This glossary is intended to facilitate international communication on the subject of immersed tunnels in the English language. The terms defined relate to typical design and construction practice for steel and concrete immersed tunnels and submerged floating tunnels.

This glossary was originally published in the Immersed and Floating Tunnels State-of-the-Art Report 2nd Edition in 1997. In this edition it has had some additional items added to reflect current practice and developing terminology.

**ACCESS SHAFT**
Temporary access shafts are commonly provided to allow entry of personnel and occasionally equipment to the interior of an immersed tunnel while floating or submerged. The shafts are usually removed when alternate access is available, such as along the tunnel. The access shaft may be attached to the temporary end bulkhead or may be attached over a temporary hole in the structure which will later have to be made watertight.

**ANCHOR RELEASE BANDS**
See Rock Protection.

**ARCHIMEDES BRIDGE**
See Submerged Floating Tunnel.

**BALLAST**
(1) Permanent Ballast : Non-structural solid material placed inside or outside an immersed tunnel to increase its effective weight permanently. Material placed outside should either be attached to the tunnel or retained, thereby preventing accidental falling off or loss of the material. Backfill that may be scoured or accidentally dredged away is not ballast.

(2) Temporary Ballast : Material used to temporarily increase the effective weight of the tunnel or a tunnel element during the fabrication and installation phases until replaced by backfill or permanent ballast. The material may be solid or liquid.

**BALLAST TANK**
Temporary tanks constructed within a tunnel element for the purpose of filling with temporary water ballast to increase the weight of the tunnel in order to aid trimming of the element whilst floating, to provide overweight for immersion of the element and for temporarily holding the tunnel element in position on the bottom of the dredged trench until sufficient ballast weight is provided by permanent concrete ballast and backfill to prevent uplift.

**BACKFILL**
Material placed around the sides and over the top of the tunnel within the excavated trench after the tunnel is installed in the trench. The material is usually granular, rock, or excavated material.

**BINOCULAR SECTION**
A term used to describe an element consisting of two adjacent circular steel tunnels, usually each of two lanes, combined into a common structure.

**BORE**
A term borrowed from mined tunnelling to describe a cell.

**BOX (SHAPE)**
An indication that the overall cross-section of the tunnel is approximately rectangular.

**BULKHEAD**
An upright watertight partition used to generate compartments, usually totally closing off the inside of a cell. Temporary bulkheads are provided at the ends of tunnel elements to keep water out (make them watertight) during the floating and installation stages.

**BUOYANCY**
(1) The resultant upward force on a body partially or fully immersed in a liquid, caused by the pressure of the liquid acting on the body. The magnitude of the force is equal to the weight of liquid displaced. Silt, if disturbed, can effectively increase the density of water. Water may be saline and density may vary with depth.

(2) Positive buoyancy or Negative Buoyancy : Jargon expressions for the amount by which buoyancy exceeds the weight of a body when totally immersed in a liquid. Positive buoyancy indicates that the body tends to float (buoyancy > weight); negative, that it tends to sink (buoyancy < weight).

**CASTING BASIN**
A place where elements for immersed tunnels can be fabricated in the dry, and which can be flooded to allow the elements to be floated out and taken away. Generally used for concrete tunnels. It is often purpose-built.

**CELL**
Continuous space within the cross-section of an element, bounded by walls, floor and ceiling. A cross-section may contain many cells, hence multiple-cell box, where for example separate cells may be used for each traffic direction, emergency egress, utilities, supply air and exhaust air.

**CHAMFER**
Corners of box section tunnels are often chamfered (bevelled, with the corners missing) to remove unnecessary space where it serves no useful purpose, or thickened to reduce moments and shears (haunches) and to allow dragging anchors to pass more easily over the tunnel.

**CILL**
Usually the highest point of the floor of a fabrication facility on which or against which the gate rests, and over which elements must pass during removal from the fabrication facility.

**CLOSURE JOINT**
See Joint, closure.

**CONCRETE COOLING**
The process of pumping cooled water through a network of embedded pipes in the
walls and/or slabs of a concrete immersed tunnel element, for the purpose of controlling temperature rise during curing to reduce or eliminate early age cracking due to restraint against expansion and shrinkage at early ages.

**CONCRETE IMMERSED TUNNEL**

Two main types of immersed tunnel have emerged, known as steel and concrete tunnels, terminology that relates to the method of fabrication. Both types perform the same function after installation. Concrete tunnels rely on steel reinforcing bars or prestressing cables for strength. It is usual for a concrete tunnel to leave the fabrication facility with the external concrete structure essentially complete. Steel plate, if used, is non-structural and is usually limited to acting as a waterproofing membrane. (See also Steel Immersed Tunnel). Two sub-types of tunnel element exist: Segmental elements are a relatively recent development from monolithic elements.

1. **Segmental**. The concrete tunnel elements are formed with a series of match-cast segments which are discontinuous and able to rotate relative to each other. Segments are temporarily prestressed together during floating and immersion of the elements. The concrete is designed to be watertight, usually without external waterproofing.

2. **Monolithic**. The concrete tunnel elements are constructed as a continuous concrete structure using construction joints with continuous reinforcement. The concrete is also designed to be watertight and an external waterproofing membrane is usually applied.

**DRAFT**

The depth below the still-water surface of the deepest part of a floating body.

**DAM PLATE**

Term used in the United States for the temporary end bulkhead.

**DREDGING**

The operation of excavating the trench. It is usually carried out in two stages, first bulk dredging, then trimming the excavation shortly before placing an element. Compensation dredging refers to additional dredging of a waterway to make up for loss of water cross-section elsewhere in the cross-section. Maintenance dredging refers to the removal of accumulated material, usually silt, that has reduced the channel depth within a waterway.

**DRY DOCK**

Usually a man-made area that can be dewatered for the repair of ships. A dry dock may also be a semi-submersible floating structure. Immersed tunnel elements are sometimes fabricated or repaired in dry docks. The term is also sometimes applied to a graving dock or casting basin.

**DUCT**

A term used to describe a cell, particularly for supply or exhaust ventilation, or for utilities.

**ELEMENT**

A length of tunnel that is floated and immersed as a single rigid unit. The rigidity may be temporary and later released.

**END FRAME**

The steel frame cast into the end of a tunnel element around the full perimeter of the tunnel upon which the Gina seal is mounted for the immersion joint between tunnel elements. Typically comprises an I-section cast into the concrete with shear connectors, and a secondary counter-plate welded between the exposed flanges to a close tolerance on which the Gina seal is mounted and secured using clamping bars.

**END OF TUNNEL ELEMENT**

1. **Primary or Inboard End** : The end of the tunnel element that is to be connected first. This end will face either the previously immersed and adjoining element, or the terminal structure. The end is usually equipped with the immersion gasket.

2. **Secondary or Outboard End** : The other end of the tunnel element.

**FABRICATION**

The stage of construction of a tunnel element before it can float. The fabrication facility may be a casting basin, graving dock, dry dock, ship yard or a green field site. The construction of a tunnel element may need to be completed at an outfitting dock.

**FACTOR OF SAFETY (WITH REGARD TO UPLIFT)**

The ratio of the weight of a tunnel, or a portion thereof, to the buoyancy. Different required factors of safety may be specified depending upon whether backfill is included or removable items are excluded, and depending upon the stage of construction. Water density must be specified, since buoyancy and hence the Factor of Safety will vary with changes in water density.

**FITTING OUT**

Also known as outfitting, this term refers to work that is carried out while the element is afloat. It may consist, for example, of completing any remaining necessary construction of the element prior to immersion, the addition of ballast, the installation or removal of temporary equipment such as bollards, navigation lights, survey beacons, and access shafts, and adjusting the trim of the floating element. Some of the work may be necessary before transportation (towing), but any remaining must be completed after towing. Additional construction applies mainly to steel tunnels where much of the internal structural concrete may not be completed until the element is close to its final destination. Some of the work may not be carried out until the element is supported by the immersion equipment.

**FLOATING TUNNEL**

See Submerged Floating Tunnel.

**FREEBOARD**

The height above the still-water surface of the highest part of a floating body.
FULL SECTION CASTING
A construction method for concrete segmental tunnels whereby the full cross section of the tunnel, over the length of a tunnel segment, is constructed in one continuous concreting operation. The method removes the need for construction joints around the tunnel perimeter and therefore eliminates the risk of early age cracking due to restraint at the construction joints.

GASKET
(1) A device that acts as a seal between two contacting surfaces.

(2) Gina Gasket : A proprietary form of gasket used to seal immersion joints, especially on concrete tunnels, that is capable of carrying the full hydraulic compression load. It consists of a full-bodied rubber section able to transfer large compression forces, and a soft nose able to provide an initial seal under low compression. For binocular sections, each circular tunnel usually has its own gasket around the perimeter, whereas most other forms of tunnel use a single gasket around the external perimeter. The gasket provides a temporary seal and compression contact face during immersion installation, remains in place, and may provide a permanent seal at flexible joints.

(3) Omega Gasket or Seal : This seal, shaped like the Greek letter Omega (Ω) is installed across flexible immersion joints from within a tunnel after immersion and joining is complete. It form a secondary permanent seal or it may become the primary seal. It is bolted to the internal faces of the joint. It may be replaced in a similar manner on an as-needed basis. Because of its shape, it can sustain fairly large longitudinal and transverse movements at the joint.

(4) Soft-nosed Gasket : See Gina Gasket, above.

(5) Temporary Immersion Gasket or Seal : This is usually an extruded rubber section that acts as a seal when it is compressed. After completion of the permanent joint, the seal is no longer needed. It may be a type of Gina Gasket or may be another type of seal that cannot carry the full hydraulic compression load, such as is commonly used in the United States.

GATE
Usually either hinged to a wall or floating, this structure is used to close off the fabrication facility from the adjacent water to allow dewatering of the facility.

GRAVEL (BED) FOUNDATION
See Screeded Foundation.

GRAVING DOCK
An area that can be dewatered to form a casting basin.

GREEN FIELD SITE
An area above water level converted to enable construction of tunnel elements, usually steel immersed tunnels. The elements may be side or end launched into the water when capable of floating, or may be incrementally launched.

GROUTED FOUNDATION BED
A foundation formed by filling the space between the underside of an element and the underlying material, which may be the pre-excavated trench bottom, with grout. Until this operation is complete, elements require temporary support.

HAUNCH
A thickening of a wall or slab to increase locally the bending strength and shear capacity of the section.

IMMERSED TUNNEL
Immersed tunnels consist of very large pre-cast concrete or concrete-filled steel tunnel elements fabricated in the dry and installed under water. By definition, an immersed tunnel must be moved from its fabrication location to its final installed location by floating at least part of the way.

IMMERSION
The phase of construction covering the period between the element floating on the surface and installed on its foundation or temporary supports at bed level.

IMMERSION GASKET
See Gasket.

IMMERSION RIG
Floating equipment used to lower an immersed tunnel to its final position, usually consisting in part of floating pontoons or barges. For large tunnel elements, a pontoon may be placed on top of the floating element near each end and the element lowered from them. Instead of each pontoon on top, a pair of smaller pontoons is sometimes used, floating each side of the element and connected by a transverse beam from which the element is lowered. These are known as catamaran pontoons. Sometimes one long pontoon is used each side with two connecting beams. These are sometimes referred to as lay-barges.

INCREMENTAL CONSTRUCTION
A method of construction whereby a short section of an element is constructed, then jacked along to enable the adjacent section to be cast against the previous section.

INSTALLATION
This phase of construction covers preparation for immersion, the immersion, foundation preparation, backfilling, and completion of the interior works.

JET FAN
A ducted propeller, usually mounted adjacent to or above the traffic, that helps to maintain air velocity within that cell. Local variations in section are sometimes used to accommodate the fans.
JOINT

(1) Closure or Final Joint: Where the last element has to be inserted rather than appended to the end of the previous element, a marginal gap may exist at the secondary end. The short length of tunnel needed to seal this gap can be cast in situ and is known as the closure or final joint. Other methods used include using a wedge-shaped final piece or sliding out a section from within a large section to close the gap.

(2) Construction Joint: A horizontal or vertical connection between monolithic parts of a structure, used to facilitate construction. A waterstop is commonly placed in such a joint.

(3) Earthquake Joint: An immersion or other joint of special design to accommodate large differential movements in any direction due to a seismic event. It is also applied to a semi-rigid or flexible joint strengthened to carry seismic loads and across which stressed or unstressed prestressing components may be installed.

(4) Expansion Joint (also may be known as Segment Joint or Dilatation Joint): A special moveable watertight joint between segments of a tunnel element.

(5) Immersion Joint: The watertight joint that is dewatered when an element is installed at the seabed. It may remain flexible or can be made rigid, as is common with steel tunnels. A temporary immersion gasket or soft nosed seal of the Gina gasket.

LIFTING LUGS
Temporary lifting points from which an element is suspended during immersion, usually removed after an element is set on its foundation.

LOCKING FILL
Backfill, usually granular, placed carefully around the lower part of a tunnel to hold it in position.

OUTFITTING
See Fitting Out.

PORTAL
The structure or the end face of the structure at the two ends of the tunnel at the interface of the covered and open sections.

PRESTRESS, TEMPORARY
Used mainly in concrete tunnels to temporarily lock a flexible joint, to modify stresses until immersion, or to provide additional strength during transportation and installation.

PULLING JACK
Device attached to primary end of a tunnel element being immersed, that connects to the secondary end of the previous tunnel element and enables the tunnel element to be pulled up to the previous element and create the initial seal of the Gina gasket.

PUMPED SAND FOUNDATION
See Sand Bedding.

RIGGING
A system of lines, winches and hoists used to control the position of an element, both horizontally and vertically, especially during immersion. Lines may be attached indirectly to the shore, anchors, pontoons, derrick barges or other lowering equipment.

ROCK PROTECTION OR ARMOUR
The provision of larger stone or rock to prevent erosion or dredging of required backfill or bed. The term is also applied to systems for protecting a tunnel against potential collisions and dragging anchors.

ROOF PROTECTION
Protection provided to the waterproofing on the roof against accidental damage. Also applied to combinations of backfill and rock protection placed above the roof to protect against sinking or grounding vessels, etc.

SAND BEDDING
A foundation formed by filling the space between the underside of an element and the pre-excavated trench bottom with sand. The sand is placed hydraulically with the sand-flow or sand-jetting method. Until this operation is complete, elements require temporary support. A small gap may exist at the underside of the element after this operation, so that the temporary supports must be released or deactivated to lower the element onto the foundation.

SAND FLOW
A method of sand bedding whereby the sand-water mix is transported through a pipe system with fixed outlets in the soffit of the element. The mix is usually discharged through one outlet at a time. As the velocity of the mix decreases after leaving the outlet, sand is deposited by gravity to form a firm pancake-shaped mound almost touching the underside of the tunnel, with a small depression beneath the outlet. While pancake dimensions vary, an area of 100 square metres would not be unusual. The sand-water mix may be supplied either externally through inlets in the roof or walls, or from inside through non-return valves.

SAND JETTING
A method of sand bedding whereby the sand-water mix is transported through a jet pipe which can be moved anywhere in the void between the underside of the tunnel and the trench bottom. As the velocity of the
mix decreases after leaving the jet, sand is deposited by gravity. The resulting density of the sand is less than by the sand flow method. The work can only be done from the outside.

**SCREEDED FOUNDATION**

Following trench excavation and before immersing an element, a gravel foundation is prepared by screeding to close tolerances and onto which elements are placed directly without further adjustment. Temporary supports at bed level are not required. In seismic zones (where sand foundations are unsuitable), a rough screeded bed may be set low and a grouted foundation formed in the remaining space between the bed and tunnel soffit.

**SEGMENT**

A monolithic section of a tunnel element only separated from other segments by vertical joints. For concrete tunnels, a segment is typically the length of a single concrete placing operation. Some tunnel elements, particularly in the Netherlands, consist of a number of discrete segments held rigidly together during installation by temporary prestress and joined by expansion joints.

**SHEAR DOWEL**

A device to transfer shear across a joint. Shear dowels are sometimes used in concrete tunnel elements across immersion, closure or expansion joints to provide continuity of alignment. Such shear dowels must permit relative longitudinal movement. For immersion and closure joints, the dowels would be embedded in cast-in-place concrete at the joint face after immersion.

**SHEAR KEY**

A device to transfer shear across a joint, such as segment joints or non-rigid immersion joints. In concrete tunnels, the shear key components may form integral parts of the structure of each element. The keys are usually placed in the space between the end bulkheads adjacent to the immersion gaskets so that they can be inspected and repaired if necessary.

**SILL**

Spelling in United States for Cill.

**SNORKEL**

See Access Shaft.

**SQUAT**

The additional draft of a floating body moving relative to the water in which it floats, as compared with the draft when stationary. It is caused by a reduction in water pressure below the body because of directional changes in flow around the body. When keel clearances are marginal, squat may cause elements under tow to touch the bottom. Similarly, an element below a passing vessel may experience uplift due to squat or propeller wash. This may need to be taken into account in selecting safety factors against uplift during installation.

**STEEL IMMERSED TUNNEL**

Steel tunnels use structural steel, usually in the form of stiffened plate, working compositely with the interior concrete as the structural system.

