IN-LB Inch-Pound Units

An ACI Standard

Building Code for Structural Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary

Reported by ACI Committee 318

ACI CODE-318-25

American Concrete Institute
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Building Code for Structural Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary (ACI CODE-318-25)

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ACI CODE-318-25 was approved by the ACI Standards Board for publication January 2025, and published January 2025. ACI CODE-318 was first published in 1908, and revised in 1910, 1920, 1927, 1936, 1941, 1947, 1951, 156, 1963, 1971, 1977, 1983, 1989, 1995, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2011, 2014, and 2019.

First Printing: January 2025
ISBN: 978-1-64195-309-2

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PREFACE TO ACI CODE-318-25

The "Building Code for Structural Concrete" ("Code") provides minimum requirements for the materials, design, and detailing of structural concrete buildings and, where applicable, nonbuilding structures. The Code was developed using a consensus process and addresses structural systems, members, and connections, including cast-in-place, precast, shotcrete, plain, nonprestressed, and prestressed, construction. Among the subjects covered are: design and construction for strength, serviceability, and durability; load combinations, load factors, and strength reduction factors; structural analysis methods; deflection limits; mechanical and adhesive anchoring to concrete; development and splicing of reinforcement; construction document information; field inspection and testing; methods to evaluate the strength of existing structures; design verification using nonlinear response history analysis in Appendix A; performance-based wind design in Appendix B, and sustainability and resilience in Appendix C.

Uses of the Code include adoption by reference in a general building code, and earlier editions have been widely used in this manner. The Code is written in a format that allows such reference without change to its language. Commentary is provided for background information and further explanation of the code requirements. Cited references provide research data useful in studying technical issues in greater detail. Other references, provide greater insight into the code the requirements. Technical changes from ACI CODE-318-19 to ACI CODE-318-25 are indicated by change bars in the margin of the print and PDF versions. Technical changes from ACI CODE-318-19 to ACI CODE-318-25 may also be viewed in red highlights within the PLUS version (https://www.concrete.org/publications/aci318plus.aspx).

Special thanks to Bentley Systems, Incorporated, for use of their ProConcrete software to produce many of the figures found in the Commentary.

KEYWORDS

admixtures; aggregates; anchorage (structural); beam-column frame; beams (supports); caissons; cements; cold weather; columns (supports); combined stress; composite construction (concrete to concrete); compressive strength; concrete; construction documents; construction joints; continuity (structural); contraction joints; cover; curing; deep beams; deep foundations; deflections; drilled piers; earthquake-resistant structures; flexural strength; floors; footings; formwork (construction); hot weather; inspection; isolation joints; joints (junctions); joists; lightweight concretes; load tests (structural); loads (forces); mixture proportioning; modulus of elasticity; moments; piles; placing; plain concrete; precast concrete; prestressed concrete; prestressing steels; quality control; reinforced concrete; reinforcing steels; resilience; roofs; serviceability; shear strength; shotcrete; spans; splicing; strength analysis; stresses; structural analysis; structural design; structural integrity; structural walls; sustainability; T-beams; torsion; walls; water; welded wire reinforcement.

INTRODUCTION

ACI CODE-318-25, "Building Code for Structural Concrete—Code Requirements and Commentary," hereinafter called the Code or the 2025 Code are presented in a side by- side column format. The Code requirements and Commentary are two separate but coordinated documents, with Code text placed in the left column and the corresponding Commentary text aligned in the right column. Commentary section numbers are preceded by an "R" to further distinguish them from Code section numbers. The two documents are bound together solely for the user's convenience. Each document carries a separate enforceable and distinct copyright.

As the name implies, "Building Code for Structural Concrete—Code Requirements" is meant to be used as part of a legally adopted building code and as such must differ in form and substance from documents that provide detailed specifications, recommended practice, complete design procedures, or design aids.

The Code is intended to cover all buildings of the usual types, both large and small. Requirements more stringent than the Code provisions may be desirable for different types of construction. The Code and Commentary cannot replace sound engineering knowledge, experience, and judgment.

A building code states only the minimum requirements necessary to provide for public health and safety. The Code is based on this principle. For any structure, the owner or the licensed design professional may require the quality of materials and construction to be higher than the minimum requirements necessary to protect the public as stated in the Code. Lower standards are not permitted.

The Code has no legal status unless it is adopted by the government bodies having the police power to regulate building design and construction. Where the Code has not been adopted, it may serve as a reference to good practice even though it has no legal status.

