BRITISH STANDARD

BS EN
1997-1:2004
Incorporating corrigendum February 2009

Eurocode 7: Geotechnical design —

Part 1: General rules

ICS 91.010.30; 93.020

BSI
British Standards

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 1997-1:2004 incorporating corrigendum February 2009. It supersedes DD ENV 1997-1:2005 which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by corrigendum is indicated in the text by tags. Text altered by CEN corrigendum February 2009 is indicated in the text by ⟨AC1⟩ ⟨AC1⟩.

The structural Eurocodes are divided into packages by grouping Eurocodes for each of the main materials: concrete, steel, composite concrete and steel, timber, masonry and aluminium; this is to enable a common date of withdrawal (DOW) for all the relevant parts that are needed for a particular design. The conflicting national standards will be withdrawn at the end of the coexistence period after all the EN Eurocodes of a package are available.

Following publication of the EN, there is a period allowed for national calibration during which the National Annex is issued, followed by a coexistence period of a maximum three years. During the coexistence period Member States are encouraged to adapt their national provisions. At the end of this coexistence period, the conflicting parts of national standard(s) will be withdrawn.

In the UK, the corresponding national standards are:

— BS 6031:1981, *Code of practice for earthworks*;

— BS 8004:1986, *Code of practice for foundations*;

— BS 8081:1989, *Code of practice for ground anchorages*;

— BS 8002:1994, *Code of practice for earth retaining structures*;

— BS 8006:1995, *Code of practice for strengthened/reinforced soils and other fills*;

— BS 8008:1996, *Safety precautions and procedures for the construction and descent of machine-bored shafts for piling and other purposes*;

— BS 5930:1999, *Code of practice for site investigations*;

and based on this transition period, these standards will be withdrawn/revised on a date to be announced but at the latest by March 2010.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee B/526, Geotechnics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This British Standard, was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 22 December 2004

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Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Comments
31 January 2010	Implementation of CEN corrigendum February 2009

Where a normative part of this EN allows for a choice to be made at the national level, the range and possible choice will be given in the normative text, and a note will qualify it as a Nationally Determined Parameter (NDP). NDPs can be a specific value for a factor, a specific level or class, a particular method or a particular application rule if several are proposed in the EN.

To enable EN 1997-1 to be used in the UK, the NDPs will be published in a National Annex, which will be made available by BSI in due course, after public consultation has taken place.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 1997-1

November 2004

ICS 91.120.20

Supersedes ENV 1997-1:1994

English version

Eurocode 7: Geotechnical design - Part 1: General rules

Eurocode 7: Calcul géotechnique - Partie 1: Règles générales

Eurocode 7: Entwurf, Berechnung und Bemessung in der Geotechnik - Teil 1: Allgemeine Regeln

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 April 2004.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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Ref. No. EN 1997-1:2004: E

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Foreword

This document (EN 1997-1) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC250 "Structural Eurocodes", the secretariat of which is held by BSI. CEN/TC 250 is responsible for all Structural Eurocodes.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text, or by endorsement, at the latest by **May 2005** and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn by **March 2010**.

This document supersedes ENV 1997-1:1994.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Background to the Eurocode programme

In 1975, the Commission of the European Community decided on an action programme in the field of construction, based on article 95 of the Treaty. The objective of the programme was the elimination of technical obstacles to trade and the harmonisation of technical specifications.

Within this action programme, the Commission took the initiative to establish a set of harmonised technical rules for the design of construction works which, in a first stage, would serve as an alternative to the national rules in force in the Member States and, ultimately, would replace them.

For fifteen years, the Commission, with the help of a Steering Committee with Representatives of Member States, conducted the development of the Eurocodes programme, which led to the first generation of European codes in the 1980s.

In 1989, the Commission and the Member States of the EU and EFTA decided, on the basis of an agreement[1] between the Commission and CEN, to transfer the preparation and the publication of the Eurocodes to CEN through a series of Mandates, in order to provide them with a future status of European Standard (EN). This links *de facto* the Eurocodes with the provisions of all the Council's Directives and/or Commissions Decisions dealing with European standards (e.g. the Council Directive 89/106/EEC on construction products - CPD - and Council Directives 93/37/EEC, 92/50/EEC and 89/440/EEC on public works and services and equivalent EFTA Directives initiated in pursuit of setting up the internal market).

