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# Design of Nuclear Safety-Related Structures for Impactive and Impulsive Loads using ACI CODE-349 and ASME Section III, Division 2 Provisions—Guide

Reported by ACI Committees 349 and 359



American Concrete Institute  
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Reported by ACI Committees 349 and 359

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## PREFACE

This guide is the work of the ACI 349/359 Task Group on Impulsive and Impactive Loading that established a proposal of updated design provisions for both ACI CODE-349 and ASME BPVC Section III, Division 2. The provisions of this guide are nonbinding on ACI CODE-349-23 Appendix F or ASME BPVC Section III, Division 2:2011 and may change if implemented.

This guide gives the genesis of the provisions that are proposed to be incorporated into these code documents and further explains why these provisions were adopted. Furthermore, the primary mandate of this guide was to align both aforementioned codes and to bring these codes up to date with current industry practices, using current references for the provisions of both code documents. This guide serves as an independent report of the task group's work to the code committees. This guide is issued as a detailed commentary to the provisions of ACI CODE-349-23 Appendix F or ASME BPVC Section III, Division 2. The language of ACI CODE-349-13 and ASME BPVC Section III, Division 2:2011 form the starting point for the proposed nonbinding revisions already incorporated in the first two columns of this guide. The last column does not provide proposed changes but provides explanations of why such changes are proposed.

**Keywords:** blast; hard impact; impact; impulse; nuclear structure; perforation; scabbing; soft impact; structural analysis; structural design.



## NOTATION AND DEFINITIONS

## Notation

$A_d$	= area of diagonal reinforcement	$p$	= pressure (Section RF.6.1); perimeter of missile cross section (Section RF.7.2.1)
$A_g$	= gross area of concrete section	$R_{avail}$	= available resistance
$A_s$	= area of steel reinforcement	$R_{DL}$	= dead load resistance
$A_{sh}$	= area of hoop reinforcement	$R_{m1}$	= resistance required at $F_1$
$a_g$	= aggregate size of concrete	$R_{m2}$	= resistance required at $F_2$
$b$	= width of compression face of member	$R_u$	= ultimate resistance
$c$	= distance from extreme compression fiber to neutral axis	$r$	= percentage of reinforcement described by the percentage each way in each face
$c_r$	= reinforcing bar spacing	$r_0$	= rotational capacity/support rotation (refer to Fig. RF.3.3)
$D$	= effective missile diameter	$s_h$	= spacing of hoops
$d$	= distance from extreme compression fiber to centroid of longitudinal tension reinforcement (Section F.2.3); effective diameter or the diameter of the hard/rigid part if the missile contains flexible part (Section RF.7.2.1)	$t$	= total section thickness
$d_e$	= distance between the front face and reinforcement	$t_d$	= impact duration
$d_{load}$	= diameter of loaded area	$t_p$	= perforation thickness
$e_b$	= eccentricity corresponding to balanced strain conditions	$t_s$	= scabbing thickness
$\bar{F}$	= impact force demand for high-mass, low-velocity impact (Section F.6.3); average value of the time-dependent force resultant of the missile (Section RF.6.4)	$\dot{u}$	= reference velocity
$F_1$	= maximum impulsive loading	$\dot{u}_{max}$	= impact velocity
$F_2$	= approximately constant impulse loading during $\Delta t$	$V_d$	= direct shear capacity
$F_e$	= effective load for a single degree of freedom (SDOF) model (Section RF.6.1)	$V_u$	= factored shear force at section
$F_p$	= static punching capacity of a slab	$v$	= missile impact velocity
$F_t$	= resultant force	$W$	= weight of missile
$f'_c$	= concrete compressive strength	$X_m$	= maximum acceptable displacement
$f_{dc}$	= dynamic compressive strength	$X_y$	= effective yield point
$f_{ds}$	= dynamic stress capacity of steel reinforcement	$x$	= penetration depth of missile
$f_u$	= ultimate strength	$Y_j$	= jet impingement load, or related internal moments and forces, on the structure generated by a postulated pipe break
$f_y$	= specified yield strength of reinforcement	$Y_m$	= missile impact load, or related internal moments and forces, on the structure generated by a postulated pipe break, such as pipe whip
$H_0$	= target thickness	$Y_r$	= loads, or related internal moments and forces, on the structure generated by the reaction of the broken pipe during a postulated break
$h$	= overall thickness or height of member	$\alpha$	= angle defining orientation of reinforcement
$I$	= total impulse	$\Delta t$	= time interval
$I_{cr}$	= moment of inertia of cracked section transformed to concrete	$\epsilon_{cu}$	= maximum concrete compression strain
$I_g$	= moment of inertia of gross concrete section about centroidal axis, neglecting reinforcement	$\phi$	= strength reduction factor
$K$	= value of $F_t$ to cause unit deflection at point of application of resultant force (Section RF.6.1); concrete penetrability factor (Section RF.7.2.1)	$\phi(x,y)$	= deformed shape function
$K_e$	= elastic stiffness	$\mu$	= ductility ratio
$k$	= stiffness of impactor (Section F.6.3)	$\mu_d$	= permissible ductility ratio
$L_d$	= development length	$\rho$	= ratio of $A_s$ to $bd$ (Section F.4.2); concrete density (Section RF.7.2.1)
$\ell_h$	= unsupported length	$\rho_p$	= average percentage of reinforcement on the tensioned face
$M$	= mass of missile	$\sigma$	= principal stress
$M_e$	= equivalent mass	$\sigma_e$	= effective stress
$m$	= mass per unit area (Section RF.6.1); mass of the impactor (Section F.6.3)	$\psi$	= cross-section curvature (Attachment B)
$N$	= missile nose shape factor		
$P_b$	= nominal axial strength at balanced strain conditions		
$P_{n(max)}$	= design axial strength		

## Definitions

**abnormal, extreme environmental, and abnormal and extreme environmental load categories**—structural members designed to resist impactive and impulsive loads and dynamic effects are structures in the abnormal, extreme environmental, and abnormal and extreme environmental categories, which can have permanent, plastic deformations.

**component damage levels**—acceptable damage levels in F.3.3 and F.3.4 as invoked either by the ACI CODE-349 or