
**Guidelines for the simplified design
of structural reinforced concrete for
buildings**

*Lignes directrices pour la conception simplifiée du béton armé pour
les structures de bâtiments*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 71, *Concrete, reinforced concrete and prestressed concrete*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Simplified design standard for concrete structures*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15673:2005), which has been technically revised with the following changes.

- recent research available in concrete frame and wall buildings as a result of poor structural behaviour observed during recent earthquakes have changed the design and detailing requirements for these type of buildings in seismic prone areas;
- concrete structural design criteria has been unified in almost all countries in order to use similar, if not identical load combinations with the same load factors, as well as strength reduction factors; this is a substantial change and has been changing in recent years in order to simplify and unify design criteria for different construction materials such as timber, steel, masonry and lastly concrete;
- concrete cover requirement have been updated to most recent international building code standards.

Introduction

This document is developed for countries that do not have existing national standards. This document should not be used in place of a national standard unless specifically considered and accepted by the national standard body or other appropriate regulatory organization. The design rules are based in simplified worldwide-accepted strength models. This document is self-contained; therefore, actions (loads) and simplified analysis procedures are included, as well as minimum acceptable construction practice guidelines.

The minimum dimensional guidelines contained in this document are intended to account for undesirable side effects that will require more sophisticated analysis and design procedures. Material and construction guidelines are aimed at site mixed concrete, as well as ready-mixed concrete, and steel of the minimum available strength grades.

The earthquake resistance guidelines are included to account for the fact that numerous underdeveloped regions of the world lay in earthquake prone areas. The earthquake resistance is based upon the employment of structural concrete walls (shear walls) that limit the lateral deformations of the structure and provide for its lateral strength.

This document contains guidelines that can be modified by the national standards body due to local design and construction requirements and practices. These guidelines that can be modified are included using [*boxed values*]. The authorities in each member country are expected to review the “boxed values” and may substitute alternative definitive values for these elements for use in the national application of the document.

A great effort was made to include self-explanatory tables, graphics, and design aids to simplify the use of this document and provide foolproof procedures. Notwithstanding, the economic implications of the conservatism inherent in approximate procedures as a substitution to sound and experienced engineering is to be a matter of concern to the designer that employs this document, and to the owner that hires him/her.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a registered civil engineer or architect with sufficient information to perform the design of the structural reinforced concrete that comprises the structural framing of a low-rise building that complies with the limitations established in [6.1](#). The rules of design as set forth in the present document are simplifications of the more elaborate requirements.

Although the guidelines contained in this document were drawn to produce, when properly employed, a reinforced concrete structure with an appropriate margin of safety, these guidelines are not a replacement of sound and experienced engineering judgement. In order for the resulting structure to attain the intended margin of safety, this document should be used as a whole, and alternative procedures should be employed only when explicitly permitted by the guidelines. The minimum dimensioning guides provided replace, in most cases, more elaborate procedures as those prescribed in the National Building Code, and the eventual economic impact is compensated by the simplicity of the procedures prescribed in this document.

The professional performing the structural design under these guidelines should meet the legal requirements for structural designers in the country of adoption possess a minimum appropriate knowledge of structural mechanics, statics, strength of materials, structural analysis, and reinforced concrete design and construction.

Guidelines for the simplified design of structural reinforced concrete for buildings

1 Scope

This document provides guidelines for the design and construction of low-rise concrete building structures of small area to be built in the less developed areas of the world.

This document is applicable to the planning, design and construction of structural reinforced concrete structures to be used in new low-rise buildings of restricted occupancy, number of stories, and area.

