Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete Structures

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Design of concrete

EN 1992

Decimentaties argado de www.e-iche.com el 20/08/2025

2nd generation of Eurocode 2 on concrete structures



Madrid, October 17th, 2023





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Disponible en www.hormigonyacero.com

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Design of Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete Structures According to the Annex L of the Eurocode-2 2023

Diseño de estructuras de hormigón reforzado con fibras de acero según el Anejo L del nuevo Eurocódigo-2 2023

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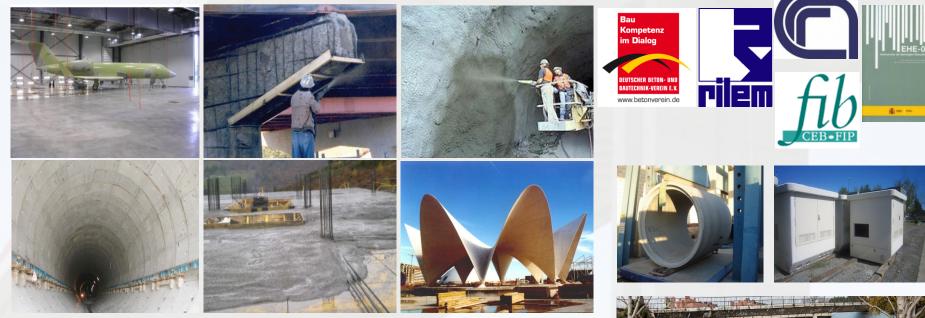
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Introduction





- FpEN 1992-1-1:2023 (Annex L) and 1992-1-2:2023 (Annex B)
- Annex L covers steel fibre reinforced concrete (EN 14889-1)
- Informative and each CEN member decides it status







Basis of design – Partial factors for materials

Annex L is fully aligned with the partial factor format of Eurocode 0

- For compression neither f_c nor its CoV are significantly affected by fibers
- For tension Although due to fibre distribution and orientation anisotropy scatter in EN 14651 tests is 10–30%, combined use of $f_{R,k}$, κ_0 , κ_G allows meeting target reliability levels

Design situations – Limit states	YSF
Persistent and transient design situations	1,50
Accidental design situations	1,20
Serviceability limit states	1,00

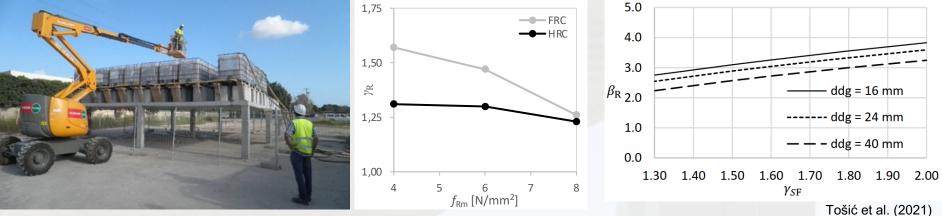




Basis of design – Partial factors for materials

Specific cases may require partial factor calibration. Some examples include

- Use of FORM for y_{SF} calibration of precast tunnel linings, elements without shear reinforcement
- Calibration of a global resistance factor for non-linear analysis (Annex F) for full-scale flat slabs



Aidarov et al. (2021)

$$\gamma_{R} = e^{(\alpha_{R} \cdot \beta \cdot V_{R})}$$

$$V_{R} = \frac{1}{1,65} ln \left(\frac{q_{Rm}}{q_{Rk}}\right)$$
ECOV (Cervenka 2013)

^{to} 2^{HJ} generation of Eurocode 2 on concrete structures / Madrid, October 17th, 2023

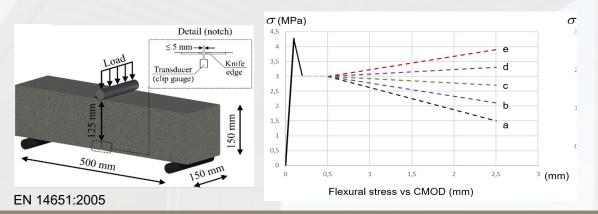


General aspects

- Annex L refers to SF meeting the EN 14889-1 as potential replacement of ordinary steel reinforcement
- SF do not significantly modify the f_c , f_{ct} , E_c , ε_{cs} , φ_c (compression)
- SF provide residual tensile strength (f_{Ft}) to cracked sections in both SLS and ULS

Stength and ductility classification

• Strength Class (SC) based on $f_{R,1k}$ and ductility on $f_{R3,k}$ /SC





Llano-Torre et al. (2022)



