system in urban/populated areas is not normally recommended due to their tendency to merge with background lighting in these areas at night. This makes it extremely difficult for some types of aviation operations, i.e., med-evac, and police helicopters to see these structures. The use of this type of system in urban and rural areas often results in complaints. In addition, this system is not recommended on structures within 3 nautical miles of an airport.

62. RADIO AND TELEVISION TOWERS AND SIMILAR SKELETAL STRUCTURES

a. Mounting Lights. The number of levels recommended depends on the height of the structure, including antennas and similar appurtenances.

1. Top Levels. One or more lights should be installed at the highest point to provide 360-degree coverage ensuring an unobstructed view.

2. Appurtenances 40 feet (12m) or less. If a rod, antenna, or other appurtenance 40 feet (12m) or less in height is incapable of supporting the medium intensity flashing white light, then it may be placed at the base of the appurtenance. If the mounting location does not allow unobstructed viewing of the medium intensity flashing white light by a pilot, then additional lights should be added.

3. Appurtenances Exceeding 40 feet (12m). If a rod, antenna, or other appurtenance exceeds 40 feet (12m) above the tip of the main structure, a medium intensity flashing white light should be placed within 40 feet (12m) from the top of the appurtenance. If the appurtenance (such as a whip antenna) is incapable of supporting the light, one or more lights should be mounted on a pole adjacent to the appurtenance. Adjacent installations should not exceed the height of the appurtenance and be within 40 feet (12m) of the tip to allow the pilot an unobstructed view of at least one light.

b. Intermediate Levels. At intermediate levels, two beacons (L-865) should be mounted outside at diagonally or diametrically opposite positions of intermediate levels. The lowest light level should not be less than 200 feet (61m) AGL.

c. Lowest Levels. The lowest level of light units may be installed at a higher elevation than normal on a structure if the surrounding terrain, trees, or adjacent building(s) would obscure the lights. In certain instances, as determined by an FAA aeronautical study, the lowest level of lights may be eliminated.

d. Structures 500 Feet (153m) AGL or Less. When white lights are used during nighttime and twilight only, marking is required for daytime. When operated 24 hours a day, other methods of marking and lighting are not required.

e. Structures Exceeding 500 Feet (153m) AGL. The lights should be used during nighttime and twilight and may be used 24 hours a day. Marking is always required for daytime.

f. Ice Shields. Where icing is likely to occur, metal grates or similar protective ice shields should be installed directly over each light unit to prevent falling ice or accumulations from damaging the light units. The light should be mounted in a manner to ensure an unobstructed view of at least one light by a pilot approaching from any direction.

63. CONTROL DEVICE

The light intensity is controlled by a device that changes the intensity when the ambient light changes. The system should automatically change intensity steps when the northern sky illumination in the Northern Hemisphere on a vertical surface is as follows:

a. Twilight-to-Night. This should not occur before the illumination drops below five foot-candles (53.8

lux) but should occur before it drops below two foot-candles (21.5 lux).

b. *Night-to-Day*. The intensity changes listed in subparagraph 63a above should be reversed when changing from the night to day mode.

64. CHIMNEYS, FLARE STACKS, AND SIMILAR SOLID STRUCTURES

a. *Number of Light Units*. The number of units recommended depends on the diameter of the structure at the top. Normally, the top level is on the highest point of a structure. However, the top level of chimney lights may be installed as low as 20 feet (6m) below the top to minimize deposit build-up due to emissions. The number of lights recommended are the minimum. When the structure diameter is:

1. *20 Feet (6m) or Less*. Three light units per level.
2. *Exceeding 20 Feet (6m) But Not More Than 100 Feet (31m)*. Four light units per level.
3. *Exceeding 100 Feet (31m) But Not More Than 200 Feet (61m)*. Six light units per level.
4. *Exceeding 200 Feet (61m)*. Eight light units per level.

65. GROUP OF OBSTRUCTIONS

When individual objects within a group of obstructions are not the same height and are spaced a maximum of 150 feet (46m) apart, the prominent objects within the group should be lighted in accordance with the standards for individual obstructions of a corresponding height. If the outer structure is shorter than the prominent, the outer structure should be lighted in accordance with the standards for individual obstructions of a corresponding height. Light units should be placed to ensure that the light is visible to a pilot approaching from **any** direction. In addition, at least one medium intensity flashing white light should be installed at the top of a prominent center obstruction or on a special tower located near the center of the group.

66. SPECIAL CASES

Where lighting systems are installed on structures located near highways, waterways, airport approach areas, etc., caution should be exercised to ensure that the lights do not distract or otherwise cause a hazard to motorists, vessel operators, or pilots on an approach to an airport. In these cases, shielding may be necessary.

This shielding should not derogate the intended purpose of the lighting system.

