Experimental Study on Punching Shear Behavior of Crushed Clay Brick Lightweight Concrete Flat Plate Slabs

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Abstract

This paper presents an experimental investigation on the behavior of crushed clay brick (CCB) lightweight concrete (LWC) flat plate slabs under punching load. The CCB resulting from either the building process or the remnants of brick factory production lines constitutes one of the most notable wastes in the world, which motivated many researchers exploring its usage as an alternative to natural aggregates. Six LWC slabs were constructed from CCB as coarse and fine aggregates in addition to crushed brick powder (CBP). The produced concrete had a compressive strength of 25, 28, and 32 MPa and a dry density of less than 1800 kg/m³. The tested slabs were divided into three groups (A, B, and C) according to the compressive strength. Each group had included two different tension reinforcement ratios of 0.428 and 0.616%. Based on the test results, the effect of the lightweight aggregates (LWA) was discussed and compared to codes' prediction of punching capacity. These codes include the ACI-318-19, EC-2, the Canadian code CSA-2004, ECP-203-2017, and the JSCE-2007. From the test results, it was found that the surface of punching shear failure of the tested slabs extended a distance ranged from 2.3 to 3.3 times the slab thickness measured from the column face, with the shear plane inclined at 20.3° to 27.4° to the plane of the slab. In addition, the punching shear strength can be fairly predicted by the selected international codes.

Keywords

crushed clay brick; lightweight concrete; flat plate slabs; slab-column connection; punching shear.

1. Introduction

Punching failure in reinforced concrete flat plates is a brittle failure caused by diagonal shear cracks developed through the slab thickness forming a frustum pyramid in rectangular columns and a truncated cone in case of circular columns. Many factors affect the punching capacity of slabs such as concrete strength, column-to-slab aspect ratio, flexural reinforcement, shear reinforcement and boundary conditions. Design codes deal with the punching failure problem in different ways, e.g., ACI-318-19 [1], EC-2 [2], Canadian code CSA-2004 [3], ECP-203 2017 [4], and JSCE-2007 [5]. Reducing the reinforced concrete slab's weight is one of the common solutions to the slab-column connection problem. Lightweight aggregate concrete (LWC) slabs were tested for punching shear strength by Clarke [6] using Lytag, Perlite, Leca, Fibo, and Liapor as lightweight aggregates with dry density of less than 2000 kg/m³. The normal weight aggregates, which were obtained from the Thames Valley (U.K), were taken as a reference for comparison. The experimental results indicated that the dry densities ranged from 85 percent to 65 percent of normal-weight concrete. The slabs constructed from LWC were up to 30% stronger in punching shear than those made with the reference aggregate when normalized to their densities.

Kim et al. [7] investigated the punching shear behavior of the LWC slab by using several types of lightweight aggregate (clay, shale and slate) and forms (crushed or spherical shape). According to their test results, the punching shear failure surface of the LWC slab with spherical-shaped coarse aggregate was less inclined with the slab plane than that of the LWC slab with crushed-shaped coarse aggregate, resulting in an increase in the punching shear strength of the slab. On the other hand, the failure surface of LWC slab with crushed shape coarse aggregate and coarse aggregate with normal shape had similar inclination angle. Osman et al. [8] tested five slabs made with high-strength lightweight concrete under punching load; the results indicated that the surface of punching shear failure of the tested slabs extended a distance of about 3.17 times the slab thickness measured from the column face, with the shear plane inclined at an angle 25° to 29° to the slab plane.

LWC may be designed to meet a wide range of needs, from a low-density concrete for insulation to a high-strength concrete for structural purposes. Sahoo et al. [9] studied the punching shear behavior of concrete slabs with recycled aggregate with replacement levels of 0%, 50%, and 100%. The experimental results indicated that the punching shear increased with increasing the compressive strength, and the main punching shear crack was inclined to the horizontal with an angle in the range of 28° – 33° . Urban et al. [10] investigated punching shear strength of LWC slabs with dry densities of less than 1800 kg/m³ and the tests indicated that the punching shear cracks were inclined to the horizontal with an angle in the range of 20° – 40° .