Design assumption for the material

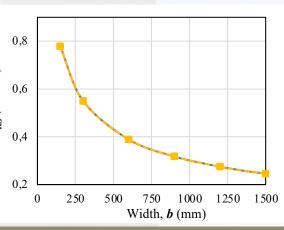
- $f_{R,1k}/f_{ctk;0.05} \ge 0.5$ (minimum material ductility after cracking)
- Service (f_{Ftd}) and ultimate (f_{Ftud}) residual tensile strength of SFRC to be computed as:

$$f_{Ftsd} = \frac{f_{Fts,ef}}{\gamma_{SF}} = k_o \cdot k_G \cdot 0.37 \cdot \frac{f_{R1k}}{\gamma_{SF}} \qquad \qquad f_{Ftud} = \frac{f_{Ftu,ef}}{\gamma_{SF}} = k_o \cdot k_G \cdot 0.33 \cdot \frac{f_{R3k}}{\gamma_{SF}}$$

 k_{o} : orientation factor ($f_{Ri,element}/f_{R,beam}$). k_{o} : = 0.5 unless verified by testing (< 1.7); k_{o} : = 1.0 for consistency classes S2-S5 k_{G} : factor to account for the member size (cracked area, A_{ct}); k_{G} = 1.0 + 0.5 $A_{ct} \le 1.5$

- Its is possible to consider up to 90% of $f_{\rm Rm}$
- $k_{\rm G}$ = 1.0 for local mechanisms





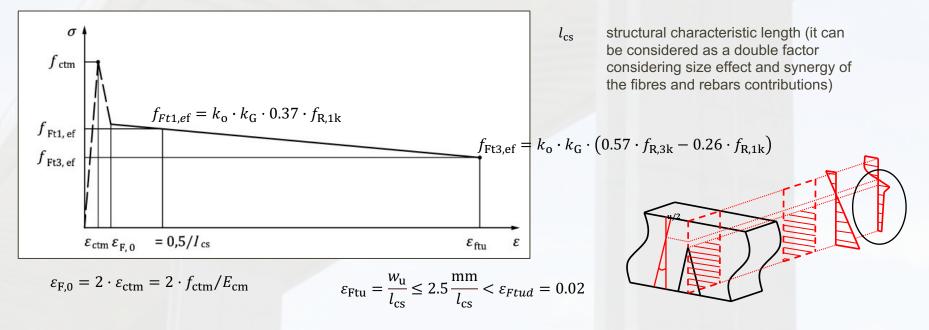




Stress-strain relation for structural analysis

In tension

• a tri-linear constitutive law for the uniaxial stress-strain







Stress-strain relation for structural analysis

In compression

ACHE



Compressive Behaviour of Steel-Fibre Reinforced Concrete in Annex L of New Eurocode 2

Comportamiento en compresión del hormigón reforzado con fibras de acero según el Anejo L del nuevo Eurocódigo 2

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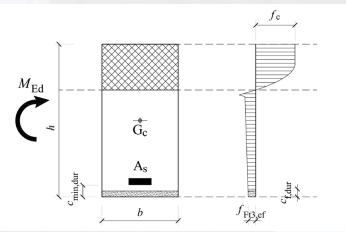


Durability – Minimum cover

Annex L approach is valid both for EC2 section 6 (XRC) or Annex P (current EC-2)

- Minimum cover due to durability requirements c_{min,dur} is only valid for embedded reinforcement
- Cover unaffected by fibers, except to prevent fibre accumulation => c_{min} = 20 mm
- Spalling due to corroded fibres is unlikely small stresses are generated due to small fibre size

SFRC elements considered as equivalent RC elements in terms of durability



1. SFRC under XC2–XC4, XD1–XD3, XS1–XS3 designed to be *uncracked* at SLS

In ULS, disregard tensile strength in a "sacrificial layer" of $c_{f,dur}$ = 10 mm from the exposed surface

2. SFRC under XC2–XC4, XD1–XD3, XS1–XS3 designed to be *cracked* at SLS

In ULS, disregard tensile strength in a "sacrificial layer" of $c_{f,dur} = k_{dur} \cdot c_{min,dur}$ mm from the exposed surface