1. **Single Shell**
   - Term applied to a tunnel consisting of elements where an outer structural steel membrane (the shell) is constructed first, very much in the manner of a ship. The steel plate also acts as a waterproofing membrane. Elements are usually designed to leave a green field site before the structural concrete is placed, though this may not be the case when other types of fabrication facility are used. Depending upon floating stability and strength requirements, keel concrete may or may not be placed prior to launching. In this condition, draft is usually less than 3 m, making long tows relatively easy while afloat. Nevertheless, transport on barges is not uncommon. The shell plate acts as the exterior form plate for the structural reinforced concrete with which it is designed to act compositely. While stability and strength requirements may require some of the structural concrete to be placed before transportation, it is usual for this concrete to be completed during outfitting, close to the final location. Ballast may be located inside, but more usually outside on top.

2. **Double Shell**
   - An outer steel plate, usually octagonal in shape, is added to a single shell tunnel element to act as an external form plate for tremie concrete placed as permanent ballast on the sides and for structural concrete at the top and bottom. The tremie concrete protects the inner shell plate from corrosion, while the outer form plate is left as sacrificial. Behaviour of the inner shell plate, and the compositely acting reinforced concrete within it, is similar to a single shell tunnel element except that the stiffening elements are usually placed outside the inner shell plate.

3. **Sandwich**
   - This construction type consists of concrete sandwiched between two steel shell plates. Steel webs between the shells are arranged to form closed cells that are filled individually with concrete. Both the inner and outer shells are load carrying and both act compositively with the contained concrete. The concrete is un-reinforced and is formulated to be non-shrink and self-consolidating. The inner surfaces of the steel shells are stiffened with plates and L-shaped ribs that also provide the connection required for composite action with the internal concrete. The internal concrete, once cured, carries compression loads and also serves to stiffen the steel shells. The steel shells carry the tension loads.

**SUBMERSION**

The part of the installation activity that takes an element from being afloat to sitting on the bed.

**SUBMERGED FLOATING TUNNEL (SFT)**

A tunnel through water that is not in direct contact with the bed. It may be either positively or negatively buoyant, and may be suspended from the surface, or supported from or tied down to the bed. In addition to most of the loads that can act on an immersed tunnel, other loads may exert static or dynamic loads of importance, such as traffic, fouling with marine growth, tides, waves, currents, vortex shedding, storms, variations in water density and tsunamis.
SUMP
Sumps (reservoirs) are provided at the portals and at low points (nadirs) to contain quantities of fire-fighting water, run-off and leakage water compatible with the duty cycles of the pumps provided. Oil-water separators are usually required, and sumps within a tunnel most often discharge to portal sumps.

SURVEY TOWER
Masts or towers are often installed near one or both ends of a tunnel so that the tunnel position, when out of sight beneath the water surface, can more easily be determined. The towers are tall enough to extend above the surface. Survey targets are usually attached.

SUSPENDED SLAB
Slab provided to span across a cell above a space, such as ceiling and roadway slabs when ventilation ducts above or below the roadway are used.

TERMINAL STRUCTURE
The non-immersed structure abutting the first and last immersed tunnel elements.

TETHERS
Cables between a submerged floating tunnel and the bed, used to secure the position of the tunnel, similar to that used for a tension leg oil platform.

TOWING OR TRANSPORTATION
Several phases of construction may involve towing. The first tow is only a short distance from the fabrication facility to the location where outfitting for the main tow is to be carried out, if needed. The main tow is to the location where outfitting for immersion is to be done, usually close to the immersion point. The final tow is to the immersion point.

TRENCH
The excavated space below bed level into which the immersed tunnel and its foundation will be placed.

TUBE
Roadway, track and service cells are each often referred to as tubes. Also used in the jargon expression immersed tube tunnel, meaning immersed tunnel (both circular and box shaped), perhaps originally intended to imply an immersed tunnel with a circular cross-section.

UNIT
Term sometimes used to refer to an element.

VENTILATION
(1) Longitudinal: A system in which fresh air is supplied at one end of the traffic tunnel and the polluted air is expelled at the other. Jet fans or Saccardo nozzles are often used to induce air movement.

(2) Semi-transverse: A system in which a separate ventilation duct is used for the supply of fresh air through many supply vents along the tunnel. The polluted air is discharged through the end of the traffic tunnel. Also used to describe a system where fresh air is supplied from the end of the tunnel and polluted air is drawn out over the length of the tunnel by exhaust fans.

(3) Transverse: A system in which separate supply and exhaust duct systems are used, so that fresh air is distributed and polluted air is collected over the length of the tunnel by supply and exhaust fans.

WATERPROOFING (MEMBRANE)
A skin provided external to the tunnel to improve the watertightness of concrete. The membrane may be of steel or other more flexible materials. It may either be sprayed on, or applied to the exterior surface, or the concrete may be placed onto or against it. Most types of flexible membrane require protection against damage by backfill.

WATERSTOP
Special components embedded in concrete construction joints to reduce the permeability of the joint. Waterstops may be flexible for expansion joints. Hydrophilic waterstops try to expand to several times their original size when in contact with water; special types are needed for saline conditions.

WATERTIGHTNESS
A measure of the capability of a tunnel to resist the penetration of water (leakage).

WARP
Cables used to move elements. Warping is the act of moving elements using warps, usually out of a narrow channel or dock.
ANNEX 01 >> CONCRETE – CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

For prefabricated tunnel-elements the main construction material is reinforced concrete. The concrete may be working compositely with structural steel or acting on its own with reinforcement. This theme only covers the requirements for the structural concrete.

WHAT

The concrete tunnel structure should create an accessible and dry enclosed space and allow for safe passage during its intended lifetime. Therefore the concrete should keep out the external water, resist all the external water and soil pressures and exceptional loads and prevent ingress from water. The concrete construction is subject to several external loads (water, soil pressure and temperature) and exceptional loads (see theme exceptional load cases). The concrete tunnel structure should create an accessible and dry enclosed space and allow for safe passage during its intended lifetime. Therefore the concrete should keep out the external water, resist all the external water and soil pressures and exceptional loads and prevent ingress from water. The concrete should therefore be selected, control of the heat of hydration and tightness and durability can be positively affected by a high concrete density (reduced tightness and durability can be positively affected by a high concrete density (reduced

WHEN

Important issues for concrete construction are:

- Concrete characteristics should be defined at an early stage in the design process so that the principles can be carried through the full design, specification and construction process.
- Pre-testing and production testing for the required concrete class and in accordance with applicable standards and project specific requirements.
- Determine the adiabatic curve of the concrete mix for use in thermal stress analysis.
- Testing the workability of the concrete mix.
- Procedure for testing the specific concrete weight after construction.
- Procedure for injection of any cracks during construction.
- Procedure for checking water tightness after flooding of the casting basin.
- In operation monitoring of the concrete performance and condition is needed to check durability.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications are required for the functionality of the cast and hardened concrete:

- Concrete strength in accordance with applicable standards.
- All cracks that leak and wider than 0.15 mm should be injected.
- Where a temperature / stress analysis is used, the risk of cracking should be less than < 0.7.
- To prevent DEF (Delayed Ettringite Formation) the maximum concrete temperature during hardening should not exceed 65-70°C unless special concrete (not susceptible to DEF) is used.

The concrete mix design should be specified in terms of:

- Minimum cement content.
- Maximum water/cement ratio.
- Maximum initial chloride content.
- Density range in accordance with design.
- Permeability/chloride diffusion coefficient

Testing during concrete production and casting is needed for:

- Moist curing should continue until 90% of the concrete hydration has reached.
- Stripping of forms should wait until 75% hydration has been reached.
- Use of Blast Furnace Cement or low heat cement.

Useful tests on hardened concrete include:

- Water penetration.
- Monitoring of cracks.
- Chloride penetration (during operational phase).
- Carbonation (during operational phase).

All test reports and materials test certificates should be retained for the as-built records.

EXPECTED VALUES

Concrete strength in accordance with standards. Variation of unit weight for structural and ballast concrete should be assessed for use in basic design.

The following typical parameters often suitable for basic design:

- Maximum unit-weight reinforced concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 25.4 kN/m²
- Minimum unit-weight reinforced concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 24.2 kN/m²
- Maximum unit-weight ballast concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 23.5 kN/m²
- Minimum unit-weight ballast concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 22.5 kN/m²

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)

Most tests and checks need to be carried out at specific points in time during and after placing concrete. Pre-testing of concrete mixes should be carried out to enable detailed time-step analysis of early age temperature and stress development using finite element techniques. Testing is needed for:

- Adiabatic heat development
- Compressive and tensile strength development
- Modulus of elasticity development
- Creep & shrinkage behaviour
- Density

Testing during concrete production and casting...
should be in accordance with applicable standards.
Additional routine periodic testing may be needed for:
• Density of the cast and hardened concrete
• Specific weight
• Monitoring of cracks

Durability and permeability tests needed include:
• Water penetration test
• Chloride diffusion test
• Electrolytic chloride resistance test

Temperature and stress analyses are needed during the design stage to define the basis for how early age cracking will be controlled. During construction, analyses on a pour-by-pour basis are needed for actual site conditions.

Special tests may be needed for:
• check of unit weight (concrete, amount of reinforcement, thickness)

BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

These should be derived from the design so that construction and operation can be monitored as described.

REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)

For cracks see “Cracks – concrete construction”.

LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES

Immersion joints
Segment joints
Cracks – concrete construction
Exceptional loads

PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE

Subject to type of contract and / or risk allocation:
Functional requirements - Owner
Structural design & detailing – designer / contractor
Mix design – designer / contractor
Specifications of materials – designer / contractor

contractor
Thermal, stress and strain analysis – designer / contractor
Full scale cross sectional trial tests – contractor / designer
Monitoring concrete production and documentation – contractor
Monitoring temperature development in hardening concrete – contractor / designer
Leakage monitoring and repair during construction – contractor
Leakage monitoring and repair during operation – Owner
A concrete immersed tunnel is usually required to have a durability of at least 100 years and to be watertight. However reinforced concrete has the unfavorable property of forming cracks due to bending or tension. These cracks are “necessary” because otherwise the tension reinforcement in the concrete is not functional. The number and width of cracks has to be limited for durability and watertightness. Requirements for crack control will vary depending on the environment of the tunnel and whether the tunnel has an external waterproofing membrane.

WHAT
Cracks in concrete occur when tensile stresses in the concrete exceed its tensile strength. Subsequent to the cracking, all tensile forces must be carried by the reinforcement. Tensile stresses can be caused by external loading, either bending or tension, or by restrained deformation, which can be caused by temperature change or shrinkage, or any combination of these. The resulting crack widths depend partly on the amount, the area and the depth of the reinforcement. Good detailing of the reinforcement can reduce crack widths in such way that durability of this reinforcement is not a problem.

To ensure an adequate water retaining barrier, a minimum zone of the concrete must remain uncracked under all loading and restrained conditions. This implies full section tension cracks are unacceptable; one cause of such cracks is restrained deformation of green (hardening) concrete. Steel reinforcement can limit the number and width of cracks, but the predominant water retaining function will require the avoidance of full depth tension cracks. The thickness of the concrete structure in an immersed tunnel can usually be classified as “thick” concrete. Unless special precautions are taken, this can result in a larger temperature differential between the centre of a section and its surface than for thinner sections. Cracks may already have formed in the surface layers before the centre has cooled, and surface restraints may subsequently cause the centre to crack, forming through cracks. This is also a particular concern when casting against cooled concrete. For example, one method of reducing full depth cracking at this interface in green concrete, depending on the dimensions of the structure, is by reducing the heat rise of the new concrete. Methods used have included the use of cooling pipes within the concrete, the use of low heat cement, ground granulated blast furnace cement, increasing the PFA (pulverized fuel ash) content of the mix and ensuring an unrestrained deformation of the hardening concrete.

Flexural cracking is restricted to the surface zones and can therefore be acceptable, provided the crack widths are controlled to preserve durability.

WHEN
Important issues to reduce or prevent cracking are:

Design stage
- Crack-width due to bending and tension shall be in accordance with applicable standards and depend on the environmental conditions.
- Crack-width in relation to water pressure must be considered.
- An adequate uncracked concrete depth must be assured.
- Methods to prevent full tension cracks of the green concrete, either by cooling or full section casting must be developed.
- Use 3D finite element models to design cooling systems or to prove functionality of unrestrained casting by defining temperature and related stress and strength development over time.

Pre-construction
- Determine the adiabatic curve of the concrete mix for use in thermal stress analysis.
- Pre-test concrete mixes for early age properties.

SPECIFICATIONS
- Cracks carrying water and wider than 0.15mm must be injected.
- In temperature / stress analyses, the: risk of cracking (calculated tensile stress/available tensile strength at any point in time) must be below 0.7 for watertight concrete, and a target of 0.5 is recommended.
- Cooling pipes must be properly grouted after use.
- Limits on flexural crack widths for internal and external surfaces are needed

DOCUMENTATION
- Input for the temperature and stress analyses must be documented.
- Adiabatic curve of concrete mix and early age concrete mix properties, such as:
  - tensile and compressive strength, elastic modulus, creep and shrinkage parameters.
- Temperature and stress analyses should define:
  - the intensity and duration of the cooling, location, flow rate, coolant used and size of cooling pipes.
  - location of thermocouples.
  - increase of in temperature of coolant.
- Temperature and stress analyses should predict the development of the cooling and the temperature development at the location of the thermocouples.
- Cooling pipes should be pressure tested at twice the expected maximum working pressure during cooling.
- Thermocouples and flow control devices should be tested before use.
- Temperature of fresh concrete mix at placing and ambient temperature.
- Limits on ambient conditions assumed in analyses i.e. maximum and minimum temperatures, wind speed, assumptions on formwork materials and curing mats.
- Actual temperature/time curves versus predicted should be compared to adjust mix.
- Records of crack surveys, mapping extent and width of cracks arising during construction.

EXPECTED VALUES
Measures to prevent cracking (e.g. use of cooling) are recommended for all concrete thicknesses exceeding 700 mm.

Maximum flexural crack width:
- Internal surface = 0.25mm
- External surface = 0.15mm

Maximum flexural crack width for non-watertight concrete:
- Internal surface = 0.25mm
- External surface = 0.2mm
To achieve an acceptable risk of cracking, maximum temperature differentials across construction joints or between the surface and core of the concrete may be specified, typically $D_{\text{int}} = 15^\circ\text{C}$ $D_{\text{ext}} = 15^\circ\text{C}$

Temperature limits should also be derived, based on the stress analysis of the tunnel structure during early ages, as this may impose stricter limits than the $D_{\text{int}}$ and $D_{\text{ext}}$ values given above.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE ..)**

Most tests and checks need to be carried out at specific points in time during construction.

Special tests may be needed for:
- check of unit weight (concrete, amount of reinforcement, thickness)
- crack-width due to bending and tension, limit-value depending on water pressure and durability

Routine periodic tests may be needed for:
- Concrete strength
- Durability (concrete cover)
- In case a cooling system is used:
  - Temperature fresh concrete mix
  - Temperature development of thermocouples
  - Temperature of in and outgoing cooling water

Note: During operation, the monitoring of cracks should be carried out on a routine basis during planned structural inspections.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

These should be output from the design so that construction and operation can be monitored as described.

**FUTURE REMEDIAL MEASURES/ ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Cracks leaking water and excessively wide cracks must be inspected and injected.

However an inspection regime should be developed for the design life to monitor the effectiveness of remedial works.

The choice of repair material is important and aspects such as effectiveness, strength, flexibility and durability should be considered.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

Exceptional load cases
Immersion joints
Segmental joints

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to cracking in concrete are:

- Design & detailing – designer / contractor
- Specifications of materials – Owner / designer / contractor
- Concrete batch testing – Contractor
- Full scale cross sectional trial tests – Contractor/designer
Fire protection materials can be applied to the interior of immersed tunnels where risks of exposure to fire are deemed to be high and the consequences in terms of structural failure, catastrophic inundation or loss of service are unacceptable. This annex is written with concrete tunnels in mind but the principles also apply to steel tunnels.

WHAT

It is common practice to apply fire protection material to inner faces of a tunnel above the roadway or railway and to exposed parts of walls in critical areas in order to minimise damage in the event of a fire occurring within the tunnel. The need for fire protection will depend on the likelihood and magnitude of fire that could occur in the tunnel.

The project objectives for protecting the tunnel against the effects of fire will depend on the Owner’s view of the impact of closing the tunnel for repairs combined with the risk of such an event occurring, or even total collapse of the tunnel, weighed against the capital cost of installing the material. Minimum objectives should be:

- To prevent loss of life by maintaining structural integrity and preserving escape and intervention routes and safety critical systems.
- To ensure the structure can be inspected and repaired safely and be returned into service within a short time period after a fire.
- To prevent or limit spalling of concrete according to the Owner’s criteria.
- To control temperatures to limit the loss of strength, permanent deformations and cracking in the structure.

To determine the magnitude and likelihood of a fire, a risk assessment should be undertaken that considers passage of dangerous goods, traffic density, safety systems and emergency services response time etc. Decisions on the allowance of dangerous goods transports in the tunnel should be based on a separate principal risk assessment comparing the risks of transports in the tunnel with the risks of transports along alternative routes. However the normal outcome of such assessments for most major sub-aqueous road tunnels and rail tunnels is that fire protection should be provided. Owners have an important early input to a project in deciding the nature of goods that may be permitted through the tunnel.

Fire protection can be applied as a board or as a spray material. Board materials can be applied before concreting by placing the boards within the formwork and partially inserting screws into these boards to create a mechanical anchorage with the concrete once it is placed, or be applied subsequent to concreting by bolting. Surface-mounted boards can be temporarily removed for inspection of the sub-surface and replaced easily and quickly after a fire. Both board and spray applied materials can be coated to achieve required finishes for tunnel lighting and cleaning.