Crushed Clay Brick (CCB) is a type of aggregate used as a lightweight aggregate and is abundant as waste from brick factories, found in large quantities all over the world. There is a promising way to reuse this waste as lightweight aggregate and to preserve the

environment. Upon crushing and sieving e CCB, fine and coarse lightweight aggregate can be obtained. CCB can also be ground into a powder to increase its surface area and enhance its pozzolanic activity for use as a partial replacement of cement [11]–[14]. Several studies have investigated CCB as an alternative to natural aggregates in different forms in concrete. Several studies used bricks as coarse aggregate[11], [15], [24]–[31], [16]–[23], some used it as fine aggregate [31], [32] and others benefited from the pozzolanic reaction resulting from the use of CCB as a powder with an alternative ratio of cement to reduce the cement content [33], [34], [43], [35]–[42]. Atyia et al. [44] used crushed clay powder which passed through 0.125 mm, as partial replacement of cement and concluded that CBP has a positive effect on the concrete strength at later ages. Some researchers used CCB as fine and coarse aggregate with 100% replacement for natural aggregates [22], [31], [44]–[47]. From all previous studies that used CCB in concrete, it is possible to obtain lightweight concrete with a dry density of less than 2000 kg/m³ and a compressive strength greater than 20 MPa, suitable for construction purposes according to the ACI 213R-14 [48] and a tensile strength greater than 2.0 MPa. From what was referred to in research and studies, attention was focused on improving the mechanical and physical properties of concrete from crushed bricks without compromising the behavior of this type of concrete in structural elements, including flat slabs, which made it a subject of interest for this research.

In this research, crushed bricks are used as coarse and fine aggregate, and also as a filling powder as a filler, as a partial alternative form of aggregate to improve workability and concrete strength, for the sake of obtaining LWC with a dry density of less than 1800 kg/m³ and a compressive strength higher than 25 MPa. In this study, the obtained concrete is used to construct flat plates and the behavior of such structural elements under punching load is investigated. In addition, the applicability of international codes for the prediction of the punching shear behavior of flat plate slabs from CCB lightweight concrete is examined.

2. Experimental program

The experimental program considering testing six squared lightweight concrete flat plate specimens is shown in Fig. 1. The specimens were divided into three groups (A, B, and C) according to the compressive strength of concrete (f_{cu}). Each group had the same compression reinforcement, but the tension reinforcement was variable.



Fig. 1 Specimen layout.

2.1 Materials

2.1.1 Concrete

One of our targets was to employ available sustainable material as aggregate to produce lightweight concrete; hence, the crushed clay brick (CCB) aggregate was selected. The used CCB was collected from brick factories in Egypt as shown in Fig. 2. It, as shown in Fig. 3, was grinded and sieved manually to produce coarse aggregate (CCBA) with particle size ranging from 5-10 mm, fine aggregate (FCBA) with particle size ranging from 250 μ m to 5 mm and crushed clay powder (CCP) with particle size less than 250 μ m, used as an aggregate replacement (15 %). For all types of aggregates, tests were carried out according to the ECP 203-2017 [4] criteria. The physical properties of the used aggregates are shown in Table 1. The used cement was CEM I 52.5N Portland cement complying with the ECP 203-2017 criteria, and with specific gravity of 3.05 g/cm³. Silica fume and superplasticizer (Sikament 163M complies with ASTM C-494 Type A&F and BS 5075 part 3) was used to enhance the compressive strength and to maintain the slump of fresh LWC at the same level. Air entraining admixture (ADDICRETE LP complying with ASTM C 260 and EN 934 - 2 with specific gravity of 1.02 \pm 0.01) were used to reduce the dry density of concrete. The grading of CCBA, FCBA, CCP and Cement are shown in Fig. 4.



Fig. 2 Sample of brick factories, Egypt.



(a) CCBA

(b) FCBA

(c) CBP

Fig. 3 Crushed clay brick: (a) coarse aggregate; (b) fine aggregate; and (c) powder.

Table 1 Physical properties of the	used aggre	egates
Aggregates	CCBA	FCBA
Specific Gravity (gm/cm ³)	2.12	2.12
Bulk Density (kg/m ³)	1025	1170
Water Absorption (%)	13	16.5



Fig. 4 Particle size distributions of materials (cement, SF, CBP, FCBA, and CCBA).

