

**Eurocode 7:  
Geotechnical design  
Part 1: General rules**

**Eurokoodeks 7:  
Geotehniline projekteerimine  
Osa 1: Üldeeskirjad**

**EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA****NATIONAL FOREWORD**

<p>Käesolev Eesti standard EVS-EN 1997-1:2005+NA:2006 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN 1997-1:2004 ja selle paranduse AC:2009 identset ingliskeelset teksti ning Eesti rahvuslikku lisa NA:2006.</p>	<p>This Estonian Standard EVS-EN 1997-1:2005+NA:2006 consists of the identical English text of the European Standard EN 1997-1:2004 including its corrigendum AC:2009 and the Estonian National Annex NA:2006.</p>
<p>Standard on kinnitatud Eesti Standardikeskuse 30.11.2006 käskkirjaga ja on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.</p>	<p>This standard is ratified with an order of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation dated 30.11.2006 and is endorsed with the notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation.</p>
<p>Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonide poolt rahvuslikele liikmetele Euroopa standardi teksti kättesaadavaks tegemise kuupäev on 24.11.2004.</p>	<p>Date of Availability of the European standard text is 24.11.2004.</p>
<p>Standard on kättesaadav Eesti Standardikeskusest.</p>	<p>The standard is available from Estonian Centre for Standardisation.</p>

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English version

## Eurocode 7: Geotechnical design - Part 1: General rules

Eurocode 7: Calcul géotechnique - Partie 1: Règles  
générales

Eurocode 7: Entwurf, Berechnung und Bemessung in der  
Geotechnik - Teil 1: Allgemeine Regeln

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 April 2004.

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## Foreword

This document (EN 1997-1) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC250 "Structural Eurocodes", the secretariat of which is held by BSI. CEN/TC 250 is responsible for all Structural Eurocodes.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text, or by endorsement, at the latest by **May 2005** and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn by **March 2010**.

This document supersedes ENV 1997-1:1994.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

## Background to the Eurocode programme

In 1975, the Commission of the European Community decided on an action programme in the field of construction, based on article 95 of the Treaty. The objective of the programme was the elimination of technical obstacles to trade and the harmonisation of technical specifications.

Within this action programme, the Commission took the initiative to establish a set of harmonised technical rules for the design of construction works which, in a first stage, would serve as an alternative to the national rules in force in the Member States and, ultimately, would replace them.

For fifteen years, the Commission, with the help of a Steering Committee with Representatives of Member States, conducted the development of the Eurocodes programme, which led to the first generation of European codes in the 1980s.

In 1989, the Commission and the Member States of the EU and EFTA decided, on the basis of an agreement<sup>1</sup> between the Commission and CEN, to transfer the preparation and the publication of the Eurocodes to CEN through a series of Mandates, in order to provide them with a future status of European Standard (EN). This links *de facto* the Eurocodes with the provisions of all the Council's Directives and/or Commissions Decisions dealing with European standards (e.g. the Council Directive 89/106/EEC on construction products - CPD - and Council Directives 93/37/EEC, 92/50/EEC and 89/440/EEC on public works and services and equivalent EFTA Directives initiated in pursuit of setting up the internal market).

The Structural Eurocode programme comprises the following standards generally consisting of a number of Parts:

EN 1990	Eurocode :	Basis of Structural Design
EN 1991	Eurocode 1:	Actions on structures
EN 1992	Eurocode 2:	Design of concrete structures
EN 1993	Eurocode 3:	Design of steel structures

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<sup>1</sup> Agreement between the Commission of the European Communities and the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) concerning the work on EUROCODES for the design of building and civil engineering works (BC/CEN/03/89).

EN 1994	Eurocode 4:	Design of composite steel and concrete structures
EN 1995	Eurocode 5:	Design of timber structures
EN 1996	Eurocode 6:	Design of masonry structures
EN 1997	Eurocode 7:	Geotechnical design
EN 1998	Eurocode 8:	Design of structures for earthquake resistance
EN 1999	Eurocode 9:	Design of aluminium structures

Eurocode standards recognise the responsibility of regulatory authorities in each Member State and have safeguarded their right to determine values related to regulatory safety matters at national level where these continue to vary from State to State.

### Status and field of application of Eurocodes

The Member States of the EU and EFTA recognise that Eurocodes serve as reference documents for the following purposes:

- as a means to prove compliance of building and civil engineering works with the essential requirements of Council Directive 89/106/EEC, particularly Essential Requirement N°1 – Mechanical resistance and stability – and Essential Requirement N°2 – Safety in case of fire;
- as a basis for specifying contracts for construction works and related engineering services;
- as a framework for drawing up harmonised technical specifications for construction products (ENs and ETAs)

The Eurocodes, as far as they concern the construction works themselves, have a direct relationship with the Interpretative Documents<sup>2</sup> referred to in Article 12 of the CPD, although they are of a different nature from harmonised product standards<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, technical aspects arising from the Eurocodes work need to be adequately considered by CEN Technical Committees and/or EOTA Working Groups working on product standards with a view to achieving full compatibility of these technical specifications with the Eurocodes.