The use of polypropylene fibres in the concrete mix can be used to compliment the externally applied fire protection and to reduce spalling by absorbing high pressures in the concrete occurring due to evaporating water. This is a relatively recent innovation but has now been used on several immersed tunnels. Fibres will alter the properties of concrete and this must be considered in design. It is not recommended to use only polypropylene fibres without passive protection to the inside surfaces unless a thorough risk analysis and structural assessment has been performed for the expected fire load. Specific assessments must be made of strength loss and any consequential risk of failure or instability that may arise, particularly in tensile zones. Potential cracking of the structure due to distortions arising from high temperatures should also be assessed as these could give rise to leakage or a severe reduction in durability.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

Important tests and procedures associated with fire protection are:

- **Furnace testing**
  Fire tests should be undertaken with representative samples of concrete (in terms of concrete composition, manufacturing/curing, geometry and mechanical loading, including restraint to thermal expansion) onto which fire protection has been applied. The method curing and sealing the samples during transit to the testing laboratory is important to ensure that the vapour pressure characteristics within the concrete matrix are retained when tested so that the risk of spalling can be correctly evaluated. This is especially important if a “no spalling” criteria is specified. Detailed specifications for furnace testing need to be developed on a project specific basis, to reflect the design fire curve specified and project specific conditions.

  Furnace tests should ideally include fire testing of joint gaps (immersion joint and segment joint) to check that protection details at joints and joint sealing products used will limit the temperature at joint seals to acceptable levels. Testing should include anchors which are used to install the fire protection system at the correct spacing and the joint detail between board systems.

  Guidance and specifications for fire testing are available from various testing institutions and authorities. For example: 2008-Effects-R0695 - Fire Testing Procedure for Concrete Tunnel Linings. Although this is for bored tunnel linings the principles can be applied to immersed tunnels.

- **Trial panels**
  To demonstrate methods and finishes ahead of construction

- **Adhesion testing**
  Both on trial panels and in situ during application

- **Thickness measurement (spray material)**
  During application/ manufacture
**ANNEX 03 >> FIRE PROTECTION**

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY...)**

Magnitude of fire and heat generation curves to be applied:

There are a number of fire curves that are used to replicate the heat generation of a fire.
- RWS curve (widely used and reflecting maximum temperatures likely to be attained in case of a heavy goods vehicle fire).
- ISO 834/EN 1363-1 (used for building applications, and for tunnels in which only cars are allowed).
- Hydrocarbon Eurocode 1 Curve (EN 1363-2) (not used very often for tunnels).
- HCM Modified Hydrocarbon Curve (French alternative to RWS).
- RABT curve (German approach).

The most widely used of these fire curves is the RWS (Rijkswaterstaat) fire curve for maximum temperature and rate of rise in temperature; this represents a 300MW fire lasting 120 minutes reaching a maximum temperature of 1350°C. The modified hydrocarbon curve is also often used for the maximum total heat generated. The Hydrocarbon Eurocode 1 Curve is also sometimes applied for four hours. A combination of curves can be applied in design.

Fire curves up to 3 hours with or without a cooling phase have been adopted on some projects.

**Extents of application**

The top slab and external walls of the tunnel, where exposed above the roadway or trackform should be treated with fire protection material. These elements of the structure are the watertight elements and must remain watertight. Due to bending moments from external loads tension exists in the reinforcement at the inside faces. Loss of strength in the reinforcement could cause structural failure and permanent deformations, and so these areas should be protected. Inner walls of the structure are acting mainly in compression and have a high degree of redundancy. Loss of section can often be tolerated without causing major failure, provided deflections are controlled. Only repair would be required. It is therefore common to treat only the upper part of this wall where it connects to the more sensitive roof slab, and where temperatures are highest due to a fire. Owners should decide on the acceptability of undertaking repairs versus the cost of initial protection at inner walls.

External walls should be treated with fire protection unless it can be demonstrated by computer analysis that temperatures arising from a fire will remain at an acceptable level. It should be noted that wherever any loss of section or permanent loss of strength due to overheating occurs, the stress distribution

**Figure**: Heat generation curves for various fire scenarios.

Source: EFNARC
in the structure will change and result in a permanent reduction in structural safety. Such reduction may or may not be acceptable.

**Temperature limits to be achieved in concrete and reinforcement**

A common specification used is:
- Maximum temperature at surface of concrete 250°C
- Maximum temperature of reinforcement 280°C

These criteria are intended to prevent permanent loss of strength and stiffness, and are intended to limit the risk of permanent plastic irreparable deformations. Note: this data applies to C30 siliceous concrete, for other concretes lower values may need to be determined. All parts of the structure should be assessed to determine whether less or more onerous requirements should be imposed. Prevention of surface spalling is not guaranteed by these temperature limits. If the Owner wishes there to be no spalling this should be clearly specified. If an amount of damage that will require repair can be accepted, then this should also be specified. Typically surface spalling may begin to occur at temperatures of about 200°C. In particular, special considerations have to be taken in case of the use of permanent pre-stressing in wide spanning top slabs.

**Adhesion properties - to resist suction pressure**

All fire protection systems should be designed to resist cyclical suction pressures arising from passing vehicles or trains. A pressure of 1.5 to 2.0kN/m² is typically specified in the absence of rigorous analysis and is a good guideline. Systems that are supported on frameworks or suspended ceilings may have additional requirements for the strength and stability of the framework under dynamic loading from vehicles and trains. Systems should be subject to testing to demonstrate adequate behaviour. The amount of cycles that a system should be tested for can vary depending on traffic intensity and suitable test criteria and acceptance limits should be developed.

**Surface preparation specifications**

For spray applied materials cleaning of concrete surfaces (in particular to remove curing agents, formwork release oils and similar) is essential and should be carried out by pressure washing. It is advisable to use a mesh attached to the substrate to ensure that physical bonding to the surface is achieved. For long term durability it is advisable to use 316 stainless steel or plastic coated galvanised steel mesh. Standard galvanised steel should not be used. Board materials require no specific surface preparation.

**Density**

Density of materials should be determined by testing.

**Material characteristics**

Materials should be inert and not produce fumes under fire conditions. In order to be able to handle peak temperatures in tunnels fires the melting temperature of fire protection materials should exceed 1350°C, regardless of the design time-temperature curve. Materials should be durable and resistant to the effects of moisture ingress and the corrosive environment within tunnels. Materials should be compatible with watertight seals and to limit temperatures at the watertight seals to levels acceptable to the seal manufacturers, so as not to impair their performance.

**Health & Safety procedures for spray materials**

These must be considered for operatives involved with spray applied materials. Products and their application that involve health risks should be avoided.

**Joint filler materials**

There are a limited number of products on the market that can be used for sealing joints and that can tolerate the high temperatures required by the fire curves. Care in the selection of these materials is necessary to ensure that the seals in the immersion joints, and the cast-in waterstops in segment joints are not damaged by heat. The surface sealant and joint gap filler material can be replaced whereas the main watertight seals cannot.

Sealants and filler material should be selected to be compatible with watertight seals and to limit temperatures at the watertight seals to levels acceptable to the seal manufacturers, so as not to impair their performance.

**Density of Polypropylene fibres**

If polypropylene fibres are introduced into the concrete mix the fibres may not need to be added to all parts of the structure, only the zones requiring protection. The quantity of fibres to be added to the concrete mix is in the order of 1-3kg/m³. The properties of concrete must be thoroughly tested to understand the effect on strength, workability, leakage and characteristics relevant to controlling early age cracking. The inclusion of fibres may reduce spalling but may not eliminate it; raveling during a fire has been shown in some tests to eventually result in a total loss of section. Polypropylene fibres will not prevent strength loss of materials or stiffness of the structure and would need to be used in conjunction with a passive fire protection layer.
DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

Test reports to be expected include:

- Fire test reports (full description of all furnace testing of the complete system)
- Adhesion test reports
- Dynamic load test reports
- Material characteristics test reports

General test information can be obtained ahead of procurement and backed up by trials of the actual materials and conditions during the construction contract. Reports from testing carried out during construction should be retained in the project maintenance files.

EXPECTED VALUES

Thickness of applied spray material can be achieved to a high accuracy using automatic equipment that is controlled during application. Therefore no reduction below minimum thickness is expected. Board systems are manufactured to precise thicknesses, therefore the tolerance on thickness is expected to be in the order of -0mm / +3mm.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)

Structural analysis of conditions during and after a potential fire is required to demonstrate that the subsequent strength capacity of the section exceeds the demand due to applied external loading, even if loss of material strength occurs due to overheated concrete and reinforcement. For the accidental load situation during the fire, the factors of safety may be reduced. If it is shown that there may be a loss of strength or reduction in stiffness, recommendations for how to recover the necessary factors of safety for continued use of the structure are required.

The potential effects on the long-term durability of the structure from large deformations causing cracking should also be investigated.

BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

Thicknesses of materials should be treated as minimum requirements. Furnace testing should meet the specified fire curve temperatures as a minimum requirement.

REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)

Defects in materials can be rectified during construction without difficulty. Defects or damage arising during the operational design life due to accident or vehicle impact can be repaired locally for all types of fire protection. Subsequent to a fire, simple replacement of lost or fire damaged material while the structure is under load may of itself not be adequate and analyses should be made.

LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES

- Structural form
- Internal finishing works
- Concrete
- Exceptional load cases
- Joints- immersion
- Joints - segment

PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to fire protection materials are:

- Design & detailing – designer
- Performance requirements – Owner
- Material specifications – designer/supplier
- Witnessing of contract specific fire tests – Owner, designer & contractor
- Repair during construction – Contractor
- Repair during operation – Contractor or Owner (depending on contractual requirements for defects liability period after completion of construction)
- Maintenance of replaceable items – Owner
Immersion joints are used for all forms of immersed tunnel. They are a logical result of using a construction method where precast elements are submerged and subsequently connected. The immersion joint is defined as the joint between immersed tunnel elements. It enables a long tunnel to be divided up into shorter elements for ease of construction, handling, launching, towing and installation as multiple pieces.

**WHAT**

Immersion joints are joints between tunnel elements and are the joints formed during the installation of the elements. These joints may be made rigid or they may remain flexible. Provisions for shear transfer, both horizontal and vertical, is almost always provided. Limits to the maximum relative displacement across a joint may also be provided.

Most concrete tunnels have flexible immersion joints without structural continuity through them. Conversely, it is more usual for steel immersed tunnels to have rigid immersion joints with structural continuity across the joint. Additional seismic restraining measures may also be incorporated into a flexible joint to restrain the joint from opening during a seismic event, preventing not only loss of watertightness but also entry of unwanted materials into the joint and thus preventing it from closing again; these additional measures may be active only during a seismic event.

Waterproofing of the joint is achieved with a combination of rubber seals. Three stages of sealing occur – initial, second and final. An initial seal is made by a soft flexible rubber seal which is compressed by pulling the element being immersed towards the previously placed element. This initial watertightness allows dewatering of the narrow chamber between the bulkheads of the adjacent elements. Hydraulic pressure created by dewatering will compress the seal and improve watertightness further.

The use of a Gina-type gasket (or seal) is becoming widespread. This combines the initial and second sealing process. It has a soft nose on the mating surface that acts as the initial seal while the main body of this seal is made from a harder rubber that is designed to carry the full compressive load resulting from dewatering the joint. The Gina seal is normally considered to be a permanent seal.

Most US steel tunnels use separate flap type seals as the initial and second seals. These seals cannot carry the compression load that occurs during dewatering, so a flat “stop bar” behind the seals carries this load.

Both the initial and second seals, which are flexible seals relying on contact pressure, will function properly only if the face onto which they are installed and the mating face are sufficiently smooth, planar and parallel. It is strongly recommended that the established solution using I-sections cast onto the ends of the tunnel elements with a close tolerance steel counter-plate welded onto both I-profiles is used unless very special installation facilities for the end frames are available at a reasonable cost. The established solution enables the necessary degree of accuracy in construction to be achieved.

Almost all flexible immersion joints today include an Omega-type seal as the third final seal, on the inside of the Gina seal and clamped to the internal perimeter of the end frame on which the Gina seal is mounted. This is treated as a permanent seal. Some specifications require these seals to be installed before removal of the temporary bulkheads at the immersion joints, on the basis of safety. Whilst this is recommended it is not essential but is a decision for Owners to take based on risk assessment considering site specific conditions, construction sequence, other safety provisions and preference. However it should be understood that it is a difficult process to install the seals in the restricted space between the bulkheads and installation may take time.

In theory, Omega seals can be replaced and it is important that joint details take this into account, with access for inspection and maintenance to be provided. In practice it would be undesirable to undertake such an extensive replacement operation and the hardware and all bolts will need to ensure durability for the life of the structure. Stainless steel hardware might therefore be appropriate, or the application of cathodic protection.

The space between the second and this third seal could fill with water if there is leakage at the second seal. Small drain pipes with plugs can be installed to drain off this leakage. This can be a significant issue in seismic areas where elasticity of the joint may be important; trapped water could burst the Omega-type seal during seismic motions. While it can be shown that Gina-type seals can slip across the mating face due to differential settlements without damage, instances where the seal rolled over and was damaged exist. In contrast, Omega-type seals will suffer shear deformations that must be taken into account in their design. The seals are clamped onto steel frames embedded at the end of each tunnel element. In Japanese concrete tunnels, M-shaped steel profiles are used instead, clamped and welded to the steel end collars.

The immersion joint can be made rigid for both concrete and steel tunnels. If there is a steel membrane or shell, the steel can be welded to make it continuous across the joint (thus forming the third seal) before completing the joint with concrete to make it rigid. The section properties across a rigid joint are often similar to the rest of the tunnel.

A flexible immersion joint permits longitudinal contraction and subsequent expansion, and permits rotation in the horizontal and vertical plane. Shear keys may limit or prevent vertical and horizontal relative shear movement across a joint. They are often located in the tunnel walls and slabs or in the ballast concrete layer. A number of different approaches to shear key design exist. Infill concrete or cover panels are placed on the inside of the joint to achieve a smooth finish within the tunnel. Rigid joints are sometimes used to carry seismic loads that exceed the capacity of shear keys in a flexible joint.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

Important procedures and tests in connection with the immersion joints are:

- Production testing of rubber seal for defects e.g. pin holes
- Production testing of rubber seal to verify mechanical properties, especially where bespoke seal designs are used
• Procedure for vulcanising all rubber seals on site to suit as-built dimensions of the seal mounting frame.
• Procedure for lifting and fitting all rubber seals on site to ensure even clamping and correct alignment of pre-formed corner pieces.
• Checking planarity at element ends (end frames) of seal supporting and mating (counter-plate) surfaces to ensure specified tolerances are met, particularly at welds.
• Procedure for grouting and 100% filling of all voids behind the counter-plates, such as the space between an I-frame and counter-plate, and the rears of end frames.
• Verifying corrosion prevention measures are effective in advance of immersion e.g. checking electrical continuity of reinforcement, verifying isolation between items if specified and confirming electrical connections to CP anodes and monitoring equipment.
• Measurement of the joint gap after immersion to verify design assumptions and assist with final design of closure joint.
• Where an additional seal is installed at the joint from within the tunnel, such as an Omega-type seal, pressure test for this seal once installed to verify that the factor of safety against watertightness is achieved.
• Settlement measurement in relation to forming shear keys, to ensure all specified settlements have occurred before forming or fixing the key.
• Joint dewatering (from cleaning water) should be carried out during construction at regular intervals as soon as the in-filled concrete has been cast.
• Monitoring for long term seepage is desirable. Access points to enable checking for water in the bottom of the joint are needed if this is required.
• Routine inspection and dewatering of the immersion joint to ensure no build-up of water occurs in the base of the joint.
• Routine inspection of bearings in shear key assemblies, if used. Removable covers are required for this.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)

Seals used for immersion joint dewatering (e.g. Gina-type seal)

For the type of seal used to get the initial seal:
• Height of soft nose or protrusion of flexible end
• Determination of the jacking force to obtain an initial seal
• General arrangement and procedure for making the initial seal.

Watertightness of the main dewatering seal should be specified. A common factor of safety to use is 2.5. However this is quite onerous for deep water conditions and a more refined approach could be used, based on a reliability approach considering water levels that may arise for appropriate return periods, with an additional margin of safety applied to this.

The capacity of the seal should be checked taking into account:
• Thermal variations.
• Shrinkage.
• Rotations of the joint caused by settlement.
• Out-of-plane tolerances and local tolerances on the end frame.
• Tolerances in placing the tunnel element.
• Long term relaxation in the rubber.
• Backfill friction restraining longitudinal movement.
• Tidal variation in water levels.
• Provision of residual compression capacity (often 10mm) once all other effects are taken into account.
• Ensuring a minimum of 10mm compression is achieved above the level required to maintain a seal.
• Movement due to seismic action.

Seals should be solid rubber without any internal voids. Rubber material should be specified by the supplier taking into account requirements for design life within the service environment.

Design life should be specified for the full design life of the tunnel unless this seal is temporary.

Additional seals installed from within tunnel

When used, these seals are typically rubber or metal (e.g. Omega-type or M-type seals).

When the immersion joint is to be made rigid, the gap between the two tunnel elements is often sealed with steel closure plates welded between the end frames. The design life of these plates should be specified as the full design life of the tunnel. In this case, the seals used for dewatering are considered temporary. The closure plates may not be sufficient to transfer tension and compression across the joint; the rigid joint must be detailed to transfer load continuity across the joint.

