

Non-loadbearing Partition Walls

The construction and demolition of non-loadbearing partition walls are operations frequently involved in construction process, in particular for alterations and additions works. Although these walls are not structural elements, it is necessary for authorized persons (APs) and registered structural engineers (RSEs) to ensure that the design and construction of the works achieve the required performance standard.

2. In the light of the observation in a study of an accident involving collapse of non-loadbearing partition wall, this practice note intends to give guidance to enhance public safety in respect of works involving non-loadbearing partition walls.

Design and Construction of Non-loadbearing Partition Walls

3. In the design and construction of non-loadbearing partition walls, APs and RSEs should ensure that all factors which may affect the stiffness and stability of these walls such as slenderness, supports and restraints, are taken into account. Their design and construction should be carried out in accordance with relevant standards and codes of practice. In this respect, PNAP 140 should be referred to.

Demolition of Non-loadbearing Partition Walls

4. When non-loadbearing partition walls are to be demolished, APs and RSEs should ensure that :

- appropriate precautionary measures are provided as site situation demands;
- the works are carried out by experienced workers;
- adequate supervision is provided throughout the demolition period.

In this connection, attention should also be drawn to PNAP 71.

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Ref. : BD GP/BOP/33

First issued October 1996 (AD/D, AD/SE)

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