

Application comments regarding safety concepts for formwork and scaffolding

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1. Explanatory remarks

Since the end of 2007 a consistent series of standards (Eurocodes EC) is existing for the construction industry in Europe which determines the requirements regarding the serviceability, structural safety and durability of structures. These Eurocodes are valid throughout Europe and provide the basics for product specifications, tenders and mathematical calculation. They are the world's most highly developed set of standards in the field of construction.

The Eurocodes along with the associated national standards are based on the concept of limit state design with partial safety factors. This verification procedure replaces the widely used " σ_{perm} concept" (permissible stress design) which compares the actual stresses with the permissible stresses of the material.

The Eurocodes compare the actions E_d (loads) with the resistance R_d (capacity). The previous safety factor, used when determining the permissible stresses, is now divided into several partial safety factors on the action and resistance sides. The safety level remains the same!

This document contains exemplary values of the European standards and presents the design concept in the form of extracts. For specific application the standards shall be considered.

In the user manuals of the GSV member companies "permissible values" are used unless otherwise stated.

It is important to make sure that "permissible values" (e.g. $M_{perm} = 50$ kNm) are not mixed with design values (e.g. $M_{Rd} = 75$ kNm).

The correlations are shown in the following table and illustration:

$$E_d \leq R_d$$

Action side	Resistance side
E_d Design value of effect of actions, e.g. V_{Ed}, N_{Ed}, M_{Ed} (E – effect; Index d – design); Internal forces from action F_d	R_d Design value of the resistance (R – resistance); Design capacity of cross-section (V_{Rd}, N_{Rd}, M_{Rd}) Steel: $R_d = \frac{R_k}{\gamma_M}$ Timber: $R_d = \frac{k_{mod} * R_k}{\gamma_M}$
F_d Design value of an action (F – force); $F_d = \gamma_f * F_k$	
F_k Characteristic value of an action (service load) (Index k – characteristic); e.g. dead weight, live load, concrete pressure, wind	R_k Characteristic value of the resistance V_{Rk}, N_{Rk}, M_{Rk} etc.; e.g. bending moment of resistance to yield stress
γ_f Partial safety factor for actions (in terms of load; Index F – force); values from EN 12812	γ_M Partial safety factor for a material property (in terms of material; Index M – material); e.g. for steel, timber, etc.; values from EN 12812
	k_{mod} Modification factor (only for timber - to take account of the moisture and duration of the load action); e.g. for timber formwork beam: values from EN 1995-1-1 and EN 13377

