
**Structural intervention of
existing concrete structures using
cementitious materials —**

**Part 3:
Bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying**

*Intervention structurelle sur les structures en béton existantes
utilisant des matériaux cimentaires —
Partie 3: Recouvrement de la surface inférieure (soffite)*

[ISO 5091-3:2023](https://standards.iso.org/iso/5091-3-2023)

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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 document 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).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 71, *Concrete, reinforced concrete and prestressed concrete*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Maintenance and repair of concrete structures*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 5091 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

As a repairing and strengthening method, attaching of cementitious material layer to surface of existing concrete structures has been widely accepted. Since the cementitious layer does not have enough tensile strength, tension reinforcement is generally placed in the cementitious layer. There are two types of attaching way. For the first way, the cementitious layer is attached either on top surface or bottom surface of horizontal concrete members, especially slabs, while, for the second way, the cementitious layer is attached to jacket vertical concrete members, especially columns. There has not been any ISO standard on design, execution, and maintenance for this method with attaching cementitious layer. The ISO 5091 series serves as the first ISO standard for the intervention by attaching cementitious material layer with tension reinforcement inside.

At the same time, the ISO 5091 series is the first ISO standard developed for a specific intervention method, which conforms to the umbrella code, ISO 16311, especially ISO 16311-3 and ISO 16311-4.

The ISO 5091 series consists of four parts. ISO 5091-1 provides the issues common to all three parts, while ISO 5091-2, 3 and 4 provide the issues specific to each attaching way of cementitious material layers.

Generally, polymer hydraulic cement mortar (PCM) is used as the underlaying material. This is because PCM bonds well with the existing members and has large tensile strain at cracking, and makes the penetration of degradation factors less likely. As reinforcing materials, reinforcing steel, welded wire mesh, FRP grid are used.

Bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying has evolved as a strengthening method for fatigue of RC decks, drawing attention because of examples of applications like the one shown in [Figure 1](#). The members that are currently repaired or strengthened using this method include RC decks, tunnel linings, box culverts, waterways and beams. In this document, the latest information about the design and construction of the bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying method using underlaying materials has been collected and the best possible standards are presented.

The ISO 5091 series can serve as a practical standard for construction industry, such as client, design consultant and general contractor, to apply the structural intervention with externally attached cementitious layer. Additional technical information, which is not provided explicitly in the ISO 5091 series, needs to be provided in each application case with consideration of the provisions of the ISO 5091 series.

Structural intervention of existing concrete structures using cementitious materials —

Part 3: Bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying

1 Scope

This document specifies the standards for design and construction using the bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying method. Bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying is a method whereby reinforcing materials are placed on the bottom surface of the slabs or beams whose performance is lower than required and the improvement of durability, serviceability, safety and other performance of the members is achieved by the integrity between the reinforcing materials and existing members.

This document specifies structural intervention of existing concrete structures using cementitious materials design and execution principles, and strategies for defects and on-going deterioration including, but not limited to:

- a) mechanical actions, e.g. fatigue, impact, overloading, movement caused by settlement, blast, vibration, and seismic actions;
- b) chemical and biological actions from environments, e.g. sulfate attack, alkali-aggregate reaction;
- c) physical actions, e.g. freeze-thaw, thermal cracking, moisture movement, salt crystallization, fire, and erosion;
- d) reinforcement corrosion;
- e) original construction defects that remained unaddressed from the time of construction.

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 5091-1:2023, *Structural intervention of existing concrete structures using cementitious materials — Part 1: General principles*

ISO 22966, *Execution of concrete structures*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

3.1 bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying
method in which the thickness of the structural element associated with the bottom surface of the existing concrete is increased using cementitious materials, which will generally be reinforced

Note 1 to entry: The technique enhances the performance (e.g. strength, stiffness) of the existing concrete structure and is applicable to highway bridge decks, tunnel linings, box culverts/waterway structures, beams, etc.

3.2 bonding product
material, such as a primer or adhesive, that is applied to bond concrete and mortar

Note 1 to entry: The grouting material for bonding concrete and reinforcing material is also included in this term.