When the immersion joint is to remain flexible, the design life specified should be the full design life of the tunnel. The need for replacement is not essential but detailing should permit this. The permissible shear deformation of the seal must be stated and design of the joint made such that the deformation cannot be exceeded. For rubber seals, the clamping torque required for the bolts to achieve adequate compression in the seal flanges must be stated to ensure watertightness. After installation, these seals should be tested for watertightness. Any rubber material and reinforcement layers should be specified by the supplier taking into account load requirements and design life within the service environment.

Steelwork

Clamping systems and the end frame on which the seal is mounted need to be designed to resist compressive forces exerted by the deforming seal. Design life should be specified to suit long term corrosion prevention strategy. Elements of the clamping system can be designed for short term life provided their corrosion has no consequential effect on parts of the frame required to achieve the full design life of the tunnel.

Corrosion protection measures should be specified to be compatible with the overall corrosion prevention strategy for the tunnel.

Tolerances specified for the end frame are typically ±3 mm for the counter-plate and ±5 mm for planarity over the height and width of the tunnel. Larger tolerances, e.g. ±4 mm and ±8 mm, can be specified if the seals are capable of absorbing the greater differences. In considering these tolerances it is necessary to consider the deflection of the element after it is floated and immersed, especially when parts of the element are completed afloat. As a result,
the end faces could be pitched in opposite directions by an amount that could equal or exceed the planarity specified. This must be taken into account in setting the design slope of the end faces and in the design of the initial and dewatering seals.

**Internal finishes to immersion joints**

It is vital to the integrity of the tunnel that the seals are protected against damage including fire. Where joints are to remain flexible, the movement and sliding capability of cover panels and infill (e.g. concrete) should be specified along with compressibility of any joint gap filler and sealant materials.

Infill concrete and panels/cover in the walls should be designed for impact resistance and the materials specified for fire resistance.

**Shear keys**

For steelwork shear key assemblies, bolt torques may need to be specified where the keys are bolted back into the concrete structure supporting them. Movement capacities and load capacities for bearing components must be specified. It is very important also to specify the sequence of backfilling and at what point in time or after how much settlement the shear keys are to be fixed (locked). Even when immersion joints are to be made rigid, temporary shear keys may be required to ensure that excessive relative deflection across the joint does not occur prior to making the joint rigid. This is especially important in soft ground and for deep tunnels. Tests should be made to demonstrate that seals remain watertight, and that they slide and do not "roll" under proposed allowable relative movements.

**Finishing seals**

Finishing seals are needed to be applied around the inside perimeter of the tunnel to seal joint gaps. Specifications are needed for the following characteristics of the seals:

- Compressibility characteristics
- Fire resistance properties
- Watertightness
- Durability properties – within the tunnel at road or track level, needs resistance to a wide variety of substances - cleaning detergents, hydrocarbons (liquid and vapour), particulate from vehicles, chemicals within vehicle emissions etc.

Frequency of replacement must be as long as possible to minimize maintenance closures in the tunnel. Seals under the roadway or track can be especially difficult to access; these seals should preferably be specified with the full design life.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

Records of corrosion monitoring and leakage monitoring should be held on the maintenance file.

Movements of the joints versus time during construction should be held on the maintenance file.

Grouting records for the end frame should be held on the maintenance file. Any tolerances outside of the specified limits should be recorded on the as-built drawings.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

The following movements are not prescriptive specifications but are typical values:

- Longitudinal movement: 25mm closing, 25mm opening (dependant on element length and thermal variation)
- Vertical shear movement ±0mm
- Horizontal shear movement ±0mm
- Vertical rotation 0.05 degrees
- Horizontal rotation 0 degrees

Note, if the tunnel is in a seismic region movements may be significantly greater and separate measures may be needed to limit opening of the joints.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE ..)**

Most tests and checks need to be carried out at specific points in time during construction. Short term and long term settlement monitoring is required during and after backfilling in order to detect any problems that may require adjustment of procedures. Rotations can occur during backfilling. Surveying must always be carried back to a stable reference point since tunnel element movements may continue well beyond the construction period. It is particularly important that element positions be correctly known in the vicinity of closure and final joints.

Routine periodic tests may be needed for:

- Leakage monitoring
- Settlement monitoring for determining time to install shear keys and for understanding and monitoring long term behaviour.
- Corrosion monitoring
- Removal of water during construction before low point sumps become operational

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Expected displacements and tolerances thereto upon which the design is based should be available throughout construction and operation. This will enable early remedial action to be taken when monitored movements approach or exceed design limits.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Unexpected leakage behind the end frame may perhaps be corrected by grouting. However, an inspection regime should be developed for the long term to monitor the effectiveness of remedial works, particularly through seasonal changes.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Cathodic protection – for steelwork mounting frame and clamping systems
- Placing of tunnel elements
- Fire protection

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to immersion joints are:

- Design & detailing – designer
- Specifications of materials – designer
- Movement monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage repair during construction - contractor
- Movement monitoring over life – Owner
Leakage repair during operation – Contractor or Owner (depending on contractual requirements for defects liability period after completion of construction)
Maintenance of replaceable items e.g. bearings - Owner
Annex 05 >> Segment Joints

Segment joints are relevant only to concrete tunnels that follow the philosophy of segmental construction with watertight concrete. The segment joint is defined as the joint between concrete segments which together form an immersed tunnel element. Sometimes also known as expansion joints, they are formed by match casting concrete against a previously cast segment.

**WHAT**

Segment joints are match cast joints within tunnel elements that have no longitudinal structural continuity through them. The joint usually contains a grout injectible waterstop cast with one half embedded each side of the joint; often a secondary seal is used, which could take a number of different forms: Some tunnels have no secondary seal, others have either a hydrophilic seal or a surface membrane/seal applied externally around the perimeter of the joint. Occasionally an omega seal has been used at the inside surface, but this is unusual due to its high cost and has only been required in special circumstances such as seismic conditions or great water depth.

The joint normally permits longitudinal compression and subsequent expansion, and permits rotation in the horizontal and vertical plane. Vertical and horizontal shear movement is prevented or limited by shear keys which may be located in the tunnel walls and slabs. A number of different approaches to shear key design exist.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

Important issues for segment joint construction include:

- Specific procedures to be followed when concreting around injectible waterstops, to ensure no voids in concrete.
- Trial grouting procedure to be undertaken prior to construction of the permanent works.
- Verification of grouting procedures on site should be carried out to ensure full grouting is achieved.
- Inspection of joints should be carried out during and on completion of dry dock or casting basin flooding.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY...)**

The spacing of segment joints through the tunnel will depend on the thermal shrinkage behaviour of the tunnel concrete. The length of segment is chosen such that relatively free shrinkage can occur without the need for additional reinforcement in the structure to control cracking that may result from restraint to movement. The length of segment will also be governed by practical considerations of concrete pour size.

Specifications should require match cast surfaces to be smooth and debonded before casting the second phase concrete.

Shear keys formed within the structural walls and slabs should be detailed to allow for expansion and contraction of the concrete during curing and to avoid overstressing the concrete at localised features. Detailing should also allow long term rotations of the joint to occur without causing localised stress concentrations in the concrete.

Specification of the type of waterstop should suit expected joint rotations and opening to ensure centre bulbs in the waterstop are not torn.

**Specification of joint seals**

- External sealants are required to prevent backfill materials entering the joint gap during opening of the joint. Good adhesion and flexibility and durability in a submerged marine environment need to be considered in the specifications as they cannot be replaced.
- Internal seals in the joint gaps to prevent ingress of dirt into the joints need to be highly resistant to the aggressive internal tunnel environment and should be resistant to hydrocarbons, detergents, chemical deposits from vehicle exhausts, UV and oxidation. Replacement intervals for these sealants should be as long as possible to minimise tunnel maintenance activities.
- Seals in the upper part of the tunnel need to have adequate fire resistance properties to protect the joint from deterioration during a fire within the tunnel or have adequate protection from such a fire.

Specification for the grouting of the injectible waterstops should be developed with the supplier of the grout and subcontractor for injection, combined with a site trial to ensure complete filling of the injection sponge/tube will be achieved. Specification should state grouting distance and acceptable pressure ranges for injection. Grouting should be carried out before raising the water level on the outside of the tunnel.

Prestressing designed to achieve positive compression across all faces of the segment joint with a minimum compressive stress in the order of 0.1N/mm² is recommended from before launching until after installation. This minimum compression should be maintained...
throughout all temporary conditions, especially under dynamic loading of the element due to wave conditions.

Cutting of the prestressing is normally undertaken unless the tunnel has been specifically designed to allow the prestress to remain intact. A de-stressing sequence should be specified to ensure uneven loading of the tunnel does not result.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

Records of grouting for each joint should be made and held on the maintenance file.

Movement against time during construction should be recorded and records kept on the maintenance file. This can be recorded as part of the ongoing settlement survey during construction.

Seasonal movement trends throughout life of structure, if recorded, should be kept with the maintenance records.

The Maintenance Manual should record the sources and suppliers of all joint materials and remedial works materials.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

The following movements are not prescriptive specifications but are typical limiting values for the opening, closing and rotational movements experienced at segment joints:

- Longitudinal movement 0mm closing, 15mm opening
- Vertical shear movement ±0.0mm
- Horizontal shear movement ±0.0mm
- Vertical rotation 0.05 degrees
- Horizontal rotation 0 degrees

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE..)**

Settlement surveys during construction should normally be carried out on a monthly basis or following specific events during construction such as release of prestressing, placing ballast concrete or placing of fill over the tunnel.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

These should be obtained from the design so that construction and operation can be monitored as described.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

If unexpected opening of joints occurs, it will be accompanied by other effects such as large settlements. Remedial measures to mitigate against damage or loss of serviceability will depend on the particular structure.

Remedial measures for leakage include post construction grouting into the joint interface. The choice of grout and method of injection is particularly important to achieve a long term corrective repair, especially if the movement could continue.

Some tunnels incorporate leakage water pressure relief and all should have drainage systems to cater for the possibility of leakage at some point in the structure’s life, so that water can be drained in a controlled manner not affecting appearance and so that road surfacing will not be affected.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Prestressing
- Internal finishing works
- Structural form

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to segment joints are as follows:

- Design & detailing – designer
- Specifications of materials – designer
- Movement monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage repair during construction – contractor
- Movement monitoring over life – Owner
- Leakage repair during operation – Contractor or Owner (depending on contractual requirements for defects liability period after completion of construction).
Tunnel ventilation is needed to ensure that air quality criteria are fulfilled for tunnel users during operation. Ventilation is also required for smoke control in case of a fire in the tunnel.

**WHAT**

The tunnel ventilation system may have a significant impact on the main dimensions of the tunnel cross section, and the layout should therefore be determined at an early stage of the project. For short tunnels (less than 150-200m) and tunnels with small traffic volumes, natural ventilation may be sufficient. Apart from such cases, mechanical ventilation will be needed. There are three main principles for mechanical ventilation: longitudinal ventilation, semi-transverse ventilation and full transverse ventilation, as explained below.

A **longitudinal** system is suitable for a tunnel tube with unidirectional traffic. The air in the tunnel is blown in the direction of the traffic, either by jet fans mounted under the tunnel ceiling or by so-called Saccardo Nozzles which are nozzles injecting air, the flow being created by large ventilators mounted over the tunnel near the portals. The longitudinal system implies that concentration of the air pollutants is built up in the direction of the traffic, and for road tunnels, this implies a limitation of the length which can be satisfactorily ventilated, according to traffic density. In case of a fire, smoke is blown in the direction of the outgoing traffic, thus protecting motorists upstream of the fire.

A **semi-transverse** system involves injection of fresh air or removal of the polluted air through a separate duct connected with louvers to the traffic ducts. This will result in a more moderate built up of concentrations along the tunnel and thereby enable longer tunnel lengths. However, the air ducts along the traffic tubes will imply additional width or height of the cross section and result in higher costs than for a longitudinal system. In case of a fire, the smoke is extracted close to the location of a fire.

A **full transverse** system has ducts for supply of fresh air as well as for removal of the polluted air. It will give the most efficient ventilation but the ducts will lead to a relatively large increase in the cross section and the system will have the highest costs of the three systems.

For rail tunnels, the piston effect created by the train will often be adequate for normal control of air quality, but mechanical ventilation may still be required to remove the heat from locomotives and air conditioning, and/or for fire ventilation.

These ventilation options are common to all forms of tunnel. They key issue for immersed tunnels is to choose a ventilation system and corresponding tunnel geometry to achieve an appropriate balance between safety/ functionality and cost. A further issue for immersed tunnels is to ensure that safe access is provided for escape and emergency intervention by the fire services. The need for additional tubes alongside the traffic tube must be considered at the conceptual design stage.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

**Testing during Construction**

The functioning of the individual ventilation fans need to be factory tested. The overall function of the ventilator system, including fans and dampers, should be verified by full scale testing.
for the relevant ventilation scenario prior to final commissioning of the tunnel. The noise level should also be verified by testing.

**Control during Operation**
During operation, the tunnel ventilation should be automatically controlled by a PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) system. The PLC system controls the normal ventilation system based on measurement of the pollution level and initiates fire ventilation in case of a fire alarm being activated. The PLC system also monitors the function and the air speed of the individual fans. The PLC system is connected to an SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system for central supervisory control.

For highway tunnels, fires are usually detected by CCTV cameras observed by a Control Centre, whereas for rail tunnels they are typically detected by train drivers. A variety of smoke and heat detection systems are available and are commonly used in road and rail tunnels.

It should be possible to activate a number of automatic control sequences for fire ventilation from control panels located at each tunnel entrance or from the Control Centre.

**Testing during Operation**
Fans should be visual inspected weekly for any malfunction to be reported to the maintenance organization, which can arrange more detailed inspection or repair work. The function of dampers and the control system should also be checked at regular intervals.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY...)**
A number of international standards exist including NFPA 130, NFPA 502, PIARC publications and many national design standards for road and rail tunnels.

**Ventilation for pollution control**
The ventilation should ensure that limit values for air pollution in a tunnel tube are not exceeded. Air pollutants to be controlled are in particular CO (Carbon monoxide), NO (Nitric Oxide), NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) and particles. The noise level in the tunnel, with all fans running at maximum speed, should not exceed a specified noise rating.

The fans and their mountings should be designed for easy replacement requiring closure of no more than one traffic lane at a time. There should be a redundant number of fans, so that failure or maintenance of individual fans will not necessitate repairs or traffic restrictions at inconvenient times. Furthermore, failure of a group of fans should not present a risk to safety in the event of a fire.

**Fire ventilation**
The ventilation system should have sufficient capacity to transport smoke from the maximum design fire load, depending on the nature of heavy goods transport and risk assessment.

For a longitudinal system, the air speed should be controlled to maintain stratification (i.e. smoke at the top of the tunnel) and to be large enough to avoid back layering (i.e. the phenomenon that the upper layer of heated air flows in a direction contrary to the forced ventilation). Stratification may not be possible if fog, mist or deluge systems are used to reduce or extinguish fires.

Where possible, a semi-transverse system should be used in an exhaust mode.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

**Ventilation for pollution control**
The traffic volumes and vehicle emissions should be estimated as a basis for calculation of the required capacity and design of the ventilation system. A set of emission values have been established by PIARC.

**Fire Ventilation**
For system design and planning of the optimum smoke control during a fire, the detailed air movements can be analysed by use of advanced numerical methods such as Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) model calculations.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)** Not applicable.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)** Not applicable.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**
Design of the structural form of the tunnel

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE (100% CONTRACTOR...)**
The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to ventilation are:

- Design & detailing – designer
- Specifications of performance or performance requirements – Owner
- Detailed specifications for materials and equipment – designer/supplier/installation specialist
- Witnessing of contract specific ventilation tests – Owner, designer & contractor
- Repair during construction – Contractor
- Repair during operation – Contractor or Owner (depending on contractual requirements for defects liability period after completion of construction and the contract form, whether e.g. «design and construct» or concession arrangements including design, construction, operation & maintenance and finance)
- Maintenance of replaceable items - Contractor or Owner (depending on contract form as above)
Closure joints are relevant to all forms of immersed tunnels. If the approach tunnels have been completed before immersing the tunnel elements, then once all the tunnel elements have been immersed into the dredged trench a short gap will remain. The short length of tunnel to close this gap is known as the closure joint. The closure joint can be between two tunnel elements or between a tunnel element and the cut and cover tunnel at a landfall.

**WHAT**

During the immersion process a tunnel element must be lowered to its final level a short distance away from the tunnel element or cut and cover tunnel that it is being immersed against. The element is then pulled horizontally to close the gap between tunnel element and form the immersion joint. For the final element that is placed clearance is also needed at the secondary end of the element to avoid accidental damage during the immersion process. Therefore the gap into which a tunnel element is immersed must be greater than the length of the element itself.

The length of the gap is usually in the range of 0.5m to 2m longer than the tunnel element, but may be more.

The closure joint is the final piece of construction that fills this gap, thus making the tunnel complete and continuous. It can generally be constructed between any of the tunnel elements, or between tunnel terminal element and the landfall structure (usually an approach tunnel). Locations for closure joints will be decided by the preferred sequence of construction, the water depth, access for construction and site constraints. This short length of tunnel will need to be completed using special methods.

The need for a closure joint will depend primarily upon schedule. Often the approach structures will be built before the immersed tunnel is laid and so a closure joint is required within the waterway. However if the approach structures are completed after the immersed tunnel is placed then a closure joint is not needed.