The Structural Eurocode programme comprises the following standards generally consisting of a number of Parts:

EN 1990	Eurocode :	Basis of Structural Design
EN 1991	Eurocode 1:	Actions on structures
EN 1992	Eurocode 2:	Design of concrete structures
EN 1993	Eurocode 3:	Design of steel structures

1 Agreement between the Commission of the European Communities and the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) concerning the work on EUROCODES for the design of building and civil engineering works (BC/CEN/03/89).

EN 1994	Eurocode 4:	Design of composite steel and concrete structures
EN 1995	Eurocode 5:	Design of timber structures
EN 1996	Eurocode 6:	Design of masonry structures
EN 1997	Eurocode 7:	Geotechnical design
EN 1998	Eurocode 8:	Design of structures for earthquake resistance
EN 1999	Eurocode 9:	Design of aluminium structures

Eurocode standards recognise the responsibility of regulatory authorities in each Member State and have safeguarded their right to determine values related to regulatory safety matters at national level where these continue to vary from State to State.

Status and field of application of Eurocodes

The Member States of the EU and EFTA recognise that Eurocodes serve as reference documents for the following purposes:

— as a means to prove compliance of building and civil engineering works with the essential requirements of Council Directive 89/106/EEC, particularly Essential Requirement N°1 – Mechanical resistance and stability – and Essential Requirement N°2 – Safety in case of fire;

— as a basis for specifying contracts for construction works and related engineering services;

— as a framework for drawing up harmonised technical specifications for construction products (ENs and ETAs)

The Eurocodes, as far as they concern the construction works themselves, have a direct relationship with the Interpretative Documents[2] referred to in Article 12 of the CPD, although they are of a different nature from harmonised product standards[3]. Therefore, technical aspects arising from the Eurocodes work need to be adequately considered by CEN Technical Committees and/or EOTA Working Groups working on product standards with a view to achieving full compatibility of these technical specifications with the Eurocodes.

The Eurocode standards provide common structural design rules for everyday use for the design of whole structures and component products of both a traditional and an innovative nature. Unusual forms of construction or design conditions are not specifically covered and additional expert consideration will be required by the designer in such cases.

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2 According to Art. 3.3 of the CPD, the essential requirements (ERs) shall be given concrete form in interpretative documents for the creation of the necessary links between the essential requirements and the mandates for harmonised ENs and ETAGs/ETAs.

3 According to Art. 12 of the CPD the interpretative documents shall :

a) give concrete form to the essential requirements by harmonising the terminology and the technical bases and indicating classes or levels for each requirement where necessary ;

b) indicate methods of correlating these classes or levels of requirement with the technical specifications, e.g. methods of calculation and of proof, technical rules for project design, etc. ;

c) serve as a reference for the establishment of harmonised standards and guidelines for European technical approvals.

The Eurocodes, *de facto*, play a similar role in the field of the ER 1 and a part of ER 2.

National Standards implementing Eurocodes

The National Standards implementing Eurocodes will comprise the full text of the Eurocode (including any annexes), as published by CEN, which may be preceded by a National title page and National foreword, and may be followed by a National annex.

The National annex may only contain information on those parameters, which are left open in the Eurocode for national choice, known as Nationally Determined Parameters, to be used for the design of buildings and civil engineering works to be constructed in the country concerned, i.e. :

— values and/or classes where alternatives are given in the Eurocode,

— values to be used where a symbol only is given in the Eurocode,

— country specific data (geographical, climatic), *e.g.* snow map,

— the procedure to be used where alternative procedures are given in the Eurocode.

It may also contain:

— decisions on the application of informative annexes,

— references to non-contradictory complementary information to assist the user to apply the Eurocode.

Links between Eurocodes and harmonised technical specifications (ENs and ETAs) for products

There is a need for consistency between the harmonised technical specifications for construction products and the technical rules for works[4]. Furthermore, all the information accompanying the CE Marking of the construction products, which refer to Eurocodes should clearly mention which Nationally Determined Parameters have been taken into account.

