

**GEOGUIDE 1 (Second Edition)  
Guide to Retaining Wall Design**

The second edition of GEOGUIDE 1 (Guide to Retaining Wall Design), prepared by the Geotechnical Engineering Office, is now available for purchase from the Government Publications Sales Centre. It supersedes the first edition published in July 1982 and is the result of extensive consultation, locally and overseas, with consulting engineers, contractors, academics, professional bodies and Government departments.

2. The GEOGUIDE recommends a standard of good practice for the design of permanent retaining walls in Hong Kong. It covers common retaining walls and includes conventional reinforced concrete walls, gravity walls (such as crib walls, gabion walls and mass concrete walls) and cantilevered retaining walls.

3. The second edition of GEOGUIDE 1 represents a major change in the approach to the design of retaining walls. The first edition advocated limit state analysis with global factors of safety. This second edition recommends limit state analysis with partial factors of safety. This approach is more rational and permits uncertainties in major parameters to be allowed for individually. In addition, the new GEOGUIDE gives detailed treatment to the selection of geotechnical parameters and groundwater pressures for design and to the interrelation between design and construction. In general, there will be cost savings in the construction of some types of retaining wall by designing to the new GEOGUIDE.

4. Permanent retaining walls designed in their entirety in accordance with the standards and provisions of the first edition or the second edition of GEOGUIDE 1 will be acceptable to the Building Authority. Designs based on a **mixture** of the guidance given in the two editions are **not acceptable**. Design submissions must clearly state which edition of the GEOGUIDE has been used. It is strongly recommended that designs be based on the second edition rather than on the first edition. In this regard it is relevant to note that after July 1995, only designs based on the second edition will be acceptable for public works.

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