There are three principle types of closure joint, with some additional minor variations:

1. In situ concrete
2. Terminal block
3. Key element or V-Wedge

**In-situ concrete**

For an in situ joint, the typical procedure is for divers to strut the gap between the tunnel elements and place external forms (closure panels) around the joint to seal it and allow it to be dewatered. It is essential to strut the gap to prevent relaxation of the locked-in compression within the immersion joints of the tunnel occurring during the dewatering process.

An in situ reinforced concrete joint can then be constructed within the dry space created within the formwork. Before the advent of adequate seals for joints, both steel and concrete tunnels sealed the joints using unreinforced tremie concrete placed within external forms. Such joints were rigid and required internal waterproofing to guard against leaks that occur when the tremie concrete cracks due to tunnel movement. A typical detail was to fillet-weld a non-structural plate across the gap around the periphery. Should the fillet weld fail, the joint will leak.

Modern tunnels utilise the joint seals that are used in segment and immersion joints and reinforcement is placed from within the tunnel. Often a combination of a rigid joint and a movement joint are used, as can be seen in Figure 1. The left hand diagram illustrates the temporary condition and the right hand side diagram illustrates the final condition.

Temporary works that are required for the in situ concrete solutions include:

- Temporary strutting of the gap to prevent movement of tunnel if the joint is dewatered before placing concrete. This can be with concrete or steel wedges, or jacks or a combination of these.
- External forms around the perimeter of the tunnel to provide the outer form for the concrete works.

It may be necessary to provide a greater amount of flexibility in the vicinity of the closure joint. For example, the element to one side of the closure joint can include a pre-compressed immersion joint and the first few meters of the adjacent element, while the element to the other side of the closure joint omits the first few meters and the width of the closure joint.

![Typical in-situ closure joint](image-url)
A rigid final joint can therefore be made from within a temporary external seal, after which the pre-compressed immersion joint is released, creating an element approximately the same length as the others (between immersion joints). See Figure 2.

The tremie joint used on US steel tunnels is cast between an exterior sheet pile closure and overlapping collar and hood plate arrangement. The arrangement is shown in Figure 3. This shows typical matching closure joint faces. The collar ring on each face receives a lower hood plate (on left) and upper hood plate (on right) forming a continuous seal that is variable longitudinally. Closure sheet piling attaches between opposing faces to vertical edges of the rectangular dam plates. This permits the space to be filled with tremie concrete.

**Terminal block**

For a terminal block closure joint, a short length of prefabricated tunnel is contained within the tunnel adjacent to the closure joint, outside a temporary bulkhead. This section can then be jacked or pulled out to meet the adjacent tunnel and fill the gap. Seals similar to the immersion joints can be used on the end face of this moving section. The concept is shown in Figure 4.

The gap between the moving section and the oversize tunnel surrounding it must also be capable of being sealed, perhaps using inflatable seals and grout. This method has been used for the Tamagawa and the Kawasaki Fairway Tunnels in Japan, and for the Söderström Tunnel in Sweden. Excellent alignment of the closure joint is achieved using this method, since its orientation is controlled within its housing. The use of divers is not required. If the load in the closure joint seal is less than other immersion joint seals, some relaxation of other immersion joint seals may occur.

**V-Wedge / Key element**

The V-wedge closure joint is shown in Figure 5. This relies on the difference in hydrostatic pressure once the interior has been dewatered to keep the wedge in place. The approach has also applied to a full length element with wedge-shaped ends, known as a "Key Element".

Both require reasonably accurate data about the width of joint to be filled. The drop-in wedge and key element both require an oversized interior (since the vertical position is not accurately known until placed). Dimensional tolerances must be small so that this section may need to be manufactured after the closure width is measured, or else the wedge/element will sit at the wrong level. The end faces of the adjacent elements must be sloping to match the wedge taper. Bulkheads are not required on the short V-wedge but are used on the key element in the same way as for a normal tunnel element. Rubber compression seals permit the joints each side of the wedge to be dewatered and the joint to be completed from within, though some warping of those seals under load may occur and the seals must be capable of being slid sideways into position. During dewatering some relaxation of the locked-in force at adjacent immersion joints may occur unless additional bracing of the closure joint gap is installed.
After dewatering, further transverse displacement should be prevented. The V-wedge/key element method has been used for the Osaka Sakishima and Kobe Minatojima Tunnels in Japan. The use of divers is not required.

**Foundation**

The foundation beneath the tunnel is difficult to form over the length of the closure joint. Often the structure is left as a cantilever structure without underfilling. Gravel cannot be placed if an external form needs to be placed in the trench to enable it to be drawn up to the underside of the tunnel. The foundation could be formed by grouting or with grout bags. Sand flow could be used but this would be a discontinuous operation with the remainder of the sand flow and so might be expensive. Unless there is significant load, or variation in load that could cause undesirable settlement, the length of the joint can generally be left without a foundation.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

Important procedures and tests related to closure joints include:

- Accurate measurement of as-built dimensions of the tunnel to enable accurate detailing of the closure joint permanent and temporary works. The space between the tunnel elements that has to be filled by the closure joint can be predicted but the final dimensions will depend on placing accuracy, the as-built dimensions of the tunnel elements and the amount of compression that has occurred in the seals in the immersion joints between other tunnel elements.

- Level control of the secondary ends of the tunnel elements at the closure joint to achieve the desired alignment and avoid any significant steps across the closure joint.

- Measures to achieve watertightness of the structure – e.g. cooling of concrete, special curing and thermal monitoring. The closure joint can have specific requirements in this respect and needs a different design and construction approach.

- Sealing of temporary closure panels for in situ concrete joints, typically achieved with a rubber seal, but may need additional measures applied by divers externally.

- Dewatering and cleaning of the joint space after the closure joint space has been dewatered, and ongoing monitoring of leakage.

- Monitoring of loads in jacks or condition of blocks placed in the joint space to preserve the joint gap until the in situ concrete closure joint is formed.

- Sequence of in situ concreting and removal of temporary wedge blocks/jacks to transfer the compression force into the permanent joint structure.

- Health and safety and emergency procedures for entering and working within a restricted environment between the bulkheads.

- Trials and testing for special concreting procedures e.g. pumping high flow concrete into roof slab element of the in situ concrete closure joint, or for spray applied concrete applied to the roof section of the closure joint.
SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY…)

For in situ concrete joints:
- Specification for temporary blocking should include the sequence of installation and the strength of materials or capacity of jacks.
- The location of jacks/blocks to ensure stability and even distribution of loading around perimeter should be shown on the construction drawings and considered in the design.
- The strength of concrete forming the joint to be achieved before releasing temporary blocking should be specified.
- Design of the joint movements should take account of the whole system of joints in the tunnel. Note that sometimes if the closure joint does not include an immersion joint arrangement the distance between the immersion joints may be increased resulting in greater movements ranges at the adjacent immersion joints.
- Formwork panels used around the perimeter of the joint for concrete tunnels are left in place but are not considered in the design for watertightness. Specifications for watertightness and durability should be prepared on this basis.
- Detailed work procedures should be developed as there are a number of high risk construction activities involving lifting, diver working, and working in confined spaces.
- A clear sequence of work is required, so that it can be assessed in the design. This is particularly important for considering the axial load transferring through the joint, initially through jacks and/or wedge blocks, and subsequently via the walls and slabs, when the jacks/blocks are removed.

For terminal block joints:
- Sufficient extra length tolerance is required for terminal block element to ensure the gap can be filled to take account of all immersed tunnel element length and immersion joint gap width tolerances elsewhere.
- Specification for location and capacity of jacks and method of adjusting alignment of terminal block.
- Specification for method of sealing around perimeter of terminal block.
- The strength of concrete for locking the terminal block to be achieved before releasing temporary jacks should be specified.
- Clear sequence of work.

For V-wedge joints or key element:
- Specification for method of maintaining alignment of the wedge during insertion and any vertical jacking required.
- Clear sequence of work.

DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

Accurate as-built record should be retained, as this part of works is susceptible to variation in detailing and geometry.

Cooling and curing records for in situ watertight concrete should be retained with the as-built records. Materials and construction records for special items e.g. high flow or spray applied concrete should be retained with the as-built records.

EXPECTED VALUES

The accuracy of placement and construction tolerances are generally as per immersion joints. The variation in the length of the joint will depend on the as-built length of previous tunnel elements and the actual compression achieved in the immersion joint seals compared to the expected values.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE…)  
Survey of the installed length of tunnel is carried out as construction proceeds to determine any variation in the length of the closure joint.

Settlement survey during construction would normally be carried out on a monthly basis or after specific events during construction such as release of prestressing, placing ballast concrete or placing of fill over the tunnel.

BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

The accuracy of placement and tolerances to be allowed for in the design are as per immersion joints. Variation in the length of the joint can be allowed for in the design and need not be a significant issue.

REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)

If leakage occurs either in the concrete or at joints, injection grouting is the most likely remedial measure to be used.

LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES

Immersion joints
Segment Joints
Element positioning
Watertightness
Tolerances

PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to closure joints, subject to type of contract and/or risk allocation are:

- Development of temporary blocking or jacking arrangement – Contractor
- Method and sequencing of work - Contractor
- Design & detailing of permanent structure – designer
- Specifications of materials – designer
- Movement monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage monitoring and repair during construction – contractor
- Movement monitoring over life – Owner
- Monitoring & repair of leakage during operation – Contractor or Owner (depending on contractual requirements for defects correction)
- Maintenance of replaceable items e.g. bearings – Owner
For prefabricated immersed tunnel elements the main construction material is concrete. The concrete may be working compositely with structural steel or acting on its own. This theme discusses aspects related to those immersed tunnel elements where the primary structure acts compositely with structural steel; such tunnels are termed "steel immersed tunnels". For the construction of the end frames and bearing plates, refer to Theme "Immersion Joints".

WHAT

The differences in general between steel and concrete immersed tunnels are discussed in Sections 2.4 and 2.7 of the main Owner’s Guide document to which this is an annex. A concrete tunnel with a steel non-structural waterproofing membrane is not considered as a steel tunnel.

There are three main types of steel immersed tunnel; double shell, single shell and sandwich. All three types of steel tunnel have a primary structure that resists the external loads, consisting of concrete bounded externally by relatively thin structural steel plates, sometimes described as shell plates. The sandwich tunnel has in addition structural steel plates on the inside face. All structural steel plates act compositely with the concrete contained within these plates. The term steel tunnel is thus an indicator that steel plates act compositely with concrete. For all steel tunnels, the steel shell external to the structural concrete doubles as a watertight membrane and thus requires some form of protection.

Since the required minimum weight of an immersed tunnel depends solely on the volume of air contained within it, both steel and concrete immersed tunnels contain almost the same weight of concrete. For all three types of steel tunnel, steel diaphragms and stiffeners embedded within the concrete are used to prevent plate buckling. Within double and single shell tunnels, the concrete is reinforced with steel and contains reinforcement whereas the sandwich tunnel concrete is unreinforced. Where concrete contains reinforcement, it must be checked to meet crack-width and durability requirements. This is applicable to both concrete and steel tunnels though the particular requirements may vary.

In the same way that concrete tunnel elements are constructed in bays (segments), steel tunnel elements are constructed in modules (subassemblies) that can be handled by cranes. These modules are then assembled and welded together to form an empty shell. By adding temporary bulkheads at the two ends, the empty shell essentially forms a steel "ship". In many cases, construction takes place at a location above water level rather than in a dry dock or basin; in such cases, the essentially empty element is side or end launched down a slipway. To add stability and strength for the launch or float-out from a dock, some of the base slab concrete is often placed prior to launch (keel concrete for the double-shell). For the Söderström tunnel in Stockholm, the empty element was transported on a semi-submersible barge.

Empty steel tunnel elements may require some temporary internal bracing and stiffeners, usually around the entire steel periphery to stiffen the shell against the fluid pressures of the concrete as well as the rising external water pressure as the element’s draft increases during outfitting. It is usual for all the remaining structural concrete to be placed at an outfitting location close to the final tunnel location. The concrete placing sequence afloat is very important so that the steel shell maintains adequate freeboard and distortions (in bending) prevented. Hatches or access shafts are required for temporary access to place internal concrete.

To reduce ballasting requirements for immersion, it is advantageous to place permanent ballast to maintain a freeboard of 60 cm or less for the tow from the outfitting area to the immersion location. However, there are many instances where the tow from the fabrication location to the tunnel location may extend hundreds of kilometres; over such long distances, it is not unusual for empty elements to be transported on semi-submersible barges to the outfitting location.

Figure 1: Double-Shell Tunnel
Double shell tunnels

For the double-shell tunnel only (Figure 1), there is structural but unreinforced concrete external to the curved structural steel shell, namely the keel and cap concrete at the bottom and top. The keel concrete is placed first. The inner structural concrete provides the internal finish to the tunnel and is placed afloat, followed by the cap concrete. The non-structural form plates (forming an outer second “shell”) function only as permanent forms for the cap concrete and as pockets for the tremie concrete. The tremie concrete not only provides the ballast that eventually ensures that the installed tunnel element cannot float but also acts as corrosion protection to the structural steel shell and adds stiffness to the whole.

Single shell tunnels

Most single-shell steel tunnels (Figure 2) are rectangular but can have any shape. The steel shell need not be on all sides, shell plates sometimes being omitted on the top. Stiffeners and temporary bracing are used to maintain stiffness and shape of the shell structure. Ballast concrete can be placed within the finished structure or on roof where it adds additional protection. For the BART tunnel, rock was placed in ballast pockets on the roof.

Since the structural steel is exposed, it will need to be protected against corrosion; methods used have included a coating of concrete and cathodic protection.

Steel sandwich tunnels

Steel sandwich tunnel have inner and outer stiffened steel plates forming the external structure that are connected by web plates to form closed cells with a volume typically of about 10 m³ each. Self-compacting non-shrink concrete is placed through central pouring holes. Small air release holes around the edge of each cell also enable direct observation to confirm that cells have been completely filled.

For all tunnel types, the tunnel primary structure should create an accessible and dry enclosed space and allow for safe passage during its intended lifetime. Therefore the exterior structure should prevent ingress of water and resist pressures from all external loads (water, soil pressure and temperature) and exceptional loads (see theme exceptional load cases). The concrete class is as required by structural strength, durability and exposure (minimum 20 MPa for structural concrete and 15 MPa for tremie ballast concrete).
Important issues for steel tunnel construction are:

- The method of providing protection to the structural steel shell must be established early.
- Full penetration butt welds are required for the watertight exterior shell. Use methods such as soap bubble and compressed air to test all welds for leaks as construction proceeds.
- Test a certain percentage of welds for cracks and/or flaws as construction proceeds, using methods such as x-ray or dye penetrant.
- It is recommended that the steel shell acting as a waterproofing membrane be provided with barriers within the membrane (e.g. waterstops or ribs embedded in concrete) to reduce the spread of leakage water in case of puncture. Decision required early.
- It is advantageous to fix any internal reinforcing steel before the bulkheads are installed.
- Use tests for the specific weight of concrete as construction proceeds to ensure that the final weight of concrete will lie within design limits.
- Testing during initial installation of any cathodic protection is essential. In operation, monitoring is needed to check durability.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY…)**

Besides applicable steel design and testing codes such as AISC, ASTM and applicable boiler codes, specifications are required for the structural steel shell (working composite with concrete) as follows:

- Fabrication tolerances for the assembled shell
- Methods of testing for leaks
- Cathodic protection (if used)
- Weld quality testing

Guidance on specifications for reinforcement and structural concrete are stated in other theme appendices and should include:

- Functionality and durability requirements of the cast and hardened concrete.
- Concrete strength in accordance with applicable standards.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

To prevent DEF (Delayed Ettringite Formation) the maximum concrete temperature during hardening should not exceed 65-70°C unless special concrete (not susceptible to DEF) is used.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

Design needs to document the assumptions on construction so that loads used in the design arising from fabrication, launching and concreting of the shell are not exceeded in practice.

Design output should include detailed steel fabrication specifications

Testing during structural steel fabrication should be fully documented by the contractor:

- Leak testing
- Weld testing
- Tolerances achieved during assembly

Relevant testing during concrete production should be fully documented by the contractor. Typical details are given in other appendices and are not repeated here.

All test reports, materials test certificates and commissioning records for cathodic protection systems should be retained for the as-built records.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

Steel and concrete strength in accordance with standards.

Variation of unit weight for structural and ballast concrete should be assessed for use in basic design. The following typical parameters often suitable for basic design:

- Maximum unit-weight reinforced concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 25.4 kN/m³
- Minimum unit-weight reinforced concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 24.2 kN/m³
- Maximum unit-weight ballast concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 23.5 kN/m³
- Minimum unit-weight ballast concrete (for buoyancy calculations): 22.5 kN/m³

During construction the unit weight is a very important parameter to keep testing and controlling as the buoyancy and freeboard of the element depends on the total weight of concrete.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

Tests and checks need to be carried out at specific points in time during fabrication and assembly of subassemblies, as well as during and after placing concrete. The timing of these should be specified prior to the start of construction.

Pre-testing of concrete mixes and testing during concrete production and casting should be in accordance with applicable standards. Strength, stiffness and density testing are of most importance.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Tolerances should be derived from the design so that construction and operation can be monitored as described.

Regardless of strength requirements, an exterior steel shell thickness should not fall below 10 mm during the design life. Steel non-structural membranes should never be less than 8 mm thick.

**REMEDIALSEACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

In the absence of guidelines by appropriate national standards, it is recommended that all cracks wider than 0.2 mm be repaired by injection.

For distortions occurring while concreting afloat, change the placing sequence and/or the quantities of concrete placed each time.

**LINKS TO OTHER PROCESSES**

Immersion joints
Concrete immersed tunnels
Exceptional loads
Cathodic protection
PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE: (100% CONTRACTOR...) 

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to steel construction, subject to type of contract and/or risk allocation are:

QA/QC for structural steelwork – Owner / designer’s site staff
Functional requirements - Owner
Structural design & detailing – designer / contractor
Mix design – designer / contractor
Specifications of materials – designer / contractor
Monitoring concrete production and documentation – contractor
Monitoring distortions while placing concrete afloat – contractor
Monitoring temperature development in hardening concrete – contractor / designer
Leakage monitoring and repair during construction – contractor
Leakage monitoring and repair during operation – Owner
This Annex describes construction of tunnel elements in a purpose made casting basin in relation to concrete tunnels. The casting basin is normally built close to the tunnel site which minimizes the necessity for long transport of the elements but it should be stressed that it is not a requirement, as tunnel elements can be transported over long distances.

WHAT

The traditional construction method for concrete tunnel elements has been the use of a purpose built casting basin. The basin can be open earthworks or within retaining walls, in the following the word basin is used for all types. The basin can either be one big basin containing all elements or a smaller basin which is reused. The depth of the basin is just sufficient for the elements to be transported out of the basin after flooding the basin. The basin must have direct access to the transport route to the tunnel site.

Construction of concrete tunnel elements in a basin allows the option of constructing tunnel elements as monolithic or segmental tunnel elements.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

Important issues for construction of the basin include:

- The location of the basin shall be accessible to an available transport route for the elements to tunnel site, and that deep water is available between the basin and the transport route.
- The soil condition at the location for the basin is of great importance as the basin shall be kept dry during the construction of the elements (ground water lowering) and the settlements of the basin floor shall be controlled (good uniform foundation for the tunnel elements).
- The basin is excavated and the soil may be stock piled close to the basin.
- The construction of the tunnel elements in the basin can take more than one year and therefore the conditions for the ground water lowering shall not only be suitable, with little environmental impact or effect on nearby structures, but also economically attractive.
- The basin must have sufficient areas around the basin to accommodate materials storage, a dedicated batching plant, areas for offices and laboratories etc.
- The environmental issues and possible requirements to the location of the basin shall be taken into account, and necessary permits shall be prepared for at an early stage to ensure availability of the site.
- The size of the basin can be reduced if it is possible to re-use the basin. In this case it is often necessary to have a mooring area outside the basin for parking tunnel elements before they are transported to site one by one.
- The size of the basin can be limited by the physical constraints in the area and therefore it will be necessary to reuse the basin.
- A reusable basin may be equipped with a gate that is designed to float and which is easy to manoeuvre in order to save time between the constructions of elements.
- After finishing construction of elements the basin may be backfilled with the excavated and stockpiled soils.

Figure 1 : Casting basins for Busan-Goeje, South Korea & Preveza-Aktio Greece

Figure 1 : Casting basins for Busan-Goeje, South Korea & Preveza-Aktio Greece
Important issues for construction of the tunnel elements include:
- In principal there are two casting methods:
  - A traditional casting sequence is where the bottom slab of the structure is cast first in segments and then the casting of walls and roof commences. This casting sequence creates a construction joint between bottom slab and walls. The behaviour of old concrete and fresh poured concrete due to differential shrinkage and temperature calls for a close control of the joint in order to avoid serious cracking that may later cause water ingress. The tunnel elements can either be constructed as monolithic reinforced elements or as segmental elements which must temporarily be longitudinally post tensioned before float-up and transportation of the elements to the site.
  - A more industrialised casting method is to cast the whole segment in one go. The forms (travelling form) must be purpose made and strong enough to carry the wet concrete during casting. The advantage with this method is the omission of the construction joint and thereby the tendency for crack development. The tunnel elements constructed as segmental elements must have temporary post tensioning for transport.
- The traditional approach to construction is to establish one or more casting basins as open excavations, where the elements are built. When the elements are completed they are provided with bulkheads, water ballast tanks, equipment for transport such as towing bollards, access tower(s) and survey tower(s) before the basin is filled with water. Once the initial fit-out is complete the basin can be flooded and elements floated. The basin gate is opened or the dike around the basin is locally removed and the elements are floated out one by one, transported to the tunnel site and sunk to their final position.
- In a traditional casting basin it is possible to construct tunnel elements that are curved by rotating the segments at the segment joint either vertically or horizontally. By curving the tunnel elements it is possible to fit the tunnel element and cross section better to the alignment.
- During casting of the elements each batch of the concrete shall be tested. The tests shall confirm the concrete quality especially the permeability and the unit weight to ensure good water tightness and to control the weight of the final element.
- A detailed survey of the tunnel element shall be made for final calculation of the element weight and freeboard before float out.
- The concrete temperature shall be controlled and cooling of the concrete during casting is often necessary with thick structural members to prevent cracking.
- After casting the element shall be inspected for through going cracks. Injection of the cracks shall be carried out to seal them off. This sealing operation shall be in strict accordance with the manufacturer’s requirements.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY…)**

The concrete used for construction of concrete tunnel elements typically does not have a very high strength requirement. More important are the requirements for low concrete permeability and specified unit weight.

The concrete specifications shall contain specific requirements for the permeability and unit weight leading to a dense concrete mix with low water/cement ratio in the order of 0.40 – 0.42. The unit weight control is necessary to insure the element can float and be transported. The unit weight is also critical to the element’s ultimate factor of safety against flotation after placement.

In case of monolithic tunnel elements where the reinforcement is continuous through construction and segment joints the element normally is provided with an outer water proofing membrane to seal any cracks that may have arisen from temperature movements in the final situation. The elements shall be checked for cracks and leakage before leaving the basin.

The membrane(s) shall have a lifetime equal to the design lifetime of the tunnel elements. Application of the membrane system shall be carried out in accordance with manufactures specifications and with high level of control.
In case of segmental tunnel elements, where segment joints (without through going reinforcement) allow the tunnel segment to move due to shrinkage, creep, temperature etc. it is not necessary to apply an external waterproofing membrane under normal conditions. A tunnel with extreme water depth however may benefit from the application of an external waterproofing membrane.

The segmentally constructed tunnel element shall be temporarily post tensioned longitudinal for transport to site. The post tensioning shall be grouted, but at segment joint the strands shall be non-bonding as the strands are cut when the element is in final position and fully backfilled. The bonded part of the post tensioning stays in the segments and strengthens them in longitudinal direction.

The construction of tunnel elements in a purpose made basin shall be carried out with control of the foundation behaviour during construction of the elements. The elements are very heavy and may introduce settlements of the basin bottom during construction. The tunnel elements shall be designed for the possible settlements in the basin.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

- Monitoring of ground water lowering system.
- Stability monitoring of basin side slopes.
- Monitor stability of access road and settlements of basin bottom due to the weight of the element and from traffic and other activities.
- Concrete tunnel elements:
  - Record concrete parameters batch by batch.
  - Record crack development and grouting.
  - Record settlements during construction of tunnel elements.
  - Survey of concrete elements and use of concrete test records to determine freeboard and ultimate factor of safety against flotation.
  - Monitoring of heat and temperatures of concrete sections during casting to compare with anticipated values and to evaluate the potential for shrinkage cracking.
- Recorded information shall be included in the as-built documentation and a summary in the maintenance manual for background information.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

The prescriptive specifications of typical values to monitor during construction are obtained from the design analyses.
- Differential settlements
- Longitudinal movement of joints
- Total settlement of the tunnel in time.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE)**

Design of basin earth works and ground water lowering system and continuous analyses and monitoring of basin behaviour and adjacent structures during construction.

Design of tunnel elements and analysis of casting sequences and hydration heat. Analyses of built-in forces in the tunnel element during construction.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

These shall be output from design analyses so that construction and operation can be monitored as described.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

During construction of basin and construction of the tunnel elements there shall be daily controls and monitoring of the basin and the construction of the elements.

The utmost shall be done to minimize failures, unexpected behaviour or accidents which will have high impact on economy and time. A construction risk analyses shall be performed and guidelines developed for remedial actions to be taken.

**LINK TO OTHER PROCESSES**

- Segment joints.
- Immersion joints.
- Water proofing membrane.
- Transportation of tunnel elements.
A detailed understanding of the soil conditions along the immersed tunnel alignment is important for the design as well as construction. The programme for investigation and interpretation must therefore be carefully tailored, planned and executed.

**WHAT**

**Scope**

The soil conditions have to be known in sufficient detail as basis for design and construction of the immersed tunnel. With regard to the design, the strength as well as the deformation properties of the soil shall be described for the relevant stress range for the tunnel and for the dredged trench slopes. The settlements resulting from unloading (during dredging) and reloading (during backfilling) must be taken into account. Conditions that involve long-term consolidation must be carefully evaluated.

For construction, knowledge of the soil conditions is important for mobilising the right dredging equipment, and for determining the construction time and costs.

Due to the low foundation pressures of immersed tunnels compared to other marine structures, the soil strength is usually not decisive for the foundation design of the tunnel, even for soft ground conditions, but it is important for the stability of the slopes of the dredged trench. However, the soil strength can be critical in case significant earthquakes can occur and cause stability failure or even soil liquefaction.

The deformation properties will by soil-structure interaction be important for the structural design of the tunnel. For monolithic tunnel elements, differential settlements due to variations in the soil stiffness in the longitudinal directions can lead to large bending moments in the tunnel structure, and for segmental tunnel elements they can induce high shear forces and large movements in the joints.

Finally, the chemical properties of the ground (soil and water) will influence the corrosive environment at the tunnel location. In addition, it is important to test for soil contamination in surface sediments for immersed tunnels in harbours and other polluted areas. The degree and depth of contaminants in the soils to be dredged must be determined for the environmentally sound design of the spoil disposal site. The design for the long-term usage for the disposal site is also an important aspect of the soils investigation.

**Soil investigation programme**

The soil investigation programme shall be specified and inspected by the Designer to determine important soil parameters needed for each phase of the design.

Geophysical survey like reflection seismic investigations which are particularly suited for marine environment may be carried out for mapping of spatial variations of the soil and rock layers and for selection of locations of boreholes in an alignment screening phase.

The investigations should in the preliminary and final phases comprise the following main components to be carried out in the alignment of the tunnel:

- Boreholes for the recovery of high quality, undisturbed soil samples.
- Boreholes to establish soil profiles and for in-situ testing, including Vane Shear Tests and SPT’s (Standard Penetration Tests) to determine geotechnical properties and which may also include various customized geophysical borehole logging methods.
- CPTUs (Cone Penetration Tests with the measurement of pore pressure) for high resolution geotechnical investigations of soil properties in fine grained soils.

In addition to the off-shore investigations, detailed ground investigations are also important on shore along the cut and cover and ramp sections where the foundation depth and form of structure changes rapidly. The investigations on-shore shall also include testing for groundwater conditions, being important for design of temporary groundwater lowering systems during construction.

Laboratory testing of high quality is necessary to determine geotechnical properties from both disturbed samples for classification tests and undisturbed samples for more advanced laboratory testing.

Chemical testing of seawater, soil and groundwater is performed to establish a basis for durability design of the reinforced concrete and steel structures/components.

All tests shall be carried out according to internationally accepted standards and high quality, applying best practice with respect to investigation methods, type of equipment, test execution and interpretation of test results.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

At the early Feasibility Study stage it will often be possible to assume conditions and apply preliminary estimated soil parameters based on desk studies. Any existing data from previous investigations for construction projects in the area should also be collected as part of the desk study. Geophysical surveys over large areas may be carried out for optimisation of alignments and as an aid for the mapping and interpretation of stratigraphy and geological structures, if any.

For the preliminary investigation phase, the investigation may in turn be supplemented by an intermediate soil investigation program for the Owner’s subsequent development of conceptual and preliminary design of the immersed tunnel project.

The final and detailed soil investigations must obviously be tailored on the basis of the preliminary investigation results available and the detailed knowledge of the needs for development of the detailed design. The project planning shall make realistic allowance for the duration of the contracting, execution and interpretation of the final investigations, to take place in advance of the detailed design.
SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY…)

General

The boreholes for recovery of undisturbed samples and for establishing soil profiles and in-situ testing can be carried out as adjacent pairs. For an immersed tunnel project, there may typically be one borehole pair per element.

The types and numbers of in-situ tests and laboratory tests will depend on the variability of the soil conditions and the Designers requirements for detailed knowledge of the design parameters. The type and number of all boreholes and tests shall be given in the specification.

Boreholes for the recovery of undisturbed soil samples.

The boreholes are carried out in fine-grained soils to obtain high quality continuous or discrete undisturbed soil samples for laboratory testing.

Boreholes for establishing soil profiles and in-situ testing.

The boreholes are carried out in soils and rock for obtaining samples of soil and cores of rock for classification purposes and for the performance of in-situ testing such as for example Vane Shear tests, SPTs, and geophysical borehole logging.

a) Vane Shear Tests

The Vane Field test is a simple and fast method used to estimate the undrained shear strength of fully saturated clays of soft to firm consistency. The vane shear test apparatus consists of a four-blade stainless steel vane attached to a steel rod that will be pushed into the ground and rotated. The undrained shear strength is estimated from the measured torque at failure.

b) SPTs (Standard Penetration Tests)

The SPT (Standard Penetration Testing) is a simple method largely used worldwide for estimate of soil density, strength and stiffness. The SPT can be used in even very dense granular soils and very stiff to hard layers of clays. It involves driving a standard sample tube into the ground at the bottom of the borehole by blows from a slide hammer with standard weight and falling distance. The soil properties are determined from the number of blows required for a certain penetration. However if an appreciation of soil properties for seismic design is required, measurement of the Energy Transfer Ratio of the SPT equipment is mandatory.

c) Geophysical borehole logging

Geophysical borehole logging may include Gamma logging, porosity / density logging, conductivity/resistivity logging and P (compressional) S (shear wave) logging. Gamma logging combined with porosity and density logging is widely used for qualitative appreciations of boundaries between fine grained (clay) and coarse grained (sand) layers. Geotechnical parameters may be derived under favourable conditions.

The suspension velocity logging is especially suited for marine applications; in this case both the electromagnetic wave source and the receivers are placed in the same borehole. Elastic rock properties like shear wave velocity, compressional wave velocity and dynamic Poisson ratio can be derived. The shear wave velocity can be used for determination of seismic strength parameters and resistance to liquefaction.

CPTUs

The CPTU (Cone Penetration test with the measurement of pore pressure) is a simple and effective method for determining soil layering and properties.

It is carried out by pushing a CPTU cone with a down facing tip and a surrounding sleeve into the ground at a standard velocity. The CPTU cone is designed to measure tip resistance, sleeve friction (along the side of the cone) and pore water pressure continuously during the push.

Some of the CPTUs shall be carried out adjacent to the geotechnical borings for calibration and cross correlation with laboratory test results. The cone penetration resistance values can then be correlated to give a profile of the shear strength of the soil using empirical curves, and they may also be correlated to the deformation parameters.

Figure 1: Boring rig and SPT testing for the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao immersed tunnel
A large number of CPTUs between the boreholes will provide a detailed mapping of the soil layers and variability along and across the tunnel alignment, which in particular is of importance in areas where the structural design is considered sensitive to stiffness variations in the ground.

Laboratory testing to determine geotechnical properties

The following laboratory tests are relevant:

a) Classification tests

The classification tests are carried out to determine basic properties including: moisture content, unit weight, specific gravity, Atterberg limits, grain size distribution, sensitivity and organic content. If relevant, the tests shall also cover contamination in accordance with the applicable standards and acceptance limits.

b) Tests of strength properties

The undrained and effective strength parameters are determined from triaxial tests. The test program should include consolidated undrained tests with simulation of the stress history corresponding to the unloading due to the trench dredging and subsequent reloading with the tunnel, backfill and re-sedimentation.

c) Tests of deformation properties

The deformation properties are determined by Oedometer tests to be performed at the relevant stress levels occurring during unloading due to the trench dredging and subsequent loading by the tunnel, backfill and re-sedimentation. An important objective is to determine the pre-consolidation stress and permeability as well as the deformation properties for loading, unloading and reloading.

Documentation (format, deadlines)

Documentation should be prepared in accordance with national or international standards, for example in Europe BS EN 1997-1 sets out what is expected to be contained in the various reports required.

The borehole logs and test results are reported by the boring contractor and the laboratory in accordance with internationally recognized standards in a Geotechnical Factual Report. Results from in-situ tests and the tests carried out at the laboratory are also presented on the borehole log. The raw data and the results should further be delivered on electronic form in an internationally recognized format such as AGS.

Samples should retained by the testing laboratories for a period specified by the project owner.

The electronic data should be organised in a database providing easy handling of the data, a 3D geological model, and a comprehensive understanding of the variability of the soil properties in the project area.

The documentation should be retained for the life of the project as part of the maintenance manual, so that it available to the Owner in the event of an unexpected event such as settlement occurring during the operational phase.