3.3 filling material
material injected to fill the gap between a reinforcing material, such as intermediate penetrating tie, and concrete

3.4 filling property
degree of filling of cracks and adhesion of crack filling material to substrate

3.5 reinforcing material
steel or FRP material used to sustain, restore or improve the mechanical performance of a structure

3.6 polymer hydraulic cement mortar
hydraulic composition made cementitious materials and fine aggregate modified by the addition of a polymer

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3.7 FRP grid
resin-impregnated FRP reinforcing materials formed into a grid shape

3.8 design response value
value of structural response obtained by numerical analysis on design process, such as sectional force and deformation

3.9 design limit value
design value for quantified limit state on design process, such as strength of element, allowable crack width

3.10 maintainability
ability of a structure to meet service objectives with a minimum expenditure of maintenance effort under service conditions in which maintenance and repair are performed

4 Investigation of existing structure

4.1 General

The study of the existing structure for which to consider intervention using the bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying method shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, Clause 4.

4.2 Investigation

4.2.1 Investigation using documents, records

When the climatic conditions, environmental conditions and geographical conditions of the local site are studied using documents, records, etc., the study shall be conducted in accordance with ISO 5091-1:2023, 4.2.1.

4.2.2 On-site investigation

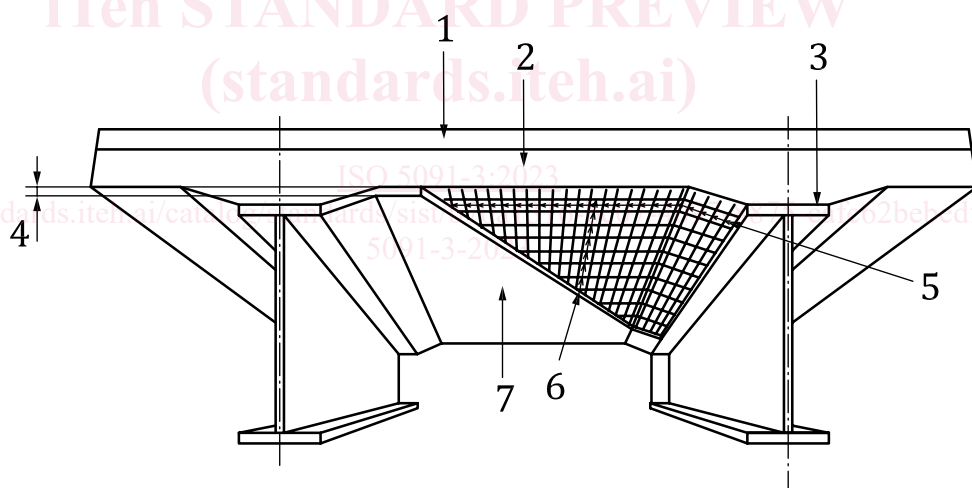
The on-site study on degradation, damage and initial defects of the existing concrete structure shall be conducted in accordance with ISO 5091-1:2023, 4.2.2.

The work environment and other relevant conditions of the site shall be checked in advance.

5 Intervention design

5.1 General

When repairing or strengthening a concrete structure using bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying as shown in [Figure 1](#), it shall be verified by means of an appropriate method that the structure fulfils the required performance for the required period. Also, the environment for the intervention construction, constructability, post-intervention maintainability and economy shall be taken into consideration.



Key

- 1 pavement
- 2 RC deck
- 3 main girder
- 4 underlaying
- 5 distribution reinforcement
- 6 main reinforcement
- 7 bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying

Figure 1 — Example of application of bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying for deck strengthening

5.2 Structural plan

The structural plan for a structure repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 5.2. The repaired or strengthened structure shall fulfil the required levels of durability, safety, serviceability and restorability throughout the design service life. Also, the intervention shall be planned taking into consideration the causes of degradation and damage of the existing members subject to bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying.

In flexural strengthening of existing members, the verification is mainly intended for serviceability, safety, etc. In fatigue strengthening of bridge decks, the punching shear capacity of the decks is required to be improved. In seismic strengthening of box culverts and tunnels, the verification is intended for restorability.

5.3 Structural details

The structure of bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall ensure the integrity between the existing and underlaying parts in the repaired or strengthened members to avoid brittle failure.

The structure of bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall ensure that reinforcing materials are securely anchored to the existing parts to reduce the risk of peeling.

The structure of bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall prevent retention of water in the interface between the existing and underlaying parts to avoid degradation of the interface or a decrease in adhesion.

The reinforcing materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall have a certain level of tensile stiffness that allows the reinforcing materials to behave with the existing parts as one. The reinforcing materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall not have excessive tensile stiffness against the existing parts.

