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**Simplified design of prestressed  
concrete tanks for potable water**

*Conception simplifiée du réservoir pour l'eau potable en béton pré-armé*

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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](http://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](http://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 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 71, *Concrete, reinforced concrete and prestressed concrete*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Simplified design standard for concrete structures*.

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## Introduction

The aim of this document is to provide rules for the design and construction of prestressed concrete water tanks to be built in less-developed areas of the world. The design rules are based on 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.

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

A prestressed concrete tank for potable water generally comprises the roof, wall and base slab. The roof is made to entirely cover the top of the cylindrical wall so as to protect the water from contamination with rainwater, etc. In many cases, it is made in the form of a dome shaped like a convex disc cut off from a sphere. The wall is a vertical cylinder that forms a container for water in combination with the flat disc base slab. Normally, only the wall of a prestressed concrete water tank is made with prestressed concrete, while the roof and base slab are made with reinforced concrete. Prestress is generally applied to the wall using prestressing steel in the vertical and circumferential directions, but in some cases prestress is applied only to the circumferential direction. For this reason, this document defines a prestressed concrete cylindrical tank as a structure having prestressing steel at least in the circumferential direction of the wall to apply prestress, so as to cover both types. Therefore, the roof, base slab and wall in the vertical direction may not necessarily be of prestressed concrete construction but may be of reinforced concrete construction.

A prestressed concrete water tank construction is generally adopted to preserve a water storage facility with the aim of preventing severe secondary disasters and allowing the standing water to be used as an emergency water supply. For this reason, it is required to be designed as a rule as a high degree of importance.

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

The earthquake-resistance provisions are included to account for the fact that numerous underdeveloped regions of the world occur 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 provisions that can be modified by the National Standards Body due to local design and construction requirements and practices. The specifications that can be modified are indicated using ["boxed values"]. The National Standards Body is expected to review the "boxed values" and may substitute alternative definitive values for these elements for use in the national application of this document.