

An ACI Standard

# Qualification of Post-Installed Mechanical Anchors in Concrete (ACI 355.2-19) and Commentary

Reported by ACI Committee 355

ACI 355.2-19



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## Qualification of Post-Installed Mechanical Anchors in Concrete (ACI 355.2-19) and Commentary

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# Qualification of Post-Installed Mechanical Anchors in Concrete (ACI 355.2-19) and Commentary

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Reported by Joint ACI Committee 355

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*ACI 355.2 prescribes testing criteria and evaluation requirements for post-installed mechanical anchors intended for use in concrete under the design provisions of ACI 318. Criteria are prescribed for determining whether anchors are acceptable for use in uncracked concrete only, or in cracked as well as uncracked*

*concrete. Performance categories for anchors are established, and are the criteria for assigning anchors to each category. The anchor performance categories are used by ACI 318 to assign capacity reduction factors and other design parameters.*

**Keywords:** anchors; cracked concrete; expansion anchors; fasteners; mechanical anchors; post-installed anchors; screw anchors; undercut anchors.

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## CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 1—SCOPE, p. 5****CHAPTER 2—DEFINITIONS AND NOTATION, p. 7**

- 2.1—Definitions, p. 7
- 2.2—Notation, p. 8

**CHAPTER 3—SIGNIFICANCE AND USE, p. 13****CHAPTER 4—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, p. 16**

- 4.1—Testing sequence, p. 16
- 4.2—Test samples, p. 25
- 4.3—Testing by independent testing and evaluation agency and by manufacturer, p. 26
- 4.4—Changes to product, p. 26

**CHAPTER 5—REQUIREMENTS FOR TEST SPECIMENS, INSTALLING ANCHORS, AND CONDUCTING TESTS, p. 29**

- 5.1—Concrete for test members, p. 29
- 5.2—Anchor installation, p. 30
- 5.3—Test methods, p. 37
- 5.4—Tests in cracked concrete, p. 37
- 5.5—General requirements for anchor behavior, p. 38

**CHAPTER 6—REQUIREMENTS FOR ANCHOR IDENTIFICATION, p. 45**

- 6.1—Determination of critical characteristics of anchors, p. 45
- 6.2—Specification of critical characteristics of anchors, p. 45
- 6.3—Verification of conformance to drawings and specifications, p. 45

**CHAPTER 7—REFERENCE TESTS, p. 48**

- 7.1—Purpose, p. 48
- 7.2—Reference tension tests for single anchors without spacing and edge effects (Table 4.1a, Tests 1 through 3, or Table 4.1b, Tests 1 through 5), p. 48
- 7.3—Required calculations using results of reference tests, p. 49

**CHAPTER 8—RELIABILITY TESTS, p. 52**

- 8.1—Purpose, p. 52
- 8.2—Reliability tests using reduced installation effort (Table 4.1a, Test 4 and Table 4.1b, Test 6), p. 52

8.3—Reliability in low-strength concrete with large drill bit (Table 4.1a, Test 5, and Table 4.1b, Test 7), p. 53

8.4—Reliability in high-strength concrete with small drill bit (Table 4.1a, Test 6, and Table 4.1b, Test 8), p. 53

8.5—Reliability under repeated load (Table 4.1a, Test 7, and Table 4.1b, Test 10 for screw anchors), p. 54

8.6—Reliability in cracked concrete where crack width is cycled (Table 4.1b, Test 9), p. 55

8.7—Reliability of screw anchors for brittle failure (Table 4.1a, Test 8, and Table 4.1b, Test 11), p. 58

8.8—Reliability tests of screw anchors to setting method (Table 4.1a, Tests 9, 10, and 11, or Table 4.1b, Tests 12, 13, and 14), p. 64

**CHAPTER 9—SERVICE-CONDITION TESTS, p. 68**

- 9.1—Purpose, p. 68
- 9.2—Service-condition tension test with single anchor and with two edges (corner) (Table 4.1a, Test 12, and Table 4.1b, Test 15), p. 68
- 9.3—Service-condition test at maximum edge distance and minimum spacing (Table 4.1a, Test 13, and Table 4.1b, Test 16), p. 69
- 9.4—Service-condition shear test for single anchors without spacing and edge effects (Table 4.1a, Test 14, and Table 4.1b, Test 17), p. 71
- 9.5—Service-condition, simulated seismic tension tests (Table 4.1b, Test 18), p. 71
- 9.6—Service-condition, simulated seismic shear tests (Table 4.1b, Test 19), p. 73
- 9.7—Torque tests (Table 4.1a, Test 15, and Table 4.1b, Test 20) – Optional, p. 76