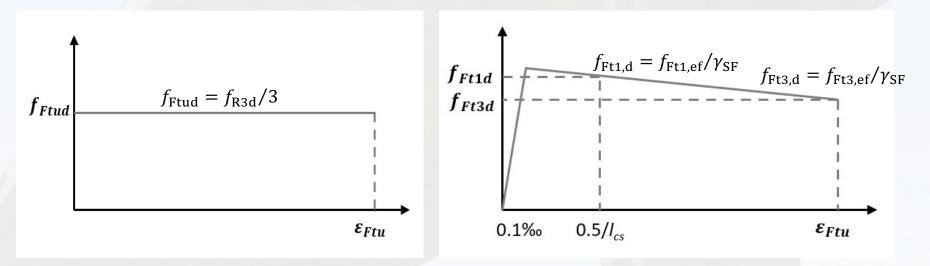
A reduction of $c_{f,dur}$ is possible due to reduced crack widths in SFRC: $c_{f,dur} = k_{dur} \cdot c_{min,dur} \cdot c_{min,dur}$

W_{k,cal}



ELU: Bending with or without axial force

Two simplified stress-strain constitutive models: (1) rigid-plastic and (2) bi-linear



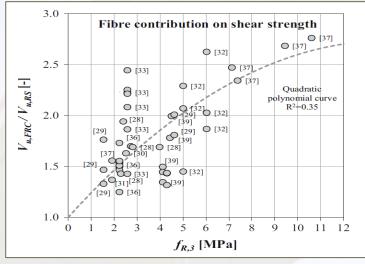
- The rigid-plastic has been proven to be reliable on large datasets ($\mu = 1.011$; CoV = 8%)
- The rigid-plastic model should be used for ductility classes a, b, c; for d, e only to determine ULS capacity at ε_{FTud}.





ELU: Shear and Punching

- The presence of SFs enhance the shear strength due to:
 - control the opening of inclined cracks induced by shear stresses;
 - ✓ allow a **multiple and stable shear crack progression** delaying the formation of the critical shear crack
 - ✓ improve the shear transfer across cracks an the aggregate interlock capacity



Increase in shear strength due to the effect of fibres (Cuenca et al. (2018)).



Cuenca and Serna (2013).

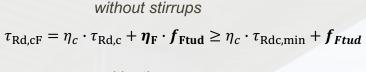


ELU: Shear and Punching

- Annex L approach for Shear
 - concrete contribution based on the formulation of the Critical Shear Crack Theory (CSCT)
 - effect of fibres described by an additional strength term f_{Ftud}
 - parameter η_F to express that the effect is not fully additive to the concrete contribution

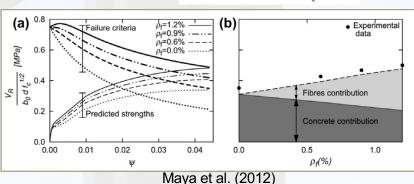
without stirrups: $\tau_{\text{Rd,cF}} = \eta_{\text{cF}} \cdot \tau_{\text{Rd,c}} + \eta_{\text{F}} \cdot f_{\text{Ftud}} \ge \eta_{\text{cF}} \cdot \tau_{\text{Rdc,min}} + \eta_{\text{F}} \cdot f_{\text{Ftud}}$ with stirrups: $\tau_{\text{Rd,sF}} = (\eta_{\text{sw}} \cdot \rho_{\text{w}} \cdot f_{\text{ywd}} + \eta_{\text{F}} \cdot f_{\text{Ftud}}) \cdot \cot \theta \ge \rho_{\text{w}} \cdot f_{\text{ywd}} \cdot \cot \theta$

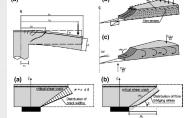
- Annex L for Punching (similar to Shear)
 - $\eta_{\rm F} = 0.4$



with stirrups

$$\tau_{\mathrm{Rd,csF}} = \eta_c \cdot \tau_{\mathrm{Rd,c}} + \eta_s \cdot \rho_w \cdot f_{ywd} + \eta_F \cdot f_{\mathrm{Ftud}} \ge \rho_w \cdot f_{ywd} + \eta_F \cdot f_{\mathrm{Ftud}}$$







ELU: Torsion

Torsion provisions follow the philosophy adopted for shear:

- Fibres are considered as a smeared reinforcement
- Reduction of the RC contribution (no full addition with the fibre contribution)
- Torsional capacities governed by yielding of either transverse or longitudinal reinforcement

 $\tau_{t,Rd,swF} = \eta_{sw}\tau_{t,Rd,sw} + \eta_F f_{Ftud} \ge \tau_{t,Rd,sw}$

 $\tau_{t,Rd,sIF} = \eta_{sl}\tau_{t,Rd,sIF} + \eta_F f_{Ftud} \ge \tau_{t,Rd,sl}$

