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**Petroleum and natural gas  
industries — Specific requirements  
for offshore structures —**

**Part 2:  
Seismic design procedures and  
criteria**

*Industries du pétrole et du gaz naturel — Exigences spécifiques  
relatives aux structures en mer —*

*Partie 2: Procédures de conception sismique et critères*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Offshore structures*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 12, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 19901-2:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the seismic hazard maps have been updated;
- [Clause 3](#) has been updated.

A list of all parts in the ISO 19901 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The International Standards on offshore structures prepared by TC 67 (i.e. ISO 19900, ISO 19902, ISO 19903, ISO 19904 and ISO 19906) address design requirements and assessments of all offshore structures used by the petroleum and natural gas industries worldwide. Through their application, the intention is to achieve reliability levels appropriate for manned and unmanned offshore structures, whatever the type of structure and the nature or combination of the materials used.

Structural integrity is an overall concept comprising models for describing actions, structural analyses, design or assessment rules, safety elements, workmanship, quality control procedures and national requirements, all of which are mutually dependent. The modification of one aspect of design or assessment in isolation can disturb the balance of reliability inherent in the overall concept or structural system. The implications involved in modifications, therefore, need to be considered in relation to the overall reliability of all offshore structural systems.

The International Standards on offshore structures prepared by TC 67 are intended to provide a wide latitude in the choice of structural configurations, materials and techniques without hindering innovation. Sound engineering judgement is, therefore, necessary in the use of these International Standards.

The overall concept of structural integrity is described above. Some additional considerations apply for seismic design. These include the magnitude and probability of seismic events, the use and importance of the offshore structure, the robustness of the structure under consideration and the allowable damage due to seismic actions with different probabilities. All of these, and any other relevant information, need to be considered in relation to the overall reliability of the structure.

Seismic conditions vary widely around the world, and the design criteria depend primarily on observations of historical seismic events together with consideration of seismotectonics. In many cases, site-specific seismic hazard assessments will be required to complete the design or assessment of a structure.

This document is intended to provide general seismic design procedures for different types of offshore structures, and a framework for the derivation of seismic design criteria. Further requirements are contained within the general requirements International Standard, ISO 19900, and within the structure-specific International Standards, ISO 19902, ISO 19903, ISO 19904 and ISO 19906. The consideration of seismic events in connection with mobile offshore units is addressed in the ISO 19905 series.



# Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures —

## Part 2: Seismic design procedures and criteria

### 1 Scope

This document contains requirements for defining the seismic design procedures and criteria for offshore structures; guidance on the requirements is included in [Annex A](#). The requirements focus on fixed steel offshore structures and fixed concrete offshore structures. The effects of seismic events on floating structures and partially buoyant structures are briefly discussed. The site-specific assessment of jack-ups in elevated condition is only covered in this document to the extent that the requirements are applicable.

Only earthquake-induced ground motions are addressed in detail. Other geologically induced hazards such as liquefaction, slope instability, faults, tsunamis, mud volcanoes and shock waves are mentioned and briefly discussed.

The requirements are intended to reduce risks to persons, the environment, and assets to the lowest levels that are reasonably practicable. This intent is achieved by using:

- a) seismic design procedures which are dependent on the exposure level of the offshore structure and the expected intensity of seismic events;
- b) a two-level seismic design check in which the structure is designed to the ultimate limit state (ULS) for strength and stiffness and then checked to abnormal environmental events or the abnormal limit state (ALS) to ensure that it meets reserve strength and energy dissipation requirements.

Procedures and requirements for a site-specific probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA) are addressed for offshore structures in high seismic areas and/or with high exposure levels. However, a thorough explanation of PSHA procedures is not included.

Where a simplified design approach is allowed, worldwide offshore maps, which are included in [Annex B](#), show the intensity of ground shaking corresponding to a return period of 1 000 years. In such cases, these maps can be used with corresponding scale factors to determine appropriate seismic actions for the design of a structure, unless more detailed information is available from local code or site-specific study.

**NOTE** For design of fixed steel offshore structures, further specific requirements and recommended values of design parameters (e.g. partial action and resistance factors) are included in ISO 19902, while those for fixed concrete offshore structures are contained in ISO 19903. Seismic requirements for floating structures are contained in ISO 19904, for site-specific assessment of jack-ups and other MOUs in the ISO 19905 series, for arctic structures in ISO 19906 and for topsides structures in ISO 19901-3.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 19900, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — General requirements for offshore structures*

ISO 19901-8, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Specific requirements for offshore structures — Part 8: Marine soils Investigation*

ISO 19902, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Fixed steel offshore structures*

ISO 19903, *Petroleum and natural gas industries — Concrete offshore structures*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 19900 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1 abnormal level earthquake

##### ALE

intense earthquake of abnormal severity with a very low probability of occurring during the life of the structure

Note 1 to entry: The ALE event is comparable to the abnormal event in the design of fixed structures that are described in ISO 19902 and ISO 19903.

#### 3.2 attenuation

decay of seismic waves as they travel from the earthquake source to the site under consideration

#### 3.3 deaggregation

separation of seismic hazard contribution from different faults and seismic source zones

#### 3.4 escape and evacuation system

system provided on the offshore structure to facilitate escape and evacuation in an emergency

EXAMPLE Passageways, chutes, ladders, life rafts and helidecks.

#### 3.5 extreme level earthquake

##### ELE

strong earthquake with a reasonable probability of occurring during the life of the structure

Note 1 to entry: The ELE event is comparable to the extreme environmental event in the design of fixed structures that are described in ISO 19902 and ISO 19903.

#### 3.6 fault movement

movement occurring on a fault during an earthquake

#### 3.7 ground motion

accelerations, velocities or displacements of the ground produced by seismic waves radiating away from earthquake sources

Note 1 to entry: A fixed offshore structure is founded in or on the *seabed* (3.17) and consequently only seabed motions are of significance. The expression "ground motions" is used rather than seabed motions for consistency of terminology with seismic design for onshore structures.

Note 2 to entry: Ground motions can be at a specific depth or over a specific region within the seabed.