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Welcome to the sixth edition of SESOC NEWS. For general information regarding the NZ Structural Engineering Society (SESOC) and for committee contact details refer www.sesoc.org.nz

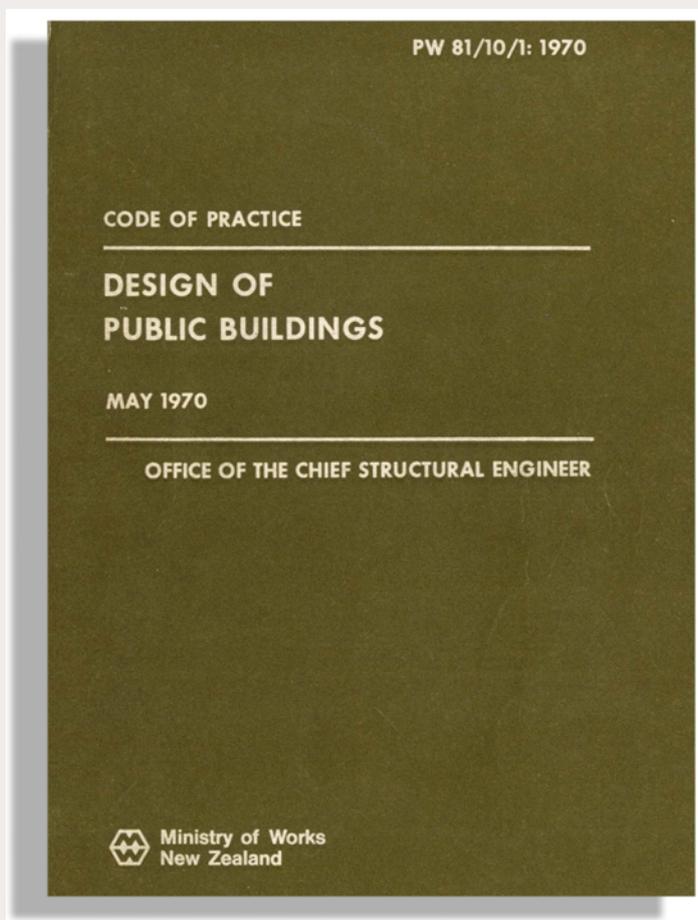
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[Independent Review of Structural Designs for Building Consent](#)

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[Structural Design Features Report Template](#)

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Back to the Future

In the 1970's the Code of Practice for Design of Public Buildings in New Zealand required an outline Design Features Report (DFR) for the structure. SESOC would like to see DFR's become a standard part of the structural documentation for future building consents.

SESOC

Structural Engineering Society of New Zealand

For general information and for committee contact details refer www.sesoc.org.nz

Postal Address

PO Box 6508
Auckland



INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF STRUCTURAL DESIGNS FOR BUILDING CONSENT

A draft SESOC Practice Guideline titled “Independent Review of Structural Designs for Building Consent” has been uploaded to the SESOC website at <http://sesoc.org.nz/SESOC-Design-Review-Guide.pdf>. Members are requested to review this Guideline and email any comments to Ashley Smith ashley@structuresmith.co.nz. An updated copy of the Guideline will be published on the SESOC website, and in the SESOC journal, after taking account of any comments received. Deadline for comments is 21 May 2010.

The target audience for the SESOC Design Review Guideline is the professional engineer who is involved in the practise of structural engineering, however it will also provide useful background material to others including regulators and building officials. It is hoped that this guideline will lead to a safer, more reliable and more consistent approach being taken by design reviewers and by Building Consent Authorities across New Zealand.

At the time of writing the government is proposing a number of options for reform of the Building Act 2004, set out in the discussion document *Cost-effective quality: next generation building control in New Zealand*. The SESOC Design Review Guideline is particularly relevant for structural engineering aspects of the high risk and complex work described in the government’s discussion document. The process of design review of structures that fit this category will be made both “simpler” and safer by the provision of higher quality and more comprehensive design documentation, coupled with higher quality and more consistent design review practices, as described in this SESOC Guideline.

The detailed content and checklists in the SESOC Guideline have been developed to include items that would typically be encountered on a major building project. It is expected, after initial familiarisation with the content of this Guideline, that structural design reviewers and BCA’s will refer mainly to the sections that contain the detailed content and checklists for independent design review. However, it is essential to understand the context in which the detailed content and checklists are given and the limitations on their use.

Consulting companies that commonly review, for example the design of specific structural elements in small scale residential dwellings, may wish to extract the relevant items from the detailed provisions in this Guideline to create their own in-house abbreviated checklists for standard projects.



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STRUCTURAL DESIGN FEATURES REPORT TEMPLATE

A draft template for a Structural “Design Features Report” (DFR) has been uploaded to the SESOC website at <http://sesoc.org.nz/SESOC-DFR-draft.pdf>. Members are requested to review this template and email any comments to John Hare johnh@holmesgroup.com. An updated copy of the DFR template will be published on the SESOC website, and in the SESOC journal, after taking account of any comments received. Deadline for comments is 21 May 2010.

SESOC’s aim is to provide a comprehensive DFR template for use by structural engineers. Its content is deliberately broad, to cover most structure types and scales. It is recognised that the scope of this document may be broader than many projects would demand, but we note that it is easier to strike our irrelevant sections than to add them in later.

A separate short-form document is being prepared for small projects – generally applicable to domestic projects that are substantially in compliance with NZS3604, or other projects of a similar scale.

The Design Features Report (DFR) is intended to link to the NZ Construction Industry Council Design Documentation Guidelines which call for a DFR to be completed at the Preliminary Design Phase, and then updated as the documentation proceeds. DFR templates similar to this have commonly been used on large projects in the past as a way of clarifying the structural brief and communicating the structural features to the project team.

SESOC would like to see the use of DFR’s expanded so that in future they are always included as part of the documentation submitted for Building Consent. This approach is consistent with recommendations in the SESOC draft Design Review Guide described in the item above.



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