This document can be used as an alternative to the development of a National Concrete Building Code, or equivalent document in countries where no national design codes are available by themselves, or as an alternative to the National Concrete Building Code in countries where specifically considered and accepted by the national standard body or other appropriate regulatory organization.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 679, *Cement — Test methods — Determination of strength*

ISO 863, *Cement — Test methods — Pozzolanicity test for pozzolanic cements*

ISO 2103, *Loads due to use and occupancy in residential and public buildings*

ISO 2633, *Determination of imposed floor loads in production buildings and warehouses*

ISO 4354, *Wind actions on structures*

ISO 6274, *Concrete — Sieve analysis of aggregates*

ISO 6782, *Aggregates for concrete — Determination of bulk density*

ISO 6783, *Coarse aggregates for concrete — Determination of particle density and water absorption — Hydrostatic balance method*

ISO 6935-1, *Steel for the reinforcement of concrete — Part 1: Plain bars*

ISO 6935-2, *Steel for the reinforcement of concrete — Part 2: Ribbed bars*

ISO 6935-3, *Steel for the reinforcement of concrete — Part 3: Welded reinforcement*

ISO 7033, *Fine and coarse aggregates for concrete — Determination of the particle mass-per-volume and water absorption — Pycnometer method*

ISO 9194, *Bases for design of structures — Actions due to the self-weight of structures, non-structural elements and stored materials — Density*

ISO 10144, *Certification scheme for steel bars and wires for the reinforcement of concrete — Welded-wire reinforcement*

ISO 29581-1, *Cement — Test methods — Part 1: Analysis by wet chemistry*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1 acceleration of gravity

g
acceleration produced by gravity at the surface of the Earth

Note 1 to entry: For the application of these guidelines, its value can be approximated to *g* approximately [10] m/s².

3.2 admixture

material other than water, *aggregate* (3.3), or hydraulic cement, used as an ingredient of *concrete* (3.20) and added to concrete before or during its mixing to modify its properties

3.3 aggregate

granular material, such as sand, gravel, crushed stone, and iron blast-furnace slag, used in conjunction with a cementing medium to form a hydraulic cement *concrete* (3.20) or mortar

3.4 anchorage

device used to anchor a non-structural element to the structural framing

3.5 bar diameter

<nominal> approximate diameter of a steel reinforcing bar, often used as a class designation

3.6 base of structure

level at which earthquake motions are assumed to be imparted to a building

Note 1 to entry: This level does not necessarily coincide with the ground level.

3.7 beam

horizontal, or nearly horizontal, structural member supported at one (such as a cantilever) or more points, but not throughout its length, transversely supporting a load, and subjected primarily to flexure

3.8 bearing capacity of the soil

maximum permissible stress on the *foundation* (3.51) soil that provides adequate safety against bearing failure of the soil, or *settlement* (3.90) of the foundation of such magnitude as to impair the structure

Note 1 to entry: Its value is defined at the *working stress* (3.122) level.

3.9 bending moment

product of a force and the distance to a particular axis, producing bending effects in a structural element

3.10**boundary elements**

portions along wall edges strengthened by longitudinal and *transverse reinforcement* (3.117)

Note 1 to entry: Boundary elements do not necessarily require an increase in thickness of the wall.

3.11**buildings**

structures, usually enclosed by walls and a roof, constructed to provide support or shelter for an intended *occupancy* (3.76)

3.12**caisson**

foundation pile of large diameter, built partly or totally above ground and sunk below ground usually by digging out the soil inside

3.13**cement**

material which, when mixed with water, has hardening properties, used either in *concrete* (3.20) or by itself

3.14**center of mass**

geometric place where all the *mass* (3.68) of the floor would be located in plan (assuming the floor diaphragm as an infinite rigid body in its own plane)

3.15**center of rigidity**

geometric place located in plan and established assuming that the floor diaphragm is an infinite rigid body in its own plane, where applying an horizontal force, in any direction, no diaphragm rotation is presented around a vertical axis

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3.16**column**

vertical member used primarily to support axial compressive *loads* (3.66)

3.17**collector elements**

elements that serve to transmit the inertia forces within the diaphragm to members of the *lateral-force resisting system* (3.60)

3.18**combined footing**

footing (3.49) that transmits the load carried by several *columns* (3.16) or *structural concrete walls* (3.110) to the supporting soil

3.19**compression reinforcement**

reinforcement (3.85) provided to resist compression stresses induced by *bending moments* (3.9) acting on the member section

3.20**concrete**

mixture of portland cement or any other hydraulic cement, fine aggregate, coarse aggregate, and water, with or without *admixtures* (3.2)

3.21**concrete mix design**

choice and proportioning of the ingredients of *concrete* (3.20)

3.22
concrete, specified compressive strength of

f'_c

compressive cylinder strength of *concrete* (3.20) used in design

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in megapascals (MPa).