The Eurocode standards provide common structural design rules for everyday use for the design of whole structures and component products of both a traditional and an innovative nature. Unusual forms of construction or design conditions are not specifically covered and additional expert consideration will be required by the designer in such cases.

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<sup>2</sup> According to Art. 3.3 of the CPD, the essential requirements (ERs) shall be given concrete form in interpretative documents for the creation of the necessary links between the essential requirements and the mandates for harmonised ENs and ETAGs/ETAs.

<sup>3</sup> According to Art. 12 of the CPD the interpretative documents shall :

- a) give concrete form to the essential requirements by harmonising the terminology and the technical bases and indicating classes or levels for each requirement where necessary ;
- b) indicate methods of correlating these classes or levels of requirement with the technical specifications, e.g. methods of calculation and of proof, technical rules for project design, etc. ;
- c) serve as a reference for the establishment of harmonised standards and guidelines for European technical approvals.

The Eurocodes, *de facto*, play a similar role in the field of the ER 1 and a part of ER 2.



## National Standards implementing Eurocodes

The National Standards implementing Eurocodes will comprise the full text of the Eurocode (including any annexes), as published by CEN, which may be preceded by a National title page and National foreword, and may be followed by a National annex.

The National annex may only contain information on those parameters, which are left open in the Eurocode for national choice, known as Nationally Determined Parameters, to be used for the design of buildings and civil engineering works to be constructed in the country concerned, i.e. :

- values and/or classes where alternatives are given in the Eurocode,
- values to be used where a symbol only is given in the Eurocode,
- country specific data (geographical, climatic), e.g. snow map,
- the procedure to be used where alternative procedures are given in the Eurocode.

It may also contain:

- decisions on the application of informative annexes,
- references to non-contradictory complementary information to assist the user to apply the Eurocode.

## Links between Eurocodes and harmonised technical specifications (ENs and ETAs) for products

There is a need for consistency between the harmonised technical specifications for construction products and the technical rules for works<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, all the information accompanying the CE Marking of the construction products, which refer to Eurocodes should clearly mention which Nationally Determined Parameters have been taken into account.

## Additional information specific to Eurocode 7

EN 1997-1 gives design guidance and actions for geotechnical design of buildings and civil engineering works.

EN 1997-1 is intended for clients, designers, contractors and public authorities.

EN 1997-1 is intended to be used with EN 1990 and EN 1991 to EN 1999.

In using EN 1997-1 in practice, particular regard should be paid to the underlying assumptions and conditions given in 1.3.

The 12 sections of EN 1997-1 are complemented by 1 normative and 8 informative annexes.

## National annex for EN 1997-1

This standard gives alternative procedures and recommended values with notes indicating where national choices may have to be made. Therefore the National Standard implementing EN 1997-1 should have a National annex containing all Nationally Determined Parameters to be used for the design of buildings and civil engineering works to be constructed in the relevant country.

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<sup>4</sup> see Art.3.3 and Art.12 of the CPD, as well as clauses 4.2, 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 5.2 of ID 1.

National choice is allowed in EN 1997-1 through the following paragraphs:

- 2.1(8)P, 2.4.6.1(4)P, 2.4.6.2(2)P, 2.4.7.1(2)P, 2.4.7.1(3), 2.4.7.2(2)P, 2.4.7.3.2(3)P, 2.4.7.3.3(2)P, 2.4.7.3.4.1(1)P, 2.4.7.4(3)P, 2.4.7.5(2)P, 2.4.8(2), 2.4.9(1)P, 2.5(1), 7.6.2.2(8)P, 7.6.2.2(14)P, 7.6.2.3(4)P, 7.6.2.3(5)P, 7.6.2.3(8), 7.6.2.4(4)P, 7.6.3.2(2)P, 7.6.3.2(5)P, 7.6.3.3(3)P, 7.6.3.3(4)P, 7.6.3.3(6), 8.5.2(2)P, 8.5.2(3), 8.6(4), 11.5.1(1)P

and the following clauses in annex A:

- A.2
- A.3.1, A.3.2, A.3.3.1, A.3.3.2, A.3.3.3, A.3.3.4, A.3.3.5, A.3.3.6,
- A.4
- A.5

## Section 1 General

### 1.1 Scope

#### 1.1.1 Scope of EN 1997

(1) EN 1997 is intended to be used in conjunction with EN 1990:2002, which establishes the principles and requirements for safety and serviceability, describes the basis of design and verification and gives guidelines for related aspects of structural reliability.

