

# Wind Loads and Anchor Bolt Design for Petrochemical Facilities

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Abstract:

Current codes and standards do not address many of the structures found in the petrochemical industry. Therefore, many engineers and companies involved in the industry have independently developed procedures and techniques for handling different engineering issues. This lack of standardization in the industry has led to inconsistent structural reliability. These reports, *Wind Loads on Petrochemical Facilities and Design of Anchor Bolts in Petrochemical Facilities*, are intended as state-of-the-practice set of guidelines in the determination of wind induced forces and the design of anchor bolts for petrochemical facilities, respectively. These reports are aimed at structural design engineers familiar with design of industrial-type structures.

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Wind Loads on Petrochemical  
Facilities

Prepared by the  
Task Committee on Wind Induced Forces

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## The ASCE Petrochemical Energy Committee

This publication is one of five state-of-the-practice engineering reports produced, to date, by the ASCE Petrochemical Energy Committee. These engineering reports are intended to be a summary of the current knowledge and design practice, and present guidelines for the design of petrochemical facilities. They represent a consensus opinion of task committee members active in their development. These five ASCE engineering reports are:

- 1) *Design of Anchor Bolts in Petrochemical Facilities*
- 2) *Design of Blast Resistant Buildings in Petrochemical Facilities*
- 3) *Design of Secondary Containment in Petrochemical Facilities*
- 4) *Guidelines for Seismic Evaluation and Design of Petrochemical Facilities*
- 5) *Wind Loads on Petrochemical Facilities*

The ASCE Petrochemical Energy Committee was organized by A. K. Gupta in 1991 and initially chaired by Curley Turner. Under their leadership, the task committees were formed. More recently, the Committee has been chaired by J. A. Bohinsky followed by Frank Hsiu.

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### The ASCE Task Committee on Wind Induced Forces

This report is intended to be a state-of-the-practice set of guidelines. It is based on reviews of current practice, internal company standards, published documents, and the work of related organizations. The report includes a list of references that provide additional information.

This report was prepared to provide guidance in the determination of wind induced forces for petrochemical facilities. However, it should be of interest to structural design engineers familiar with design of industrial type structures and the application of *ASCE 7 "Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and other Structures"* to these type structures.

The committee would like to thank Ahmad Nadeem who was assisted greatly with our research on open frame structures.

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This report is structured around generic types of facilities usually found in the process industries:

- a) Pipe support structures (pipe racks).
- b) Open and partially clad frame structures.
- c) Vessels (vertical, horizontal and spherical).

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

The basis and procedures for determining wind induced forces for enclosed structures and other conventional structures are well documented in the engineering literature. These design basis and procedures have been adopted by ASCE and codified in *ASCE 7* and its predecessor documents. Other organizations have incorporated the major provisions of *ASCE 7* into building codes, including the Uniform Building Code, Standard Building Code and BOCA/National Building Code. These building codes have been adopted in ordinances and laws written by various local and regional jurisdictions.

The "Scope" statement for *ASCE 7* indicates that the standard provides minimum load requirements for the design of buildings and other structures that are subject to building codes. *ASCE 7* does not adequately address open frame structures, structures with interconnecting piping, partially clad structures, and vessels with attached piping and platforms. However, it does address enclosed structures, trussed towers and simple cylinders.

Wind induced forces are typically calculated using the force equation from *ASCE 7*:

$$F=q_z G C_f A \quad (1.1)$$

In this equation  $q_z$  is the velocity pressure component,  $G$  is for the gust component,  $C_f$  is the force/shape/drag/shielding component, and  $A$  is the area for which the force is calculated. The velocity pressure component of this force ( $q_z$ ) has three factors; the importance of the structure, the surrounding terrain (exposure category), and design wind speed.

The selection of basic wind speed, importance factor, exposure category and gust response factor are defined in *ASCE 7* and therefore are not discussed in detail. Force coefficients, tributary areas, and shielding are not clearly defined in *ASCE 7* for industrial - type structures and equipment. These load components are discussed in this report and recommendations for selecting values are made. Since this report is intended to supplement *ASCE 7*, the designer will be referred to that document when it provides the appropriate information. The nomenclature and glossary used in the recommendations of this document mirror those found in *ASCE 7*.

## **1.2 STATE OF THE PRACTICE**

This study is based on current industry practices in the design of petrochemical facilities. The practices are generally based on a company's experience and the desire to provide an economical facility that provides a margin of safety that is consistent with the perceived risk. These practices, as interpreted by the committee, are quite varied. For a given type of structure, the practices currently in use can result in design wind induced forces that vary by factors as large as 5, when using the same basic wind speed and exposure category.

## **1.3 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

It is intent of this committee that the publication of this report will result in a more uniform application of practices across the petrochemical energy industry. In order to facilitate this goal a set of recommended guidelines is presented as part of this report.