

28 February 2013

To: All Authorized Persons
Registered Structural Engineers
Registered Geotechnical Engineers
Registered Inspectors
Registered General Building Contractors
Registered Specialist Contractors and
Registered Minor Works Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

Code of Practice for Structural Use of Concrete 2013

I have pleasure to announce the publication of the Code of Practice for Structural Use of Concrete 2013 (the 2013 Code), which may be used with immediate effect.

Subsequent to the publication of the Code of Practice for Structural Use of Concrete 2004 (the 2004 Code), a technical committee was set up in January 2008 with a view to keeping the code of practice abreast of the latest development in design and technology. This 2013 Code is the result of a comprehensive review of the 2004 Code by the technical committee.

Please note that the 2013 Code should be used in conjunction with the Construction Standard CS2:2012 “Steel Reinforcing Bars for the Reinforcement of Concrete”, which was issued by the Standing Committee on Concrete Technology on 27 December 2012. The 2013 Code has, in addition to the currently accepted standard, allowed the adoption of Construction Standard CS3:2013 “Aggregates for Concrete”, which is scheduled for issue in mid-2013.

New Features of the 2013 Code

I would like to draw your attention to the following new features of the

2013 Code:

- a) a set of enhanced values for the elastic modulus of concrete that may be used for checking the overall building deflections;
- b) the use of grade 500B and 500C steel reinforcing bars conforming to CS2:2012;
- c) guidelines for design of concrete structures at elevated temperatures;
- d) the use of ground granulated blastfurnace slag (GGBS) in concrete mix;
- e) measures for the prevention of spalling of high strength concrete under fire;
- f) refinement of beam-column joint design;
- g) guidelines for reinforcement detailing for bored piles and barrette piles;
- h) refinement of reinforcement detailing for ductility for beams and columns;
- i) new ductility detailing requirements for walls;
- j) new ductility detailing for prestressed concrete structures; and
- k) update of acceptable standards.

Application of the 2013 Code

While I trust most practitioners would like to adopt the 2013 Code as early as possible, I have allowed one year for the transition from the 2004 Code to the 2013 Code. That is, commencing 28 February 2014, the 2013 Code shall be fully implemented, the 2004 Code should not be used, and my circular letter dated 29 April 2011 on “Code of Practice for Structural Use of Concrete 2004” shall be revoked.

However, for new and “alteration and addition” proposals, if my approval of the structural plans or foundation plans has been given before 28 February 2014, the subsequent structural plan submissions may continue to adopt the same code of practice that has been used in the original application.

Access of the 2013 Code

The 2013 Code is available in the Buildings Department website <http://www.bd.gov.hk> under the “Codes of Practice and Design Manuals” page of the “Publications” section. The document may be downloaded subject to the terms and conditions stipulated on the website.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AU Choi-kai', with a period at the end.

(AU Choi-kai)
Building Authority