The Code and Commentary are not intended for use in settling disputes between the owner, engineer, architect, contractor, or their agents, subcontractors, material suppliers, or testing agencies. Therefore, the Code cannot define the contract responsibilities of each of the parties in usual construction. General references requiring compliance with the Code in the project specifications should be avoided because the contractor is rarely in a position to accept responsibility for design details or construction requirements that depend on detailed knowledge of the design. Design-build construction contractors, however, typically combine the design and construction responsibility. Generally, the contract documents should contain all necessary requirements to ensure compliance with the Code. In part, this can be accomplished by reference to specific Code sections in the project specifications. Other ACI publications, such as "Specifications for Concrete Construction" (ACI SPEC-301), are written specifically for use as contract documents for construction.

The Commentary discusses some of the considerations of Committee 318 in developing the provisions contained in the Code. Emphasis is given to the explanation of new or revised provisions that may be unfamiliar to Code users. In addition, comments are included for some items contained in previous editions of the Code to make the present Commentary independent of the previous editions. Comments on specific provisions are made under the corresponding chapter and section numbers of the Code.

The Commentary is not intended to provide a complete historical background concerning the development of the Code, nor is it intended to provide a detailed resumé of the studies and research data reviewed by the committee in formulating the provisions of the Code. However, references to some of the research data are provided for those who wish to study the background material in depth.

The Commentary directs attention to other documents that provide suggestions for carrying out the requirements and intent of the Code. However, those documents and the Commentary are not a part of the Code.

The Commentary is intended for the use of individuals who are competent to evaluate the significance and limitations of its content and recommendations, and who will accept responsibility for the application of the information it contains. ACI disclaims any and all responsibility for the stated principles. The Institute shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising therefrom. Reference to the Commentary shall not be made in construction documents. If items found in the Commentary are desired by the licensed design professional to be a part of the contract documents, they shall be restated in mandatory language for incorporation by the licensed design professional.

It is recommended to have the materials, processes, quality control measures, and inspections described in this document tested, monitored, or performed by individuals holding the appropriate ACI Certification or equivalent, when available. The personnel certification programs of the American Concrete Institute and the Post-Tensioning Institute; the plant certification programs of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, the Post-Tensioning Institute, and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association; and the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute's Voluntary Certification Program for Fusion-Bonded Epoxy Coating Applicator Plants are available for this purpose. In addition, "Standard Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection, Testing, or Special Inspection" (ASTM E329-18) specifies performance requirements for inspection and testing agencies.

Design reference materials illustrating applications of the Code requirements may be found on the ACI website, www.concrete.org.

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APPENDICES & REFERENCES

CHAPTER 1—GENERAL

CODE

1.1—Scope of ACI CODE-318

1.1.1 This chapter addresses (a) through (h):

(a) General requirements of this Code
(b) Purpose of this Code
(c) Applicability of this Code
(d) Interpretation of this Code
(e) Definition and role of the building official and the licensed design professional
(f) Construction documents
(g) Testing and inspection
(h) Approval of special systems of design, construction, or alternative construction materials

1.2—General

1.2.1 ACI CODE-318, "Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete," is hereafter referred to as "this Code."

1.2.2 In this Code, the general building code refers to the building code adopted in a jurisdiction. When adopted, this Code forms part of the general building code.

1.2.3 The official version of this Code is the English language version, using inch-pound units, published by the American Concrete Institute.

1.2.4 In case of conflict between the official version of this Code and other versions of this Code, the official version governs.

1.2.5 This Code provides minimum requirements for the materials, design, construction, and strength evaluation of structural concrete members and systems in any structure designed and constructed under the requirements of the general building code.

1.2.6 Modifications to this Code that are adopted by a particular jurisdiction are part of the laws of that jurisdiction, but are not a part of this Code.

1.2.7 If no general building code is adopted, this Code provides minimum requirements for the materials, design, construction, and strength evaluation of members and systems in any structure within the scope of this Code.

COMMENTARY

R1.1—Scope of ACI CODE-318

R1.1.1 The Code includes provisions for the design of concrete used for structural purposes, including plain concrete; concrete containing nonprestressed reinforcement, prestressed reinforcement, or both; and anchoring to concrete. This chapter includes a number of provisions that explain where the Code applies and how it is to be interpreted.

R1.2—General

R1.2.1 The commentary refers to ACI CODE-318 as "the Code."

R1.2.2 The American Concrete Institute recommends that the Code be adopted in its entirety.

R1.2.3 Committee 318 develops the Code in English, using inch-pound units. Two translations are published by ACI:

(a) In English using SI units (ACI CODE-318-25—Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete [SI International System of Units])
(b) In Spanish using SI units (ACI CODE-318-25—Requisitos de Reglamento para Concreto Estructural)

R1.2.5 The Code provides minimum requirements and exceeding these minimum requirements is not a violation of the Code.

The licensed design professional may specify project requirements that exceed the minimum requirements of the Code.