2.1.2 Concrete mix design

The considered specimens were constructed from three different types of crushed clay brick lightweight concrete mixes with the properties given in Table 2 and designed using the absolute volume method in order to obtain cube compressive strength ranging from 25 to 32 MPa after 28 days. The aggregate was used in its dry state and the mixing water was increased by the amount needed for absorption for each type of aggregate. Five 0.035 m³ batches, from a mixer with capacity 0.05 m³, were used to cast each specimen. Each specimen was placed onto wooden formwork and an external mechanical vibrator was used. For each specimen, three cylinders Ø150/300 mm, three cylinders Ø100/200 mm, three cubes 150*150*150 mm, and three cubes 100*100*100 mm size) were cast. The casting procedure is illustrated in Fig. 5. The cubes and cylinders were tested to obtain the compressive and tensile strengths and the stress-strain curves of each mix as shown in Figs. 6 and 7 and Table 3.



(a) Specimens

(b) Cylinders and cubes. Fig. 5 Finishing of specimens.





(a) Two halves of a cylinder specimen after tension test.

(b) Cube specimens after compression test.

Fig. 6 Cube and cylinder after test.

Table 2 Concrete mix components, kg/m³											
Mix no.	W/C	Cement	SF	Water	Water for absorption	SP	CA	FA	CCP 15% agg.	AEA, kg/m ³	AEA %
M0										0	0%
M30	0.48	432	48	230	79	10	535.5	510	184.5	1.44	0.30%
M120										5.76	1.20%

SF: Silka fume; SP: Superplasticizer; CA: Coarse aggregate; FA: Fine aggregate, AEA: Air entraining admixture.



Fig. 7 Stress strain curve of LWC.

	Table 3 Mechanical properties of lightweight concrete									
		C	ompressi	ve strength,	MPa	_				
Mix No.	Dry density, kg/m ³	7 days Cube 10*10 cm	28 days Cube 10*10 cm	28 days Cylinder 15*30cm	28 days Cube 15*15cm	Tensile strength, MPa	Slump, mm	Strength/Density Ratio		
M0	1787	30.5	37.3	29.0	32.0	2.67	105	2.09		
M30	1710	26.8	33.3	21.0	28.1	2.02	130	1.95		
M120	1610	24.0	30.5	20.3	24.9	2.00	175	1.55		

Table 5 Meenanical properties of ngitweight concrete
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2.2 Reinforcement

Normal mild steel was used for compression reinforcement and column stirrups, while high-grade steel was used for tension reinforcement and column reinforcement. The normal mild steel had a yield stress, $f_v = 240MPa$, and ultimate strength, $f_u = 356MP$, whereas the high-grade steel had, $f_v = 520MPa$, and ultimate strength, $f_u = 650MPa$. Both types of steel had a modulus of elasticity $E_{\nu} = 2 \times 10^5 MPa$, and Poisson's ratio = 0.3.

2.3 Test specimens

Six squared lightweight concrete flat plate specimens presented in three groups (A. B, and C) with three different concrete strengths f_{cu} , equal to 32, 28 and 25 MPa, respectively, were considered. For the tension (bottom) reinforcement, each group had two different ratios, 0.428% and 0.616%, uniformly distributed both ways; 6 bars per section. The reinforcement was distributed uniformly throughout the width of the slab. All slabs had bottom and top layers of bars at a uniform spacing 210 mm from center to center in both orthogonal directions. The top reinforcement was 8 mm diameter, and the bottom bars were 10 mm and 12 mm according to the slab group. The column reinforcement was four bars of 12 mm diameter and three stirrups with 8mm diameter. The reinforcement layout and specimens' details are shown in Fig. 8 and Table 4.

	_		Table 4 Detail	ils of test speci	mens	
Group	Specimens	pecimens f_{cu} Column Size Effective Ten (MPa) (mm) Depth (mm)		Tension steel %	Compression steel %	
٨	A0	22			0.428(6D10/sec)	
A	A1	32	- 150*150 -		0.616(6D12/sec)	_
D	B0	20		100	0.428(6D10/sec)	$0.2742((D_{2}))$
В	B1	28		100	0.616(6D12/sec)	0.2/43(6D8/sec)
C	C0	25			0.428(6D10/sec)	
C	C1	23			0.616(6D12/sec)	

 f_{cu} is the strength of standard cube 150 mm, Sec: Section



Fig. 8 Typical steel arrangement details of slabs.