(2) EN 1997 is intended to be applied to the geotechnical aspects of the design of buildings and civil engineering works. It is subdivided into various separate parts (see 1.1.2 and 1.1.3).

(3) EN 1997 is concerned with the requirements for strength, stability, serviceability and durability of structures. Other requirements, e.g. concerning thermal or sound insulation, are not considered.

(4) Numerical values of actions on buildings and civil engineering works to be taken into account in design are provided in EN 1991 for the various types of construction. Actions imposed by the ground, such as earth pressures, shall be calculated according to the rules of EN 1997.

(5) Separate European Standards are intended to be used to treat matters of execution and workmanship. They are denoted in the relevant sections.

(6) In EN 1997 execution is covered to the extent that is necessary to comply with the assumptions of the design rules.

(7) EN 1997 does not cover the special requirements of seismic design. EN 1998 provides additional rules for geotechnical seismic design, which complete or adapt the rules of this Standard.

#### 1.1.2 Scope of EN 1997-1

(1) EN 1997-1 is intended to be used as a general basis for the geotechnical aspects of the design of buildings and civil engineering works.

(2) The following subjects are dealt with in EN 1997-1:

Section 1: General

Section 2: Basis of geotechnical design

Section 3: Geotechnical data

Section 4: Supervision of construction, monitoring and maintenance

Section 5: Fill, dewatering, ground improvement and reinforcement

Section 6: Spread foundations

Section 7: Pile foundations

Section 8: Anchorages

Section 9: Retaining structures

Section 10: Hydraulic failure

Section 11: Overall stability

Section 12: Embankments

(3) EN 1997-1 is accompanied by Annexes A to J, which provide:

- in A: recommended partial safety factor values; different values of the partial factors may be set by the National annex;
- in B to J: supplementary informative guidance such as internationally applied calculation methods.

### 1.1.3 Further Parts of EN 1997

(1) EN 1997-1 is supplemented by EN 1997-2 that provides requirements for the performance and evaluation of field and laboratory testing.

## 1.2 Normative references

(1) This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

NOTE The Eurocodes were published as European Prestandards. The following European Standards which are published or in preparation are cited in normative clauses

EN 1990:2002	Eurocode: Basis of structural design
EN 1991	Eurocode 1 Actions on structures
EN 1991-4	Eurocode 1 Actions on structures - Part 4 Actions in silos and tanks
EN 1992	Eurocode 2 Design of concrete structures
EN 1993	Eurocode 3 Design of steel structures
EN 1994	Eurocode 4 Design of composite steel and concrete structures
EN 1995	Eurocode 5 Design of timber structures
EN 1996	Eurocode 6 Design of masonry structures
EN 1997-2	Eurocode 7 Geotechnical design - Part 2: Ground investigation and testing
EN 1998	Eurocode 8 Design of structures for earth quake resistance
EN 1999	Eurocode 9 Design of aluminium and aluminium alloy structures
EN 1536:1999	Execution of special geotechnical work: Bored piles
EN 1537:1999	Execution of special geotechnical work; Ground anchors
EN 12063:1999	Execution of special geotechnical work; Sheet-pile walls

EN 12699:2000	Execution of special geotechnical work; Displacement piles
EN 14199	Execution of special geotechnical works – Micropiles
EN-ISO 13793: 2001	Thermal performance of buildings –Thermal design of foundations to avoid frost heave

### 1.3 Assumptions

(1) Reference is made to 1.3 of EN 1990:2002.

(2) The provisions of this standard are based on the assumptions given below:

- data required for design are collected, recorded and interpreted by appropriately qualified personnel;
- structures are designed by appropriately qualified and experienced personnel;
- adequate continuity and communication exist between the personnel involved in data-collection, design and construction;
- adequate supervision and quality control are provided in factories, in plants, and on site;
- execution is carried out according to the relevant standards and specifications by personnel having the appropriate skill and experience;
- construction materials and products are used as specified in this standard or in the relevant material or product specifications;
- the structure will be adequately maintained to ensure its safety and serviceability for the designed service life;
- the structure will be used for the purpose defined for the design.

(3) These assumptions need to be considered both by the designer and the client. To prevent uncertainty, compliance with them should be documented, e.g. in the geotechnical design report.

### 1.4 Distinction between Principles and Application Rules

(1) Depending on the character of the individual clauses, distinction is made in EN 1997-1 between Principles and Application Rules.

(2) The Principles comprise:

- general statements and definitions for which there is no alternative;
- requirements and analytical models for which no alternative is permitted unless specifically stated.

(3) The Principles are preceded by the letter P.

(4) The Application Rules are examples of generally recognised rules, which follow the Principles and satisfy their requirements.

(5) It is permissible to use alternatives to the Application Rules given in this standard, provided it is shown that the alternative rules accord with the relevant Principles and are at least