67. PROMINENT BUILDINGS AND SIMILAR EXTENSIVE OBSTRUCTIONS

When objects within a group of obstructions are approximately the same overall height above the surface and are located a maximum of 150 feet (46m) apart, the group of obstructions may be considered an extensive obstruction. Install light units on the same horizontal plane at the highest portion or edge of prominent obstructions. Light units should be placed to ensure that the light is visible to a pilot approaching from **any** direction. Lights should be displayed to indicate the extent of the obstruction as follows:

a. *Structures 150 Feet (46m) or Less in Any Horizontal Direction*. If the structure/extensive obstruction is 150 feet (46m) or less horizontally, at least one light should be displayed on the highest point at each end of the major axis of the obstruction. If this is impractical because of the overall shape, display a double obstruction light in the center of the highest point.

b. *Structures Exceeding 150 Feet (46m) in at Least One Horizontal Direction*. If the structure/extensive obstruction exceeds 150 feet (46m) horizontally, display at least one light for each 150 feet (46m) or fraction thereof, of the overall length of the major axis. At least one of these lights should be displayed on the highest point at each end of the obstruction. Additional lights should be displayed at approximately equal intervals not to exceed 150 feet (46m) on the highest points along the edge between the end lights. If an obstruction is located near a landing area and two or more edges are the same height, the edge nearest the landing area should be lighted.

c. *Structures Exceeding 150 Feet (46m) AGL*. Lights should be installed on the highest point at each end. At intermediate levels, lights should be displayed for each 150 feet (46m), or fraction thereof. The vertical position of these lights should be equidistant between the top lights and the ground level as the shape and type of obstruction will permit. One such light should be displayed at each outside corner on each level with the remaining lights evenly spaced between the corner lights.

CHAPTER 12. MARKING AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

120. PURPOSE

This chapter lists documents relating to obstruction marking and lighting systems and where they may be obtained.

121. PAINT STANDARD

Paint and aviation colors/gloss, referred to in this publication should conform to Federal Standard FED-STD-595. Approved colors shall be formulated without the use of Lead, Zinc Chromate or other heavy metals to match International Orange, White and Yellow. All coatings shall be manufactured and labeled to meet Federal Environmental Protection Act Volatile Organic Compound(s) guidelines, including the National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for architectural coatings.

a. Exterior Acrylic Waterborne Paint. Coating should be a ready mixed, 100% acrylic, exterior latex formulated for application directly to galvanized surfaces. Ferrous iron and steel or non-galvanized surfaces shall be primed with a manufacturer recommended primer compatible with the finish coat.

b. Exterior Solventborne Alkyd Based Paint. Coating should be ready mixed, alkyd-based, exterior enamel for application directly to non-galvanized surfaces such as ferrous iron and steel. Galvanized surfaces shall be primed with a manufacturer primer compatible with the finish coat.

Paint Standards Color Table

COLOR	NUMBER
Orange	12197
White	17875
Yellow	13538

TBL 3

Note-

1. Federal specification T1-P-59, aviation surface paint, ready mixed international orange.

2. Federal specification T1-102, aviation surface paint, oil titanium zinc.

3. Federal specification T1-102, aviation surface paint, oil, exterior, ready mixed, white and light tints.

122. AVAILABILITY OF SPECIFICATIONS

Federal specifications describing the technical characteristics of various paints and their application techniques may be obtained from:

GSA- Specification Branch
 470 L'Enfant Plaza
 Suite 8214
 Washington, DC 20407
 Telephone: (202) 619-8925

123. LIGHTS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

The lighting equipment referred to in this publication should conform to the latest edition of one of the following specifications, as applicable:

a. Obstruction Lighting Equipment.

1. AC 150/5345-43, FAA Specification for Obstruction Lighting Equipment.
2. Military Specifications MIL-L-6273, Light, Navigational, Beacon, Obstacle or Code, Type G-1.
3. Military Specifications MIL-L-7830, Light Assembly, Markers, Aircraft Obstruction.

b. Certified Equipment.

1. AC 150/5345-53, Airport Lighting Certification Program, lists the manufacturers that have demonstrated compliance with the specification requirements of AC 150/5345-43.
2. Other manufacturers' equipment may be used provided that equipment meets the specification requirements of AC 150/5345-43.

c. Airport Lighting Installation and Maintenance.

1. AC 150/5340-21, Airport Miscellaneous Lighting Visual Aids, provides guidance for the installation, maintenance, testing, and inspection of obstruction lighting for airport visual aids such as airport beacons, wind cones, etc.
2. AC 150/5340-26, Maintenance of Airport Visual Aid Facilities, provides guidance on the maintenance of airport visual aid facilities.

d. Vehicles.

1. AC 150/5210-5, Painting, Marking, and Lighting of Vehicles Used on an Airport, contains provisions for marking vehicles principally used on airports.
2. FAA Facilities. Obstruction marking for FAA facilities shall conform to FAA Drawing Number D-5480, referenced in FAA Standard FAA-STD-003, Paint Systems for Structures.