2.4 Test setup

The specimens were placed centered below the hydraulic jack on a horizontal squared frame (IPE No. 150), and four steel bars (25 mm dia.) were welded on the top surface of the square frame to make sure that the supports under the specimens are pinned. The description and photos of the loading system and test setup are shown in Figs. 9 and 10.



Fig. 9 Test setup.



Fig. 10 Photos of test setup.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Effect of concrete strength on punching shear strength

From the results in Table 5 and Fig. 11, it can be noted that reducing the concrete strength from 32 MPa to 28 MPa, led to about 20% and 17% reduction in the ultimate punching load of specimens with tension reinforcement ratios of 0.428% and 0.616%, respectively. Reducing the concrete strength from 28 MPa to 25 MPa, led to about 10% and 2% reduction in the ultimate punching load of specimens with tension reinforcement ratios of 0.428% and 0.616%, respectively. and 0.616%, respectively.

Table 5 Summary of experimental results										
Specimens	Exp. P _u (kN)	Angle of punching	Diameter of punching (mm)	First cracking load (kN)						
A0	245.52	20.27	800	65						
A1	255.4	20.97	776	65						
B0	197.268	22.78	723	62						
B1	211.628	24.24	683	62						
C0	178.15	24.65	673	48						
C1	206.43	27.35	614	60						



Fig. 11 Load-deflection curve of tested specimens.

3.2 Cracking behavior

For all specimens, cracks had been observed and marked during the test. In all specimens, the initial crack development followed a similar pattern. First, diagonal cracks occurred near the column at a load of about 60.0 kN. At a loading from 60.0-130.0 kN cracks grew towards the middle distance between the column and the slab support in all directions and new diagonal cracks had initialed. At a loading above 130 kN and up to failure, all diagonal cracks were getting wider and radial cracks had developed. Fig. 12 shows the crack pattern in the tension side of the specimens. For the compression side, cracks had developed around the column in all the specimens as shown in Fig. 13.



Specimen (A0)

Specimen (A1)

Fig. 12 The crack pattern in the tension side of all specimens.

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Fig. 12 Contd.



Fig. 13 The crack pattern in the compression side around the columns of specimens A0 and A1.

3.3 Tension reinforcement strains

Strain gauges (with electrical resistance 10 mm length strain) were affixed to the steel reinforcement to measure the strains in areas of particular interest. The selected locations of strain gauges are illustrated in Fig. 14.



Fig. 14 Positions of strain gauges of tension steel.

Fig. 15 shows the load-tension reinforcement strain curves of all specimens at positions (1), (2), and (3). The results show that the flexural steel of all specimens reached the highest value in position (1) and reached the yield point at 74%, 58%, 91%, 80%, 83%, and 61% of ultimate load for specimens A0, A1, B0, B1, C0, and C1 respectively. For these specimens also, the steel reached the yield point in position (2) at 78%, 76%, 93%, 81%, 85%, and 68% of ultimate load. On the other hand, the steel in position (3) did not yield in specimens A1, C0, and C1, but reached the yield point at 96% of ultimate load for specimen B1 and 92% for specimens A0 and B0, respectively.



Fig. 15 Load-strain curve of tensile steel of slabs.

4. Codes prediction of ultimate punching load

In this section, the nominal punching shear capacity (setting the strength reduction factors equal to one) of slab-column connection of the tested specimens is re-predicted using the provisions of some selected building codes. The American code (ACI 318-19) and the Canadian code (CSA 2004) account for the weight of concrete slab, while as other codes, such as the Egyptian code (ECP-203-2017), the Euro code (EC-2), and the Japanese (JSCE-2007) code, do not. The predicted nominal strength values from the selected codes are briefly presented, and the obtained results are given along with the test results in Table 6.