Note 2 to entry: Whenever the quantity f'_c is under a radical sign $\left(\sqrt{f'_c}\right)$, the positive square root of numerical value only is intended and result has units of megapascals (MPa).

3.23
confinement hook

hook (3.56) on a *stirrup* (3.105), *hoop* (3.57), or *cross-tie* (3.28) having a bend not less than 135° with a six-diameter (but not less than 75 mm) extension that engages the *longitudinal reinforcement* (3.67) and projects into the interior of the stirrup or hoop

3.24
confinement stirrup or tie

closed *stirrup* (3.105), *tie* (3.115) or continuously wound spiral

Note 1 to entry: A closed stirrup or tie can be made up of several *reinforcement* (3.85) elements each having *confinement hooks* (3.23) at both ends. A continuously wound spiral should have a confinement hook at both ends.

3.25
contraction joint

formed, sawed, or tooled groove in a concrete structure to create a weakened plane and regulate the location of cracking resulting from the dimensional change of different parts of the structure

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3.26
corrosion

gradual degradation or weakening of metal from its surface that requires the presence of humidity and oxygen, and is helped by the presence of other materials

3.27
cover

<concrete> thickness of *concrete* (3.20) between the surface of any reinforcing bar and the nearest face of the concrete member

3.28
cross-tie

continuous reinforcing bar having a 135° *hook* (3.56) at one end and a hook not less than 90° at least a six-diameter extension at the other end

Note 1 to entry: The hooks should engage peripheral longitudinal bars. The 90° hooks of two successive cross-ties engaging the same longitudinal bars should be alternated end by end.

3.29
curing

process of keeping the *concrete* (3.20) damp for a period of time, usually several days, starting from the moment it is cast, in order for the *cement* (3.13) to be provided with enough water to harden and attain the intended strength

Note 1 to entry: Appropriate curing will greatly reduce shrinkage, increase strength of concrete, and should reduce surface cracking. Curing time will depend on temperature and relative humidity of surrounding air, the amount of wind, the direct sunlight exposure, the type of concrete mix employed, and other factors.

3.30
curtain wall

walls that are part of the façade or enclosure of the building

3.31**deformed reinforcement**

steel *reinforcement* (3.85) that has deformations in its surface to increase its bond to the *concrete* (3.20)

Note 1 to entry: The following steel reinforcement should be considered deformed reinforcement under these guidelines: deformed reinforcing bars, deformed *wire* (3.121), welded plain wire reinforcement, and welded deformed wire reinforcement conforming to the appropriate ISO standards.

3.32**depth of member**

h

vertical size of a cross section of a horizontal structural element

3.33**design load combinations**

combinations of factored *loads* (3.66) and forces

3.34**design strength**

product of the *nominal strength* (3.74) multiplied by a *strength reduction factor*, ϕ (3.107)

3.35**development length**

length of embedded reinforcement required to develop the *design strength* (3.34) of *reinforcement* (3.85) at a critical section

3.36**development length for a bar with a standard hook**

shortest distance between the critical section (where the strength of the bar is to be developed) and a tangent to the outer edge of the 90° or 180° *hook* (3.56)

3.37**differential settlement**

when the *foundation* (3.51) of different parts of a structure settle different amounts

3.38**drift**

difference between the horizontal displacements of two consecutive levels

3.39**durability**

characteristic of a structure to resist gradual degradation of its serviceability in a given environment for the design service life

3.40**effective depth of section**

d

distance measured from the extreme compression fibre to the centroid of tension *reinforcement* (3.85)

3.41**embedment length**

length of embedded *reinforcement* (3.85) provided beyond a critical section

3.42**essential facilities**

buildings and other structures that are intended to remain operational in the event of extreme environmental loading from wind, snow, or earthquakes

3.43**factored loads and forces**

specified nominal *loads* (3.66) and forces multiplied by the load factors