Additional information specific to Eurocode 7

EN 1997-1 gives design guidance and actions for geotechnical design of buildings and civil engineering works.

EN 1997-1 is intended for clients, designers, contractors and public authorities.

EN 1997-1 is intended to be used with EN 1990 and EN 1991 to EN 1999.

In using EN 1997-1 in practice, particular regard should be paid to the underlying assumptions and conditions given in 1.3.

The 12 sections of EN 1997-1 are complemented by 1 normative and 8 informative annexes.

National annex for EN 1997-1

This standard gives alternative procedures and recommended values with notes indicating where national choices may have to be made. Therefore the National Standard implementing EN 1997-1 should have a National annex containing all Nationally Determined Parameters to be used for the design of buildings and civil engineering works to be constructed in the relevant country.

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4 see Art.3.3 and Art.12 of the CPD, as well as clauses 4.2, 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 5.2 of ID 1.

National choice is allowed in EN 1997-1 through the following paragraphs:

— 2.1(8)P, 2.4.6.1(4)P, 2.4.6.2(2)P, 2.4.7.1(2)P, 2.4.7.1(3), [AC1] 2.4.7.1(4), 2.4.7.1(5), 2.4.7.1(6), [AC1] 2.4.7.2(2)P, 2.4.7.3.2(3)P, 2.4.7.3.3(2)P, 2.4.7.3.4.1(1)P, 2.4.7.4(3)P, 2.4.7.5(2)P, 2.4.8(2), 2.4.9(1)P, 2.5(1), 7.6.2.2(8)P, 7.6.2.2(14)P, 7.6.2.3(4)P, 7.6.2.3(5)P, 7.6.2.3(8), 7.6.2.4(4)P, 7.6.3.2(2)P, 7.6.3.2(5)P, 7.6.3.3(3)P, 7.6.3.3(4)P, 7.6.3.3(6), 8.5.2(2)P, 8.5.2(3), 8.6(4), [AC1] 10.2(3), [AC1] 11.5.1(1)P

and the following clauses in annex A:

— A.2

— A.3.1, A.3.2, A.3.3.1, A.3.3.2, A.3.3.3, A.3.3.4, A.3.3.5, A.3.3.6,

— A.4

— A.5

Section 1 General

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 Scope of EN 1997

(1) EN 1997 is intended to be used in conjunction with EN 1990:2002, which establishes the principles and requirements for safety and serviceability, describes the basis of design and verification and gives guidelines for related aspects of structural reliability.

(2) EN 1997 is intended to be applied to the geotechnical aspects of the design of buildings and civil engineering works. It is subdivided into various separate parts (see 1.1.2 and 1.1.3).

(3) EN 1997 is concerned with the requirements for strength, stability, serviceability and durability of structures. Other requirements, e.g. concerning thermal or sound insulation, are not considered.

(4) Numerical values of actions on buildings and civil engineering works to be taken into account in design are provided in EN 1991 for the various types of construction. Actions imposed by the ground, such as earth pressures, shall be calculated according to the rules of EN 1997.

(5) Separate European Standards are intended to be used to treat matters of execution and workmanship. They are denoted in the relevant sections.

(6) In EN 1997 execution is covered to the extent that is necessary to comply with the assumptions of the design rules.

(7) EN 1997 does not cover the special requirements of seismic design. EN 1998 provides additional rules for geotechnical seismic design, which complete or adapt the rules of this Standard.

1.1.2 Scope of EN 1997-1

(1) EN 1997-1 is intended to be used as a general basis for the geotechnical aspects of the design of buildings and civil engineering works.

(2) The following subjects are dealt with in EN 1997-1:

Section 1: General

Section 2: Basis of geotechnical design

Section 3: Geotechnical data

Section 4: Supervision of construction, monitoring and maintenance

Section 5: Fill, dewatering, ground improvement and reinforcement

Section 6: Spread foundations

Section 7: Pile foundations

Section 8: Anchorages

Section 9: Retaining structures