4.1 ACI 318-19 code

In the ACI 318-19 code [1], the loaded region is 0.50*d* away from the critical section. The design is based on:

$$\nu_u < \phi_v \nu_c \tag{1}$$

$$\nu_u = \frac{\nu_u}{b_0 d} \tag{2}$$

where ϕ is the strength reduction factor, equal to 0.85, v_u is the applied shear stress in the absence of moment transfer due to a factored shear force V_u and b_o is the perimeter of the critical section. The nominal punching shear strength is the smallest of the following three values (in SI units):

$$\nu_c = 0.17\lambda \sqrt{f_c'} \left[1 + \frac{2}{\beta_c}\right]$$
 (N/mm²) (3a)

$$\nu_c \le 0.083\lambda \sqrt{f_c'} \left[2 + \frac{\alpha_s d}{b_o}\right] \tag{N/mm^2}$$

$$\nu_c \le 0.33\lambda \sqrt{f_c'}$$
 (N/mm²) (3c)

where α_s is a factor taken as 40, 30 and 20 for interior column, edge and corner columns, respectively, λ is a factor to account for low density (is equal to 0.75 for lightweight concrete), *d* is the average effective depth, b_o is the perimeter of critical section, f'_c is the cylinder compressive strength of concrete and β_c is the ratio of the larger to the smaller side of the column section.

4.2 EC-2 code

As seen in Fig. 16, the EC-2 code [2] critical section is located at a distance 2*d* from the column face or loaded region. Similarly, the shear stress, v_f on the control section should not be greater than the shear resistance, v_r , where for rectangular columns, the basic control section includes round corners.



Fig. 16 Typical basic control perimeters around loaded areas.

For interior and exterior slab-column connections without shear reinforcement, the shear resistance v_r for the basic control section is calculated as follows:

$$\nu_r = \frac{0.18}{\gamma_c} k (100\rho_1 f_{ck})^{1/3} > \nu_{min}$$
(4)

$$k = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{200}{d}} \le 2.0 \text{ and } d, \text{ in (mm)}$$
 (5)

where f_{ck} is the characteristic concrete strength in MPa, $\rho_1 = (\rho_z \rho_y)^{0.5} < 0.02$, ρ_z and ρ_y are the reinforcement ratios in the *z* and *y* directions, respectively, for a slab width equals to the column width plus 3*d* each side, *d* is the slab thickness in mm, and γ_c is the strength reduction factor of concrete and is equal to 1.5.

$$\nu_{min} = 0.035k^{2/3} f_{ck}^{0.5} \quad (\text{N/mm}^2) \tag{6}$$

4.3 CSA-2004 code

The 2004 edition of the Canadian code CSA-2004 [3] is very similar to the ACI 318-19 in many respects. In the absence of shear reinforcement, the punching shear strength of the concrete is the smallest of the following three values.

$$\nu_c = 0.20\lambda \sqrt{f_c'} \phi_c [1 + \frac{2}{\beta_c}]$$
 (N/mm²) (7)

$$\nu_c \le 0.20\lambda \sqrt{f_c'} \phi_c [2 + \frac{\alpha_s a}{0.20b_o}]$$
 (N/mm²) (8)

$$\nu_c \le 0.38\lambda \phi_c \sqrt{f_c'} \tag{N/mm^2}$$

where β_c is the ratio of long to short side of column, ($\alpha_s/0.20$) equals to 20, 15, and 10 for interior columns, edge columns and corner columns, respectively, λ is a factor to account

for low density (is equal to 0.75 for lightweight concrete), and ϕ_c is the material reduction factor (is equal to 0.60).

4.4 ECP-203-2017 code

The ECP-203-2017 [4] allows the treatment of the punching problem by either one of two different methods. The first leads to accurate calculations of the unbalanced moment over the column, and this method is like the ACI 318-19 approach. The last method adopts simplified calculations, which is used in this study, where the punching shear stresses are magnified in order to account for the unbalanced moment transfer to columns. The increase in stresses is 15%, 30% and 50% for interior, edge and corner connections, respectively. The shear stress, q_u , is given by:

$$q_u = \frac{Q_{up}\beta}{b_o d} \tag{N/mm^2}$$

where Q_{up} is the ultimate design shear force, β is the magnification factor, equals to 1.15 for interior connection, b_o is the critical shear perimeter and d is the effective slab depth.

