

ECCS TC7 TWG 7.9
Sandwich Panels and Related Structures

European Recommendations on the Stabilization of Steel Structures by Sandwich Panels

1st Edition, 2014



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PREFACE

This document gives information about the use of self-supporting sandwich panels as stabilizing elements for single steel members such as beams or columns. The document extends the application range of sandwich panels to construction class II according to EN 1993-1-3.

Sandwich panels provide stiffness against displacements in the plane of the panels and against rotation about the transverse axis of the panels. Thus, the sandwich panels may support the steel members against flexural, torsional and lateral buckling. The effect of stabilization mainly depends on the properties, location and number of fastenings installed between the individual sandwich panels and between the sandwich panels and the supporting structures. This document introduces the evaluation of rotational stiffness and shear stiffness provided by individual sandwich panels that are installed in a wall or roof of a building. In these Recommendations, the use of information is limited in order to stabilize only single structural members.

The European standard EN 14509 covers the manufacture and design of industrially made self-supporting structural sandwich panels. The use of sandwich panels as stabilizing elements such as introduced in these Recommendations extends the application area outside the scope of EN 14509. Therefore, the extended application area introduced in these Recommendations shall be regulated nationally. The sandwich panels used as stabilizing elements have to fulfil the requirements shown by the CE mark of the product.

A brief review on earlier guidelines and reports concerning the use of profiled sheeting and sandwich panels as stabilizing elements provides useful background information.

According to the knowledge of today, the sandwich panels shall be used as stiffening elements only in cases, in which the load predominantly consists of quasi-static loads, such as self-weight, snow and wind load. Repeated loads, e.g. loads caused by earthquake, are not covered by the Recommendations. Research work and further practical experience may result in new products and new ways to fasten the panels to the supporting structure in order to make stiffening technically and economically even more effective.

This document has been prepared by the European Joint Committee on Sandwich Constructions consisting of ECCS Technical Working Group TWG 7.9 and CIB Working Commission W056. The document was approved by the Technical Committee TC7. The final draft was circulated for comments to ECCS TC7.

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CONTENTS

PREFACE	iii
CONTENTS	v
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Aims of the document	1
1.2 Application range	1
1.3 Design of beams and columns with restraint	2
1.4 Review of previous guidelines and publications	4
1.5 Symbols and definitions	7
2. TORSIONAL RESTRAINT	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 General background	11
2.3 Determination of C_{91} and C_{92}	13
2.4 Limitation of stabilization moment	16
2.5 Limitation of the rotation of the stabilized beam	17
2.6 Advanced analysis	17
2.7 Experimental determination of parameters	18
3. LATERAL RESTRAINT - IN-PLANE SHEAR RESISTANCE	21
3.1 Introduction	21
3.2 Determination of shear stiffness S	22
3.2.1 Uni-directionally spanning panels	22
3.2.2 Panels with a single rigid support	24
3.3 Stiffness of fastenings	25

3.3.1	Determination of stiffness by calculation	25
3.3.2	Determination of stiffness by tests	29
3.4	Stabilization forces	29
3.5	Forces in fastenings	33
3.5.1	Introduction	33
3.5.2	Uni-directionally spanning panels	33
3.5.3	Panels with a single rigid support	36
3.6	Limitation of deformations	37
BIBLIOGRAPHY		39
ANNEX 1: PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS		47
A-1 1. GENERAL REMARKS		47
A-1 2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS		47
A-1 2.1	General information	47
A-1 2.2	Owner or User	47
A-1 2.3	Designer	48
A-1 2.4	Manufacturer of sandwich panels	48
A-1 2.5	Installer	49
A-1 3. WORK ON SITE		49
A-1 4. FASTENING OF SANDWICH PANELS		50
ANNEX 2: EXAMPLES		53
Example No. 1: Torsional restraint of a hot-rolled section		53
Example No. 2: Torsional restraint of a cold-formed C-section		56
Example No. 3: In-plane-shear stiffness		59
Example No. 4: In-plane-shear stiffness - Panels with a single rigid support		62