If the tensile stiffness of the reinforcing materials is excessive, care shall be taken because the forces transferred through the interface between the existing and underlaying parts as well as the anchoring parts of the reinforcing materials become great, potentially leading to peeling or some other problem.

6 Materials

6.1 General

The materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be of proven quality to ensure that the required performance is fulfilled for a necessary period.

6.2 Materials in existing structure

The characteristic values of material strength, partial safety factor for materials and design values of the materials in the existing structure that are used for the design shall be determined in accordance with ISO 5091-1:2023, 6.2.

6.3 Materials used in repairing or strengthening parts

6.3.1 General

The quality of the materials used in the parts repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 6.3.

6.3.2 Cementitious materials

The underlaying materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall have a bonding property and durability sufficient to integrate the existing parts with added reinforcing materials.

Materials having Young's modulus and compressive strength that are the same as or similar to those of the existing members are suitable.

The underlying materials shall have performance equal to or greater than the resistance against permeation of the existing members against environmental factors.

6.3.3 Reinforcing materials

Considering the performance requirements, reinforcing materials having appropriate tensile stiffness, design tensile strength and durability shall be selected.

6.3.4 Bonding products

The bonding products used in the interface between the existing and underlying parts shall ensure the specified bonding property.

The bonding products shall prevent the degradation in the bonding property of the underlying and existing parts. The bonding products shall be those proven to be compatible with the materials used in both the underlying and existing parts and have sufficient durability.

6.4 Characteristic values and design values of materials for repaired or strengthened parts

6.4.1 General

The characteristic values and design values of the materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlying shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 6.4.

6.4.2 Cementitious materials

The cementitious materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlying shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 6.4.2. The characteristic values of strength and other properties need to be determined under the temperature condition appropriate for the usage environment.

6.4.3 Reinforcing materials

The reinforcing materials used for bottom-surface (soffit) underlying shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 6.4.3.

6.4.4 Bonding products

As the design value of the bonding product, the characteristic value of the bond strength obtained after integrating interfaces between the existing part and the underlying part and between underlying parts shall be used, instead of the characteristic value of the strength of the bonding product itself.

7 Actions

7.1 General

The actions used for performance verification of intervention using the bottom-surface (soffit) underlying method shall be as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, Clause 7.

7.2 Actions for intervention design

In the intervention design, the actions that can occur on the existing structure and repaired or strengthened parts shall be considered in accordance with ISO 5091-1:2023, 7.2.

8 Performance verification for repaired or strengthened structure

8.1 General

The items to be verified for the concrete members repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be established appropriately so as to fulfil the required performance of the repaired or strengthened structure.

When calculating the design limit values for the repaired or strengthened members, the influence of the cracks, strain, stress, corrosion factors that remain in the existing members shall be taken into consideration.

The existing members have been subject to various actions from the time they are constructed until they are repaired or strengthened, thus causing changes in them. These changes influence the calculation of the design limit values for the strengthened members and shall therefore be taken into consideration appropriately.

8.2 Calculation of response values

8.2.1 General

The response values of a structure repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be calculated as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 8.2.

8.2.2 Modelling of structure

A member repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying may be modelled as a beam or slab according to the shape and action direction through the use of finite element modelling or modelling with linear element.

When an out-of-plane force acts on a slab repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying, the sectional force shall be in principle calculated with respect to two directions taking into consideration the support conditions and the action points of loads.

In the case of finite element modelling, the constitutive law for the existing members take into consideration the changes in the existing members. For the interface between the existing and underlaying parts, an appropriate constitutive law shall be adopted according to the materials used.

In the case of modelling with structural stick model of beam and column elements, in principle, the skeleton curve shall be obtained using a fibre model or one proven through experiments or other means shall be employed.

Since a member repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying has a combination of different material properties, such as existing reinforcing steel and reinforcing material or existing concrete and underlaying material, the skeleton curve used for modelling with structural stick model of beam and column elements should be obtained using a fibre model or through experiments.

8.2.3 Structural analysis

The structural analysis of a structure repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be performed as set forth in ISO 5091-1:2023, 8.2.3.

8.2.4 Calculation of design response values

The design response values to be used for the verification of a structure repaired or strengthened with bottom-surface (soffit) underlaying shall be calculated taking into consideration the responses of the existing structure before intervention.