EXPECTED VALUES

N.A. This will vary from project to project.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)

The Designer for either the client or the Design and Build contractor, depending on who is producing the final design for construction, will prepare a Geotechnical Interpretative Report (GIR) concerning the analysis carried out on the test results in order to derive the design parameters for the foundation design. Practice varies internationally on the name, format and content of this document, for example some countries refer to it as a Geotechnical Baseline Report (GBR). This terminology arises as the report sets out an agreed set of baseline conditions that can be used to assess contract claim. It is particularly used in tunnelling and is as applicable to immersed tunnels as any other form of tunnelling. Irrespective of its title it should be considered to be the final definitive document on the ground conditions, taking all investigations and historic data into account, and agreed by all parties.

BS EN 1997-1 also requires the Designer to produce a Geotechnical Design Report as part of the final design, in order to confirm and validate the assumptions made as part of the analysis, provide a comprehensive understanding of the ground conditions, and confirm the design parameters used in the design.
BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

The GIR or GBR should report on the potential variation in soil conditions and the range of values for each soil parameter that should be considered in the design.

REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)

An experienced qualified geologist, ideally representing the Designer, should supervise the ground investigation programme to ensure that investigations, sampling and testing procedures are carried out in accordance with standards and good industry practice, to ensure the quality of the data and the eventual GIR can be relied upon.

LINKS TO OTHER PROCESSES

Foundation/ Settlement/ Backfill  Seismic

PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE: (100% CONTRACTOR ...)

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to soil conditions, subject to type of contract and/or risk allocation are:

Project phases prior to construction contract:

Specification of programme, supervision of boring and laboratory work, and interpretation of results - Designer
Contracting with boring contractor and laboratory - Owner or Designer

In the case of a design and build contract:

Additional investigations for Contractor’s detailed design and construction - Contractor
In areas with earthquake activity, immersed tunnels shall be designed against the risk of seismic events during the design lifetime. Seismic events in the construction phase shall also be considered.

WHAT

Design scenario

It is normal to apply a two-level earthquake hazard design approach for immersed tunnel project, by considering an Operating Design Earthquake (ODE) and a Maximum Design Earthquake (MDE).

The ODE will have an estimated return period corresponding to the lifetime of the tunnel, typically 100 years. It is a Service Limit State event for which the structure should be designed to respond in an elastic manner. In some locations, earthquakes may be very rare but large, in which case it might be appropriate to choose the ODE equal the MDE (this was for example done for the Bosphorus tunnel in Istanbul, Turkey).

The return period of the MDE may typically be chosen in the range 500-2500 years, as governed by national codes or decided by the Owner from an assessment of the appropriate balance between risk and construction costs. The MDE is an Ultimate (Extreme) Limit State event for which the tunnel structures should be designed with adequate strength to survive the loads and deformations. Following the MDE, Owners may decide that the structures should remain functional; access for emergency traffic should be possible, damages should be repairable, and it should be possible to resume tunnel operation within a limited period.

Earthquake impacts on immersed tunnels can be divided into two groups:

A. Ground shaking causing deformations and sectional forces in the tunnel structure. The response is governed by the free-field deformation of the ground and its interaction with the tunnel structures. It is thus substantially different from the response of surface structures dominated by the base-induced inertial forces.

B. Ground failure such as liquefaction, slope instability and fault displacement.

Design methodology

The design of an immersed tunnel for earthquake will involve the following main tasks:

1. Investigation of the ground conditions, including geological conditions between the tunnel and the bedrock, and characteristic soil parameters.
2. Conduction of a site-specific probabilistic seismic hazard study, extending to analysis of the ground motion in the bedrock horizontally along the alignment and vertically up through the sedimentary soil between the bedrock and the immersed tunnel.
3. Analysis of imposed deformations of the tunnel due to ground movements, the resulting joint movements and sectional forces, and design of possible provisions for mitigation.
4. Analysis of the different modes of ground failure, and determination of any mitigating provisions to be taken in the design.

Task 1 is described in the below section «Specifications», and tasks 2, 3 and 4 are described in the below section «Analysis».

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

The design of an immersed tunnel for earthquake is carried out during the following main phases:

- Preliminary Design phase: Ground investigations, site-specific probabilistic seismic hazard study and preliminary seismic analysis and design
- Detailed Design phase: Final seismic analysis and design, based on final measured ground parameters

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY...)

In addition to the geotechnical parameters needed for static design analysis, the seismic analysis requires the characterization of the dynamic properties of all soils above the bedrock. These properties include the maximum shear modulus (very small strain value) for the elastic range, and the normalized modulus degradation curve and the damping ratio curve needed for modelling the inelastic non-linear behaviour of the soils.

The properties can be obtained from measurements of the shear wave velocity (Vs) using field suspension logging tests or from Resonant Column testing. High pressure dilatometer tests and cyclic tri-axial tests allow values at small and large strain to be obtained.

The tests should be carried out on undisturbed samples of the soils at representative locations along the tunnel alignment and at appropriate stress and strain ranges.

Initially, for Preliminary Design analysis, the damping and degradation curves as function of strain level may be assessed by standard curves from literature.

DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

Seismic design should be documented in the same manner as other design aspects.

EXPECTED VALUES

Design output should meet the requirements of the selected design codes and standards for the project.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE)

Seismic hazard study and analysis of ground motion

A site-specific probabilistic seismic hazard study for investigation of the seismic conditions of the tunnel region should be undertaken at the beginning of the project. The seismic hazard study involves historical records of earthquake activity, geology and previous studies in the region. It will address the location and activity of faults and lead to a description of the ODE and MDE events in terms of earthquake source location, magnitude and duration, and the resulting motion of the bedrock at the tunnel site.

The earthquake motion is described by the 3D acceleration, velocity and displacement time histories of a local control point at the surface of the bedrock and the design response spectrum. The design response spectrum is a plot showing the response to the ground motion of a single degree of freedom mass, in terms of its peak acceleration, velocity or displacement across the relevant range.
of natural oscillation periods for the mass. Examples of an acceleration time history and design response spectrum are shown in Figure 1 below.

The intensity at the tunnel site is expressed by the peak ground acceleration coefficient, i.e. the peak ground acceleration relative to gravity. For example, for the Busan Geoje immersed tunnel in South Korea, the peak ground acceleration coefficient was 0.15 for the 1000-year return period MDE, whereas for the Preveza Aktio immersed tunnel in Greece, it was 0.40g for a 950-year return period.

Following the definition of the set of starting time histories at the control point, the variations of bedrock motions along the tunnel axis can be determined, as governed by the horizontal seismic wave speed and angle, and by the ground motion coherency function used to characterize spatial variations.

The ground motions may be amplified significantly by the frequency dependent passage through soft soil layers up to the tunnel level. They can be estimated by wave propagation analysis using a site response analysis program such as SHAKE. The vertical variation is also very critical as mentioned below for the racking analysis of the structure.

Deformation of the tunnel due to ground shaking

The impacts on the tunnel structure includes:

- Axial compression and extension due to wave motion parallel to the tunnel axis
- Longitudinal bending and curvature in the vertical and horizontal planes due to wave motion perpendicular to the tunnel axis
- Distortion of the cross section (racking) due to shear wave propagation normal to the tunnel axis

The first and the second impacts can be analysed using a longitudinal global finite element model of the tunnel elements and joints, including cut & cover parts adjoining to the immersed tunnel at each end. The soil structure interaction is described by dynamic soil springs along the tunnel. The concept of the model is illustrated in Figure 2. Load effects in terms of joint movements and sectional forces (in particular shear key forces between tunnel elements) due to the earthquake are superimposed with effects due to the relevant dead and live loads including differential settlements and temperature movements.

The third impact illustrated in Figure 3 can be analysed with two dimensional plane strain seismic local models at locations representing the different soil conditions. The plane models are also used to obtain the soil springs for the global model.

The most significant seismic effects for the immersed tunnel will normally occur at locations with large variations in soil stiffness and at the joints with cut & cover tunnels at the ends. The earthquake loadings and deformations may require additional reinforcement and special provisions to limit joint openings. For the Preveza Aktio tunnel, joint openings were limited by pre-stressing cables, and for the Busan Geoje tunnel, tie bars were used across some joints. In Japan, special immersion joints have been developed to accommodate movements of up to 30 cm.

Wide (and therefore very stiff) tunnels are at a disadvantage when subject to seismic distortions.

Ground failure impacts

Ground failure with resultant loss of structural foundation support include liquefaction, slope instability and fault displacement.

Liquefaction of the ground occurs due to increase of pore pressure and consequent reduction in effective stresses in saturated cohesion-less soil. The loss of shear strength can lead to tunnel floatation, large lateral displacements, and heave due to the large density of the liquid soil. The liquefaction potential depends upon the density of and particle distribution in the soil; the risk of liquefaction can be reduced or prevented by replacement or improvement of the mature soils at the tunnel and by appropriate specifications for foundation layers and backfill materials.
As an example, soil improvement by stone columns was carried out for the Preveza Aktio tunnel and the Kaohsiung tunnel in Taiwan. They prevent liquefaction by providing adequate drainage to reduce excessive pore water pressure and by increasing the density of the silty sands and sandy silts under the tunnel. For the Bosphorus tunnel, in addition to concrete compaction piles, the tunnel was surrounded by stone with a path to bed level, again to reduce excessive pore water pressure.

Landslide or seismically induced slope movements of the dredged trench may impose excess lateral forces and displacement of the tunnel. This can be prevented by designing the trench with shallower slopes.

Where a tunnel crosses an active fault zone with the risk of very large displacements, it may not be possible to design a buried tunnel structure to withstand the displacements. At such locations, submerged floating tunnels (SFT) could be used.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Deformations of the structure and associated ground movements will be an output of the design. Acceptable limits on movement will be dictated by the functional requirements under the ODE and MDE conditions.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES/ACTIONS (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Following a seismic event a thorough inspection of the main tunnel structure and the tunnel joints will be required to determine its condition and whether remedial works are required. Survey of deformations should also be undertaken to ascertain if the structure behaved as predicted in the design.

**LINKS TO OTHER PROCESSES**

Soil conditions
Foundation, settlement & backfill
Immersion joints

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE: (100% CONTRACTOR ….)**

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to seismic issues, subject to type of contract and/or risk allocation are:

Ground investigations - Owner
Seismic Hazard Study - Owner or Designer
Preliminary and Detailed Design for seismic events - Designer
The design of immersed tunnels with regard to subsurface soil conditions is different from other structures in a number of ways. The immersed tunnel is placed in a dredged trench and weighs less than the soil it displaces. Therefore, the unit bearing stress is generally quite low implying that settlement is not likely to be a problem. Settlements can still occur however, during backfilling perhaps due to re-compaction of heave that occurred during dredging. Settlement might occur due to the seismic liquefaction of unconsolidated sands or fill under the tunnel. Compaction grouting is a very useful tool that has been used for immersed tunnels to control settlements.

**WHAT**

Compaction grouting involves the injection of low-slump, low-mobility, cement mortar or grout into the unstable soil strata to compact it. This is done by drilling in a casing to a specified depth then pumping the grout into the treatment zone to form a bulb of a desired size at a designated pressure. This procedure usually starts at the bottom of the hole and is repeated sequentially by raising the casing in increments. The result is a column of grout bulbs that has compressed and densified the ground around it. This procedure is repeated in the form of a grid pattern thus tightening the desired area of the strata under the subgrade of the tunnel. It is important that the bulbs are contained by the overburden pressure and do not cause the ground above to heave. So in the case of an immersed tunnel, the ground treatment by compaction grouting should be done before the trench is dredged.

The soils that can be effectively compacted are open-grained sands and silts. Clay soils are more difficult but can be compacted if the proper grout mix design and injection pressures are determined. Pore pressure relief is important where finer grained soils are to be compacted.

The design of a compaction grouting undertaking begins with a detailed geotechnical investigation along the tunnel footprint. This includes Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) with spoon and undisturbed sampling and laboratory testing. Cone Penetrometer Tests (CPT) are used to gage the potential settlement as well as to later evaluate the effectiveness of the compaction grouting in reducing the amount of settlement likely to occur. The results may dictate a tighter or looser pattern than originally designed.

(because of the strong current this was later increased). Material for the grout mix was brought to the CPG Barge by barge and offloaded by a crawler crane. It was later handled by a smaller front-end loader.

**Bosphorus Rail Tunnel**

An interesting case study is the Bosphorus Rail Tunnel in Istanbul where compaction grouting was used for unconsolidated sands beneath a zone of four elements of the tunnel. This involved compaction grouting in depths of 44-58m of water and soil with surface currents of up to 3m/s.

[Image: Figure 1: Range of particle size of soils suitable for compaction grouting]

The design of the grout mix is also based on the geotechnical finds regarding the material to be compacted. Generally the grout is a mixture of cement sand and small stone.

It is one thing to set up a compaction grouting operation for a land structure but something else entirely to do it for an immersed tunnel. In the latter case a barge must be equipped with drilling equipment, grout pumps, material hoppers, front end loaders or the like, manoeuvring winches, volume and pressure measuring devices, crew facilities, etc. The design and mobilization of such an operation is no small undertaking.

The barge layout is shown in Figure 1: It was self propelled with four steerable thrusters and was equipped with six mooring winches.
The CPG pattern across the subgrade of the immersed tunnel required drill holes at a very accurate spacing of 1.7m on center. In order to maintain this spacing and protect the drill string from lateral deviation caused by the severe upper layer currents that were a daily occurrence (regardless of season) special framed towers of pipe were constructed down to a depth of 23m. These towers had four protective pipes spaced at the desired 1.7m spacing of the grout columns.

The four drill rigs were set up so that for a single barge position each could be rotated to drill and grout four CPG columns. The barge was accurately positioned and aligned using differential GPS checked with triangulation by ground survey.

The required area to be treated was designed to match the sand layers found to be potentially liquefiable beneath the subgrade of the tunnel.

The grout volume and pressure was carefully controlled for each column to produce bulbs of 143 litres vertically spaced by about 1/3m. Grout pressure varied up to about 3.5 MPa. Sensors in each grout line monitored these parameters continuously and each column was logged for a permanent record. Slump cones were taken both at the grout pump hopper and at the grout line input. Low slumps of 7cm at the hopper and 0cm at the casing were used.

During the grouting process the standardized cone-penetrometer test (CPT) was used to determine the effectiveness of the process in reducing the potential for settlement in the weak zone being treated. There was always a residual settlement potential for the ground under the tunnel that was not included in the treatment. The results were very good and the deviations were slight and not a concern. Actually as the work progressed it was found that with the grouting of the full pattern, the central band of the pattern was tightening well beyond the desired values so, since it was not possible to change the column spacing from the 1.7m, it was decided to eliminate some of the columns. After this was done, the tightening of the ground was still in excess of the design values so the pattern was modified a second time. A total of some 1600 columns were drilled and grouted for the project.
Annex 12 >> Compaction Grouting

When (Start-Finish & Measurement Frequency)

Important issues for Compaction Grouting to improve ground stability for an immersed tunnel project are:

- Comprehensive geotechnical investigation of the subgrade zone of the tunnel.
- Evaluation of seismic effects if the tunnel site lies in such an area.
- Development of equipment requirements for the operation considering depth, water current, tidal action, storm contingencies, etc. Also needed are provisions for personnel, winter shelter, sanitary facilities, office space, etc.
- Provisions for positioning and location stability (moorings, navigation, survey, etc).
- Grout design based on material to be treated by CPG.
- Assure that overburden will confine the injection pressure so that the treatment zone will be properly compacted.
- Compaction grouting in saturated soils will increase the pore pressure. This pore pressure must be dissipated for compaction to be effective.
- Soils that loose strength when remoulded such as fine grained or sensitive clays should be avoided.
- Thin stratified soils are difficult to densify by CPG.
- Evaluation of settlement that will occur below the area to be treated.

Specifications (Number, Precision, Placemnt, Redundancy...)

The specifications and documentation for the program of compaction grouting for an immersed tunnel must include:

- Staging with respect to the trench dredging so that adequate overburden will exist during treatment.
- Target values for the cone penetrometer readings taken following CPG treatment in a defined zone.
- Spacing of columns
- Range of depth for each column.
- Logging of all grout volumes, depths and injection pressures, for each bulb of each column.
- Number of cone penetrometer readings to be taken to maintain an adequate control over actual results of treatment as work progresses.
- Environmental controls to prevent spillages of mortar, drill mud, waste materials, sanitary waste etc.
- Any limiting marine current and/or wave action whereby the work must be suspended.

Documentation (Format, Deadlines)

Design documentation will show depth, spacing and target strengths. Construction logs and CPT results should be retained in the project maintenance manual.

Expected Values

Expected values for post grouting cone penetrometer readings must be reasonably met to verify the stabilization of the desired soil strata

Analysis (Requirements, Timescale...)

As CPT readings are taken analysis should be made how the treatment can be modified to improve it or make it more efficient. The cost of such an operation is high so that if the desired result can be obtained with less grout columns, so much the better.

Behavioural Tolerances (Limits, Deviations)

Deviation tolerances should be established early on in the design so that there is no question whether a treated area is acceptable or requires additional treatment columns.

Remedial Measures (For Unexpected Behaviour/Values)

Strategies for improving an area where it is found that the treatment has not met desired values should be available and not be prevented by the fixed nature of the equipment plant. In the case of the Bosporus Tunnel, the spacing of columns was set and could not be changed. It would have been difficult if not impossible to insert columns between those already installed. Fortunately, the designed spacing turned out to be too dense, requiring opening of the pattern rather than the reverse.