The shear stress, q_u , should not exceed the punching shear strength, q_{cup} , which is the smallest of the following three values:

$$q_{cup} = 0.8x \left(\frac{\alpha d}{b_o} + 0.20\right) x \sqrt{\frac{f_{cu}}{\gamma_c}}$$
(N/mm²) (11a)

$$q_{cup} = 0.316x \left(\frac{a}{b} + 0.50\right) x \sqrt{\frac{f_{cu}}{\gamma_c}} \qquad (N/mm^2)$$
(11b)

$$q_{cup} = 0.316 x \sqrt{\frac{f_{cu}}{\gamma_c}}$$
 (N/mm²) (11c)

where α : is the factor taken equal to 4, 3, and 2 for interior and corner, respectively, f_{cu} is the standard cube characteristic strength, γ_c is the reduction factor of concrete, a is the smaller dimension of the column, and b is the larger dimension of the column.

4.5 JSCE-2007 code

The critical section of the JSCE-2007 code [5] is placed at 0.50*d* away from the loaded area. The punching shear capacity of reinforced concrete slabs, v_u , can be predicted using the following equations:

$$\nu_u = \beta_d \beta_p \beta_r f_{pcd} u_p d \qquad (N/mm^2) \tag{12}$$

$$f_{pcd} = 0.20\sqrt{f_c'}$$
 (N/mm²) (13)

$$\beta_d = \left(\frac{100}{d}\right)^{1/4} \tag{14}$$

$$\beta_p = (100\,\rho)^{1/3} \tag{15}$$

$$\beta_r = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + 0.25u/d}$$
 (16)
 $u_p = u + \pi d$ (mm) (17)

where f'_c is the cylinder compression strength of concrete (MPa), *d* is the average effective depth (mm), ρ is the average tension steel reinforcement ratio, *u* is the perimeter of the loading pad (mm), and u_p is the perimeter of the critical section located at a distance of 0.50*d* from the edge of the loading pad (mm). The values of f_{pcd} , β_d , and β_p are limited to 12 N/mm², 1.50 and 1.50, respectively.

Table 6 Comparison between codes predictions and test results

C	Exp.	Code <i>P_u</i> , kN					Exp. P_u / Code P_u				
Specimens	$P_u,$ kN	ACI	EC	CSA	ECP	JSCE	ACI	EC	CSA	ECP	JSCE
A0	245.5	206	221	242	222	211	1.19	1.11	1.01	1.11	1.17
A1	255.4	206	221	242	222	238	1.24	1.15	1.05	1.15	1.07
$\mathbf{B0}$	197.3	175	199	206	207	179	1.13	0.99	0.96	0.95	1.10
B1	211.6	175	199	206	207	202	1.21	1.06	1.03	1.02	1.05
C0	178.2	172	197	203	196	176	1.03	0.91	0.88	0.91	1.01
C1	206.4	172	197	203	196	199	1.20	1.05	1.02	1.05	1.04
					Ave	erage	1.17	1.05	0.99	1.03	1.07

4.6 Comparison

The predicted nominal punching shear strength of the tested specimens by the selected building codes along with test results are given in Table 6. Obviously, the considered codes can be fairly utilized in the design of the LWC flat plates for punching. Nevertheless, the ACI 318-19 prediction is conservative.

5. Conclusions

Based on the results obtained from this experimental study on the punching shear behavior of lightweight concrete made by crushed clay brick aggregate, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1. The crushed clay brick (CCB) aggregate can be used as a replacement of normal aggregate to produce lightweight concrete (LWC) with dry density ranging from 1610 to 1780 kg/m³.
- 2. The CCB concrete can be considered a structural lightweight concrete since it has a compressive strength higher than 25 MPa.
- 3. Increasing the flexural reinforcement ratio has a significant effect on increasing the punching shear strength capacity by 4% to 15 % according to the concrete compressive strength.
- 4. Punching shear failure in tested crushed clay brick LWC flat plate slabs is preceded by yielding of tension steel reinforcement and is accompanied by cracks mainly in the radial direction and partly in the circumferential direction.
- 5. The surface of punching shear failure of the tested flat plate slabs extended a distance ranging from 2.3 to 3.3 times the slab thickness measured from the column face, with the shear plane inclined at 20.3° to 27.4° to the plane of the slab.
- 6. The punching shear strength can be fairly predicted by many international building codes, e.g., the ACI 318-19, CSA 2004, ECP-203-2017, EC-2, and JSCE-2007. Nevertheless, ACI 318-19 prediction is conservative.

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