- For combinations of torsion + shear and/or bending, one of the following should be adopted:
 - · the fibre contribution is used to resist only torsional effects
 - the fibre contribution is used to resist only shear and/or bending effects (disregarding the fibre contribution to resisting torsional effects)





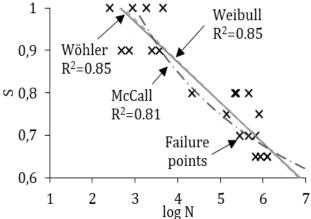
ELU: FATIGUE

Contribution of FRC in fatigue resistance disregarded (due to divergences in literature)



- Tarifa et al., 2015 Rail track slabs
- Domingo et al., 2023 Segmental bridges
- Plizzari et al., 1997 Uniaxial tension
- Saucedo *et al.*, 2013 Uniaxial compression







Carlesso et al. (2012)



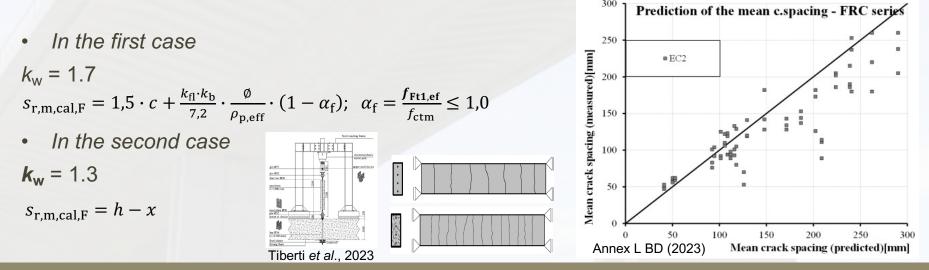
Serviceability Limit States (SLS) – Crack control

Crack control is one of the most well-known and proven benefits of SFRC

• Same approach as for RC – $w_k = k_w \cdot \mathbf{S}_{r,m,cal} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{sm} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{cm})$

Two cases are considered for SFRC

- 1. A multi-crack pattern associated to a presence of conventional reinforcement at a spacing ≤10Ø
- 2. A single-crack pattern when the spacing of conventional reinforcement is larger than 10Ø

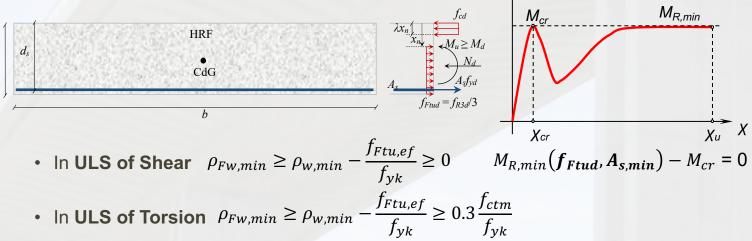




Detailing of members and particular rules

Rules for mínimum reinforcement

- In ULS with M_{Ed} and N_{Ed} then $A_{s,min}$ from imposing $M_{R,min}(N_{Ed}) \ge M_{cr}(N_{Ed})$
- In ULS with $M_{Ed} = 0$ and N_{Ed} (pure tension) then $A_{s,min}$ from imposing $N_{R,min} \ge N_{cr}$
- BEAMS –per ductility require A_s ≥ A_{s,min}









• Shear and Torsion reinforcement can be replaced in BEAMS if $f_{Ftu,ef}/f_{yk} \ge \rho_{Fw,min}$

Detailing of members and particular rules

Lightly reinforced SFRC structures ($A_s < A_{s,min}$)

- May be only applied to statistically indeterminate structures (elastically suported structures, piled slabs, shell-type components, precast containers, segmental linings)
- Linear elastic, plastic and non-linear analysis allowed
- For ULS shear $\tau_{\text{Rd},cF} = f_{\text{Ftud}}$
- For foundations directly on ground SFRC 1b
- For foundation on piles SFRC 2c
- For tunnel lining segments SFRC 4c (if $A_s = 0$)









Conclusions

- The first technical european harmonized document realised by the CEN-TC250/SC2 covering the design of FRC structures
- Covers the design of SFRC structures of any failure consequence class
- Is Informative and each CEN member decides its status within the country
- Allows for partial (or even total) replacement of the ordinary steel reinforcement by steel fibres that meet the EN 14889-1
- Next steps: the WG3 within the CEN-TC250/SC2 has started to generate an harmonized guideline for covering the design of non-metallic fibre reinforced concrete structures





Thank you for your attention