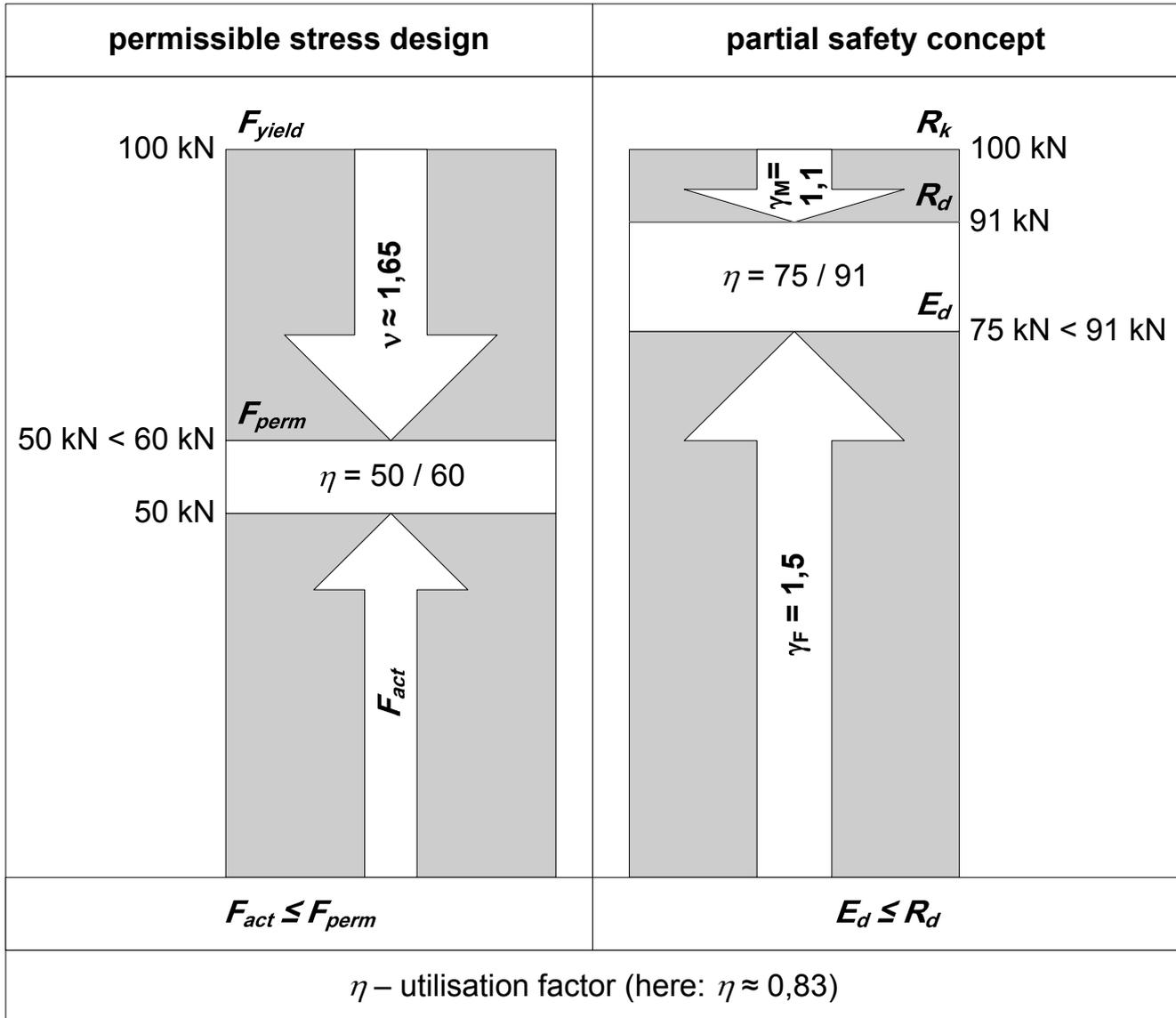


Fig. 1: Comparison of the safety concepts

From the "permissible values", the design values for the design capacity are determined with the following typical partial safety factors:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_F &= 1,5 \\ \gamma_{M \text{ Stahl}} &= 1,1 \\ \gamma_{M \text{ Holz}} &= 1,3 \\ k_{mod} &= 0,9 \text{ (timber formwork beam)} \end{aligned}$$

In general, the following applies for steel:

$$F_{perm} = \frac{R_k}{\gamma_F * \gamma_M}$$

for timber:

$$F_{perm} = \frac{R_k * k_{mod}}{\gamma_F * \gamma_M}$$

Proof of serviceability (deflection) is realised with the partial safety factor $\gamma_F = 1.0$.

2. Examples

2.1 Example: conversion between the verification concepts

Timber formwork beam (EN 13377, DIN V 20000-2)

According to EN 13377, the timber formwork beam - Type P20 - has a permissible shear force Q in accordance with Table E.1 (EN 13377) and V in accordance with DIN V 20000-2:2006-07, Table 1: $V = 11.0 \text{ kN}$. It is assumed that this value corresponds to the characteristic action F_k – utilisation factor $\eta = 100 \%$.

How large is the design value F_d of the action F_k ?

$$F_d = \gamma_F * F_k \Rightarrow F_d = 1,5 * 11 \text{ kN} = 16,5 \text{ kN}$$

In terms of resistance, the design value of the shear force V_d must be more than or equal to the design value of the action F_d . From this, the characteristic shear bearing capacity V_k is calculated:

$$V_d = \frac{k_{\text{mod}} * V_k}{\gamma_M} \Rightarrow V_k = \frac{\gamma_M * V_d}{k_{\text{mod}}} = \frac{1,3 * 16,5 \text{ kN}}{0,9} \approx 23,9 \text{ kN}$$

This value is identical to the one in EN 13377, Table 1 is specified as characteristic design capacity $V_k = 23.9 \text{ kN}$ for the Type P20 timber formwork beam.

2.2 Example: illustrating the uniform safety level

Steel beam subject to elastic bending

Beam:	IPE 200 with W_y	= 194.300 mm ³
Material:	St 37 (old) with $\sigma_{b,perm}$	= 140 N/mm ² and
	S235 (new) with $f_{y,k}$	= 235 N/mm ² (according to EC)
Span:	L	= 2 m
Variable load	q_k	= 50 kN/m

σ_{perm} -concept (permissible stress design)	partial safety concept
$q = q_k = 50 \text{ kN/m}$	$q_d = q_k * \gamma_F = 50 \text{ kN/m} * 1,5 = 75 \text{ kN/m}$
$M_y = q * L^2 / 8$ $M_y = 50 \text{ kN/m} * 2^2 \text{ m}^2 / 8$ $M_y = 25 \text{ kNm}$	$M_d = q_d * L^2 / 8$ $M_d = 75 \text{ kN/m} * 2^2 \text{ m}^2 / 8$ $M_d = 37,5 \text{ kNm}$
$\sigma_b = M_y / W_y$ $\sigma_b = 25 * 10^6 \text{ Nmm} / 194.300 \text{ mm}^3$ $\sigma_b = 129 \text{ N/mm}^2$	$\sigma_d = M_d / W_y$ $\sigma_d = 37,5 * 10^6 \text{ Nmm} / 194.300 \text{ mm}^3$ $\sigma_d = 193 \text{ N/mm}^2$
$\sigma_{b,zul} = 140 \text{ N/mm}^2$	$f_{y,d} = f_{y,k} / \gamma_M = 235 \text{ N/mm}^2 / 1,1$ $f_{y,d} = 214 \text{ N/mm}^2$
Utilisation Factor $\eta = \sigma_b / \sigma_{b,zul} = 129 / 140 = 0,92$	$\eta = \sigma_d / f_{y,d} = 193 / 214 = 0,90$
$\sigma_b \leq \sigma_{b,zul} \quad \checkmark$	$\sigma_d \leq f_{y,d} \quad \checkmark$

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Postfach 10 41 60, 40852 Ratingen, Germany
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Editors:
Dr.-Ing. Olaf Leitzbach
Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christoph Motzko, TU Darmstadt

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