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Fourth edition
2015-03-01

General principles on reliability for structures

Principes généraux de la fiabilité des constructions



Reference number
ISO 2394:2015(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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).

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).

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 meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [Foreword — Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 98, *Bases for design of structures*, SC 2, *Reliability of structures*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 2394:1998), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

The present fourth edition of this International Standard is intended to reflect advances in the common basis for decision making related to load-bearing structures relevant to the construction industry. Advances range from the development of systematic and rational treatment of risk to implementation of reliability-based design through codes and standards.

Compliance with this International Standard should therefore promote harmonization of design practice internationally and unification between the respective codes and standards such as for actions and resistances for the respective structural materials.

The principles and appropriate instruments to ensure adequate levels of reliability provide for special classes of structures or projects where the common experience base need to be extended in a rational manner.

In particular, a risk framework has been introduced which is scenario based, facilitates unified modelling approaches over different applications, accounts for consequences of both a direct and indirect nature, and has emphasis on robustness.

Whereas requirements to safety and reliability in the previous edition of this International Standard took their basis in efficiency requirements of a heuristic character, these are now based on risk considerations and socio-economics. This, in turn, facilitates a more relevant use of the International Standard in the context of sustainable societal developments and adaptation for application of the International Standard in different nation states in accordance with economic capacity and preferences.

The present International Standard, thus, enables the possibility to regulate, verify, and document the adequate safe performance of structures and also to consider them in a broader sense as part of societal systems. The International Standard provides for approaches at three levels, namely the following:

- risk informed;
- reliability based;
- semi-probabilistic.

The methodical basis for this edition of ISO 2394 is described in the Probabilistic Model Code^[8] and Risk Assessment in Engineering — Principles, System Representation and Risk Criteria^[9] by the Joint Committee on Structural Safety (JCSS), and EN 1990 (2007), where the reader will find additional information of relevance for its use.

Informative Annexes are included to this International Standard as a support to its users in the interpretations and use of the principles contained in its clauses.