**CHAPTER 10—ESTABLISHING ANCHOR CATEGORIES, p. 78****CHAPTER 11—PRESENTING ANCHOR DATA, p. 79**

- 11.1—Data analysis, p. 79
- 11.2—Format of data sheet, p. 79
- 11.3—General requirements, p. 79
- 11.4—Contents of evaluation report, p. 79

**CHAPTER 12—REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT TESTING AND EVALUATION AGENCY, p. 80****CHAPTER 13—REFERENCES, p. 81**

- Authored documents, p. 81

**MANDATORY APPENDIXES:****APPENDIX A1—REQUIREMENTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RESULTS, p. 82**

A1.1—Normalization of capacities to take account of concrete and steel strengths, p. 82

A1.2—Concrete breakout or splitting failure, p. 82

A1.3—Pullout and pull-through failure, p. 82

A1.4—Steel failure, p. 82

**APPENDIX A2—REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING CHARACTERISTIC CAPACITIES, p. 83**

A2.1—Scope, p. 83

A2.2—Procedure, p. 83

**APPENDIX A3—REQUIREMENTS FOR TEST MEMBERS, p. 84**

A3.1—Tests in uncracked concrete, p. 84

A3.2—Tests in cracked concrete, p. 84

A3.3—Casting and curing of test members, p. 85

**EXAMPLE OF EVALUATION OF A WEDGE-TYPE ANCHOR IN UNCRACKED CONCRETE, p. 86**

E1—Anchor specifications, p. 86

E2—Test results, p. 87

E4—Establishing anchor category, p. 91

E5—Report of anchor data, p. 91

## CODE

## CHAPTER 1—SCOPE

**1.1** ACI 355.2 prescribes testing and evaluation requirements for post-installed mechanical anchors intended for use in concrete designed under the provisions of ACI 318. Criteria are prescribed to determine whether anchors are acceptable for use in uncracked concrete only, or in cracked as well as uncracked concrete. Criteria are prescribed to determine the performance category for each anchor. The anchor performance categories are used by ACI 318 to assign capacity reduction factors and other design parameters.

**1.2** ACI 355.2 describes the tests required to qualify a post-installed mechanical anchor or anchor system for use under the provisions of ACI 318.

**1.3** ACI 355.2 applies to post-installed mechanical anchors (torque-controlled expansion anchors, displacement-controlled expansion anchors, undercut anchors, and screw anchors) placed into predrilled holes and anchored within the concrete by mechanical means.

**1.4** ACI 355.2 applies to expansion, undercut, and screw anchors with a minimum effective embedment depth of 1-1/2 in. (40 mm) and with a nominal diameter of 1/4 in. (6 mm) or larger. Screw anchors are limited to a maximum effective embedment of  $10d_a$  (refer to R1.4).

**1.5** The values stated either in inch-pound units or SI units are to be separately regarded. Within the text, the SI units are shown in parentheses. The values in each system are

## COMMENTARY

## CHAPTER R1—SCOPE

**R1.1** ACI 355.2 prescribes the testing programs required to qualify post-installed mechanical anchors for use with the design method of ACI 318-19 Chapter 17, where it is assumed that anchors have been tested either for use in uncracked concrete or for use in cracked and uncracked concrete. This testing is performed in concrete specimens controlled by the testing laboratory as a means of simulating concrete, both cracked and uncracked, that might occur in actual structures. Post-installed mechanical anchors exhibit a range of working principles, proprietary designs, and performance characteristics. ACI 318-19 Chapter 17 addresses this situation by basing capacity reduction factors for anchors on anchor performance categories. ACI 355.2 is intended to develop the data required by ACI 318-19 Chapter 17 to confirm an anchor's reliability and place it in the appropriate anchor category.

Procedures for making and controlling cracks in test members have been published. Also, ASTM E488/E488M includes some details for cracked concrete test members similar to those in this document. ASTM E488/E488M also has detailed test procedures for testing in cracked concrete.

**R1.4** The design method deemed to satisfy the anchor design requirements of ACI 318-19 Chapter 17 is based on an analysis of a database of anchors with a maximum diameter of 2 in. (50 mm) and an embedment depth not greater than 25 in. (635 mm). ACI 355.2 can be used for anchors with those maximum dimensions. While ACI 355.2 gives no limitations on maximum anchor diameter or embedment depth, for anchors beyond these dimensions, the testing authority should decide if the tests described herein are applicable or if alternative tests and analyses are more appropriate. The minimum diameter of 1/4 in. (6 mm) is based on practical considerations regarding the limit of structural anchor applications. The current database of screw anchors contains products with an embedment up to  $h_{ef} = 10d_a$  due to practical limits of manufacturing and ability to install at deep embedments. This database has been shown to satisfy the design requirements of ACI 318-19 Chapter 17. Additional research for deeper embedments would be required to further expand the scope of ACI 355.2 for screw anchors.