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124. AVAILABILITY

The standards and specifications listed above may be obtained free of charge from the below-indicated office:

a. Military Specifications:

Standardization Document Order Desk
700 Robbins Avenue
Building #4, Section D
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094

b. FAA Specifications:

Manager, ASD-110
Department of Transportation
Document Control Center
Martin Marietta/Air Traffic Systems
475 School St., SW.
Washington, DC 20024
Telephone: (202) 646-2047
FAA Contractors Only

c. FAA Advisory Circulars:

Department of Transportation
TASC
Subsequent Distribution Office, SVC-121.23
Ardmore East Business Center
3341 Q 75th Avenue
Landover, MD 20785
Telephone: (301) 322-4961

23

PAINING AND/OR DUAL LIGHTING OF CHIMNEYS, POLES, TOWERS, AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES

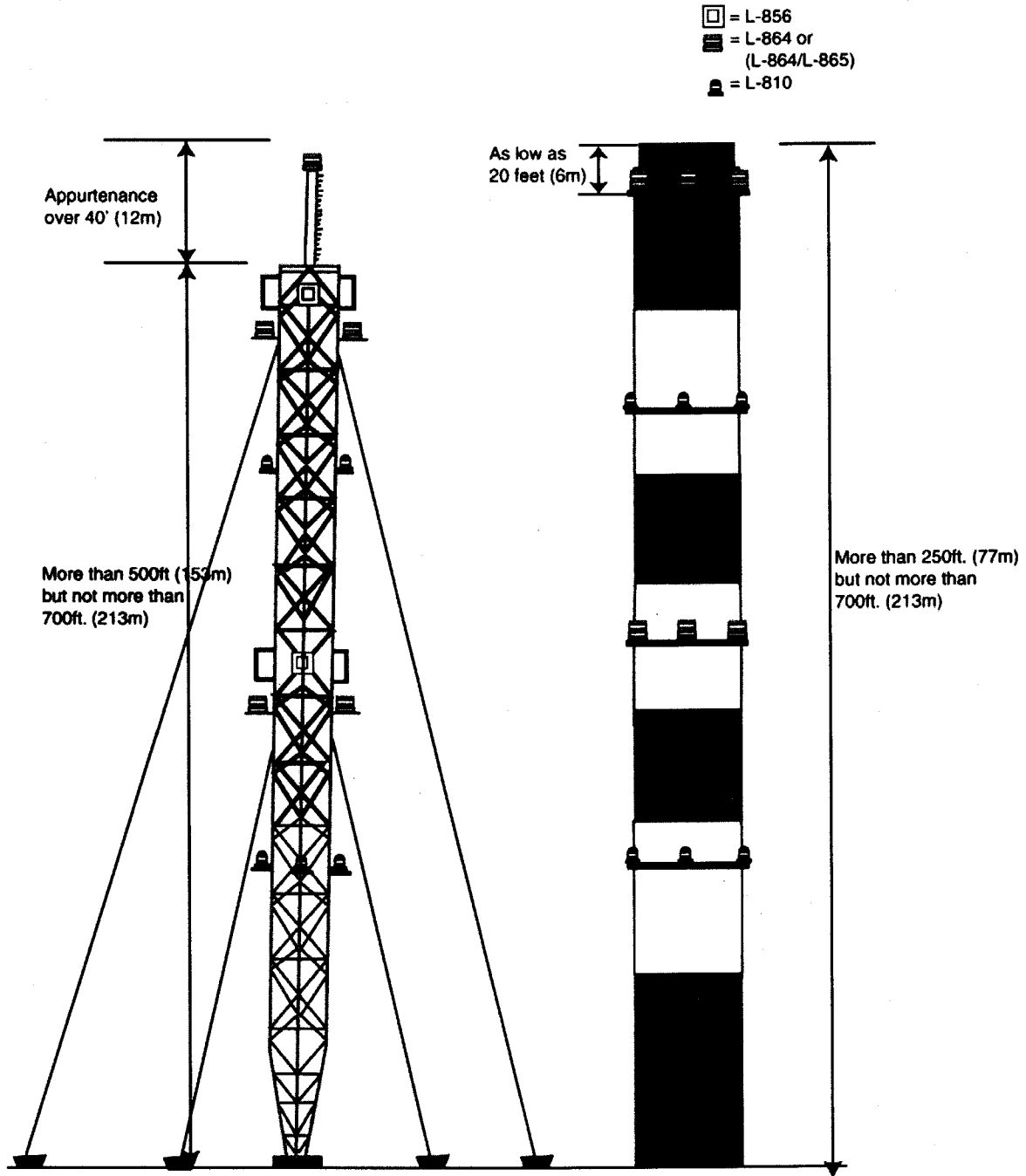


FIG 1

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