Links to Other Owners Guide Themes

Soil conditions
Foundation, settlement & backfill
Seismic

Performed by / Responsible

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to compaction grouting, subject to type of contract and/or risk allocation are:

- Functional requirements - Owner
- Geotechnical investigations – Owner followed by Contractor
- Compaction Grouting ground treatment program – Contractor checked by Owner.
- Equipment design and procurement – Contractor
- Equipment operation, positioning, survey, etc. - Contractor
- Post grouting CPT testing – Contractor
- Modification of programmed CPG pattern – Contractor
- Overall inspection - Owner

Refurbishments of immersed tunnels have some specific considerations. This annex deals with the items particular to immersed tunnels.

**WHAT**

Items that may need refurbishing in an immersed tunnel include the main structure, joint components, internal finishes such as cladding and fire protection and M&E systems. A number of older tunnels have undergone seismic retrofits and many tunnels have been upgraded for new road or railway design, operational and safety standards. This may include improvements to ventilation systems, fire life safety systems, traffic vehicle clearances or new safety, operational or monitoring systems.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

Most major refurbishments occur some 40-50 years after the initial construction. However, minor upgrades may occur at any time that standards are updated or safety and operational practices are changed. Repair of defects arising in the structure may be carried out as necessary. Most tunnel owners and operators will have a lifecycle plan in place that will predict when systems or components become life expired and will need replacing. This enables budgets for the future operation of the tunnel to be produced.

Determining the extent of or optimal time for refurbishment in the life span of the structure is not an easy task. Information necessary to assess the condition of the structure and its components (data and decay models) will not be obtained from one single inspection survey, but from a series of targeted surveys over several years, maybe even over a decade or two.

The installation of passive fire protection material in recent years has resulted in the covering of the surface of the structure.

Reference inspections points which are easily accessible should be established before a planned refurbishment, or in the original design if fire protection materials are to be applied from the outset.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY...)**

Major refurbishments are generally undertaken to bring a tunnel up to current standards, wherever possible. If this is impracticable, departures from standard may need to be agreed with the Owner/operator, a national technical approval authority and the fire safety authorities.

There are no specific standards for refurbishment, although if the structure requires a load assessment as part of the refurbishment then most countries have national standards that would apply. Similarly there is no standard approach to refurbishment; each tunnel must be considered according to its particular condition and circumstances.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

Detailed condition surveys are needed for the existing asset to determine the extent of refurbishment required. Some countries have a standard approach to this, such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the USA. Regardless of the approach used, a systematic method of recording the condition and defects in the tunnel is needed that identifies each defect in detail and locates its position accurately within the tunnel. The asset inspection may include:

- A partial inspection looking for cracks, leaks and obvious damage such as broken ceiling hangers and exposed reinforcement,
- A full structural inspection,
- Intrusive investigation to determine strength and condition of materials
- Full operational test of floodgates, and
- Inspection and testing of all electrical and mechanical plant and equipment including operating, monitoring and control systems.

The extent of inspection necessary will depend upon the extent to which the tunnel has undergone periodic inspections throughout its life. The inspection and repair history should be fully documented as the start point for refurbishment. In addition future life predictions should be performed to compare with the Owner’s aspirations and set the strategy and objectives for refurbishment. Any non-compliances with current design or operating standards should be identified to enable decisions to be made as to whether to bring the tunnel up to current standards or not. If refurbishment affects the structure’s ballast, element/segment buoyancy calculations must be performed.

Geometric survey is also required to accompany the condition survey. The condition survey should record in detail all of the defects in the structure such as leakage, cracking in concrete and excessive joint movements or settlement.

Records of intrusive surveys and laboratory testing of samples should be provided by testing companies.

Design for the refurbishment works, including structural assessments should be documented and specifications produced for the materials and workmanship for construction works, and materials, performance and testing requirements for mechanical and electrical equipment required to be installed.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

Not applicable

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

Intrusive and non-destructive testing is often undertaken prior to a refurbishment to establish the condition of the tunnel structure. If access is restricted and this cannot be done in advance then the testing may be carried out as part of the refurbishment exercise.

Intrusive surveys may include:

- Ultrasound surveys of steel plate to assess residual thickness. Note that obtaining access to carry out such tests is difficult and large areas of concrete may need to be removed to get sufficient access to obtain a representative number of tests of the steel membrane behind;
- Measurement of chloride content in concrete vs depth from surface to predict chloride progression through the structure;
- Identification of carbonation of concrete;
- Testing of cores to determine strength of concrete;
- Removal of concrete where spalling or rust
staining is evident to assess extent of corrosion.

Non-intrusive surveys may include:

- Measurement of water inflow rates at points of leakage on a seasonal basis.
- Measurements of water inflow to sumps due to possible leakage in the tunnel or tunnel approaches.
- Reading of cathodic protection monitoring devices, if installed, to predict level of corrosion occurring and likely to occur over the life of the structure.
- Geometric survey for line and level to understand settlement compared to the initial as-built condition.
- Recording and measurement of damage, spalling or deterioration of the main tunnel structure.
- Measurement of cracks to determine necessity for sealing or injection to prevent future corrosion.
- Examination via inspection pipework at immersion joints, if present, to determine the presence of water between Gina and Omega seals or in the void to the inside of the Omega seals. It may be possible to access the void to the inside of the omega with remote cameras to inspect the condition of the Omega seal and its clamping bolts and plates.
- Removal of any cover plates at immersion joints to visually inspect shear keys and Omega joint clamping bolts and plates, if accessible.

BEHAVIOURAL/TOLEANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

Not applicable

REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VNULLS)

Common remedial works included in refurbishments are:

Civil works:
- Replacement of roadway wearing surface in Highway tunnels
- Replacement of rails in rail tunnels
- Replacement of floodgate seals and upgrade of mechanical and electrical plant for operation of gates
- Sealing of leakage by injection. Note it may be challenging to seal leaks at immersion joints made using tremie concrete
- Installation of drainage to manage leakage if it cannot be stopped
- Precautionary sealing of cracks in excess of 0.3 mm
- As a more extensive measure, through-going crack formation due to temperature movements may be stopped by pre-stressing with cables in the ballast concrete.
- Removal of spalled concrete and repair
- Renewing joint gap tunnels and caulkig at segment joints and immersion joints
- Replacement of damaged cladding, vehicle crash barriers and handrails to walkways
- Cleaning and unblocking drainage systems
- Replacement of fire protection material or introduction of fire protection material if not present
- Renewal or new applications of corrosion prevention systems (including coatings to steelwork) at immersion joints, where accessible.
- Replacement of bearing components in shear keys at immersion joints, if used.
- Introduction of cathodic protection for the main structure reinforcement. If there is evidence of significant corrosion or the imminent onset of corrosion, CP may need to be considered. Fitting of sacrificial anodes in the external environment of the tunnel may be difficult and expensive, but necessary. Many tunnels are now fitted with facilities to allow the future application of impressed current cathodic protection.

It should be noted that it is possible in principle to replace the omega seals of immersion joints. In practice this would be a significant exercise that would cause disruption to the operation of the tunnel and require tunnel closures for a period of time. Components of the immersion joints are designed and specified to be durable for the full design life of the tunnel to avoid this.

Seismic retrofit is a specialist area and very expensive. Few if any tunnels before 1970 considered seismic effects. Retrofit usually requires the tunnel to remain operational and may therefore take considerable time. There is very limited space in an immersed tunnel within which to add new structural items to increase bending and shear strength which may result in no action being taken. Areas where retrofit may be practical include shear strength of joints (usually a weak link), measures to restrict the opening of joints, foundation material (e.g. grouting of sand) and improvement of soils adjacent to and beneath the tunnel to reduce the risk of liquefaction.

Retrofit measures to mitigate risk of liquefaction of surrounding soils may include gravel drains and ground densification this was carried out on the George Massey tunnel in Vancouver.

Increasing vehicle headroom can be carried out by lowering the road surface level. However the overall weight of the tunnel must be maintained at all times and the use of temporary kentledge or ballast, together with high density concrete, may need to be considered.

Stabilising settlements may be necessary if movements are excessive. This would be extremely difficult to do in the immersed section but techniques to improve or stabilise the surrounding soils and foundation, such as relief piles or underbase grouting, could be considered.

The approach works to the tunnel may have specific refurbishment requirements. Dealing with ground movement is a common requirement in refurbishment contracts, generally to limit or prevent further uplift or settlement from occurring. There are immersed tunnel projects where tension piles have failed in the tunnel approach ramps causing uplift and the ramps have been been stabilised by introducing additional piles or ground anchors, or by applying additional vertical load.

Mechanical and electrical systems:

It is difficult to change the internal geometry of a tunnel, so the ventilation system in operation will in most instances be retained but the equipment assessed and upgraded to meet
current standards. New ventilation fans must be designed to fit in the available envelopes created by the original tunnel. The only real opportunity for increasing the number or size of fans will be at the tunnel portals where new fan housing structure can be constructed and the cut and cover tunnel be modified if necessary. This is expensive but has been carried out on occasion.

Occasionally the ventilation principle is altered from longitudinal to transverse, or vice versa and the utilisation of space within the tunnel is re-designed. An example is the Downtown tunnel in Virginia where a suspended ceiling was removed and the ventilation system changed from a transverse system to a longitudinal system using jet fans in the tunnel.

It has been established relatively recently that water deluge or water mist systems can be used to help manage a fire both in road and rail tunnels. Few tunnels have been constructed with such a fire safety system. Retrofitting of such a system can be practical.

The spray pipework can easily be fitted in the tunnel but it is more challenging to find space for the necessary supply pipework, valves and provide a compatible drainage system. This can be particularly helpful if the ventilation system cannot be fully brought up to current standards, as the water mist or deluge system can assist in keeping the fire growth under control. Note that this would not be a replacement for passive fire protection layer which would most likely still be required.

Most operating systems are common to all forms of tunnel and therefore do warrant particular discussion, but the key issue for them all is fitting replacement systems into the available space in the tunnel.

If the tunnel is provided with a dedicated service gallery then future refurbishment is made easier as cabling and control systems can be segregated from the operating tubes of the tunnel.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Maintenance and Operation
- Ventilation and Fire
- Fire Protection
- Cathodic protection
- Immersion joints
- Segment joints

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

- Surveys – Owner or contractor depending on operating and procurement approach
- Assessments & refurbishment design – designer
- Specifications for civil works & performance requirements for M&E systems – designer
- Detailed specifications for M&E systems – designer or suppliers
- Refurbishment works – Contractor
The precision of alignment of a tunnel horizontally and vertically is a critical matter. This Annex describes the methods used for alignment control for various types of immersed tunnels.

**WHAT**

Placing immersed tunnel elements may start at one end and progress to the other or start from both ends and meeting at some intermediate location in the waterway. The immersed tunnel alignment is very dependent on how the elements interact as each new element is added. The amount of drift from the theoretical line is particularly critical where the tunnel is started at both ends and a closure element is to fit into the final gap. The parameters to be controlled include the accurate match between the mating faces of the element being placed and the section of tunnel already in place and the horizontal, vertical, and longitudinal position of the outboard end of the new element. Axial rotation must also be controlled as each element is placed.

When fabricating the tunnel elements several tolerances can occur. These are mainly concrete tolerances and local geometry changes such as the orientation of the end mating faces. Most immersed tunnels use load-bearing rubber seals (Figure 1) between these faces that require uniform compression. Small angular errors in these faces can result in large displacements at the remote end.

![Figure 1: Typical Gina seal.](image1)

Besides ensuring that an immersed tunnel element is level transversely after placement, the elevation and lateral position at each end should fall within the design tolerances. If the foundation is prepared before placing the tunnel element, there is little that can be done about being level and changing the elevation at each end. If the foundation is constructed after placement, provision must be made for adjustment at least at the outboard (free) end whereas the inboard (mating) end could be supported off the previous element. There are two basic issues affecting horizontal alignments to consider during the placing of elements for any immersed tunnel:

- Relative position at the mating faces at the immersion joint. Provision of guide beams and receiving cams can make this easier providing they have been correctly positioned and account taken of tolerances.
- The location of the outboard end of the element after depressurization of the immersion joint. This depends largely on how accurately the immersion joint seal support plate and the corresponding bearing plate on the tunnel in place were installed and validated by survey. If the position of the outboard end deviates beyond the specified tolerances, some means must be available to correct the alignment.

The seal shown in Figure 1 is a GINA seal. To make an initial seal, it has a soft nose that has a useful operating range less than 4 cm for it to be effective in sealing the joint. Once the joint space is thus sealed it can be fully depressurised. This mobilizes the huge force produced by the ambient external pressure now acting only on the outboard end of the element. This then fully compresses the body of the GINA uniformly. This will move the outboard end of the element to a position hopefully within the specified tolerances; if not, the outboard end will need to be moved into tolerance.

Figure 2 shows a typical survey validation of the steel bearing rings of one of the elements for the Boston Ted Williams Tunnel.

![Figure 2: Night survey validation of outboard face of a steel shell element.](image2)

The survey has confirmed the vertical and horizontal alignment of the end plane of the element in relation to its longitudinal axis. Local out of plane tolerances must be small to ensure the soft nose of the GINA immersion seal will engage to provide the initial seal so critical to the whole operation. The validation work was done at night to avoid any distortion that might have resulted from uneven solar heating during the day.

**Steel Shell Immersed Tunnels**

Until recently, steel shell immersed tunnels were the only type of immersed tunnels being constructed in the United States. Furthermore, those tunnels were always constructed by first laying very accurately a screeded gravel bed onto which the element was placed. The earlier tunnels used seals that were not load-bearing, the load being carried on steel mating rings.

This foundation provided an immediate permanent support of the element and eliminated the need for a temporary support in the form of a jacking frame. It had the disadvantage of being prone to silt from sediments in a river, or bottom sediment blown onto the bedding by marine equipment propellers. The latter problem sometimes resulted in having to suspend a placing operation, remove the element, and re-screed the bedding before the work could proceed. This problem would make itself known when during placement the element would not reach the design elevation; it would end up with an undesirable rotation, or would not properly mate with the tunnel already in place.
The effect of the screeded bed was to establish the vertical position of the element being placed. The horizontal location at the outboard end was dependent on the trueness of the load-bearing steel mating rings. For the last two steel shell tunnels (Fort McHenry - Baltimore 1985 and Ted Williams – Boston 2005), very flat (1:20) adjustable wedges placed in the immersion joint were used very successfully to adjust horizontal alignment at the outboard end of an element that exceeded specified tolerance. These wedges located at the horizontal axis (see Figure 3), were fixed on the element in place and movable on the element being placed. For the Ted Williams tunnel, the wedges were adjusted to bear on each other when the GINA seal was fully compressed. Before placing the element, these were positioned based on the prior validation surveys of the opposing faces. After depressurizing the joint, if the outboard end was out of tolerance, the joint was flooded and pressurized enough so that the wedges could be readjusted to a calculated position based on the 1:20 machined taper and the amount necessary to throw the element on line.

Rectangular Concrete Tunnels

Since World War II, rectangular concrete tunnels developed as the preferred immersed tunnel technology in Europe and in other parts of the world. Most recently this type of tunnel has begun to take hold in the United States as well. Recently, the Bosphorus Rail Tunnel in Istanbul, Turkey set the record as the deepest immersed tunnel in the world at 58m depth.

Where the foundation below the tunnel element is formed after immersion, at least the outboard end must be placed on temporary supports. Rather than using hydraulic rams through the base slab, recent elements have been immersed onto some form of jacking frame usually only at the outboard end. Such frames can provide adjustment both vertically and horizontally. Alignment at the inboard end might use a heavy shear key and/or guide beams.

Monitoring / survey

The types of survey that can be used in determining the various stages of immersion:

During immersion:
1. Basic: no survey system required (when a single element is immersed within 2 fixed points i.e. abutments)
2. Traditional survey System-1: survey tower and access shaft fitted with prisms and monitored by total stations (Figure 6)
3. Traditional survey System-2: access shaft and survey tower fitted with DGPS and a gyrocompass (Figure 6+7). Or using a Gyro-Theodolite from the bottom of an access shaft or manhole, sighting the baseline for the rest of the tunnel.

Important issues for the successful alignment of an immersed tunnel are:
- The determination of the methodology to be used for alignment control and measurement based on site conditions and limitations.
- The design of the tunnel elements to include adequate features and guides to assure practical placement facility and interconnection accuracy between element faces.

When (Start-Finish & Measurement Frequency)
4. Modern survey system: Tautwire System (Figure 8) with distance sensors for the final steps  
5. Modern survey system: acoustic projectors mounted on the newly placed element and reflectors on the element already in place. Often combined with accelerometers inside the element.

Monitoring element position (long term):  
1. Where shaft or tower is present: Total Station or DGPS survey  
2. Where no shaft or tower is present: continuous survey by laser or total station through tunnel

Types of adjustment of alignment

Vertical (both inboard and outboard end) can be realigned  
1. Adjustment of supports if present (inboard is difficult due to Gina reaction)  
2. Scrading or screeding of gravel bed

Horizontal (only secondary end can be realigned) :  
1. Realignment system with wedges in immersion joint  
2. Longitudinal eccentric jacking in immersion joint  
3. External jacking frame on secondary end (Figure 10)

4. External Positioning System (innovation in BGFL project) (see Figure 11)

The specifications and documentation for the alignment of immersed tunnels are:  
• Setting of desired tolerances of accuracy in horizontal and vertical position of each element with respect to the theoretical.  
• Adjusting to out of tolerance conditions (sometimes these cannot be corrected and alignment readjustment to suit may be required).  
• Measurement of post-placement settlements and/or lateral displacements short-term between subsequent element placement and long term resulting from backfill surcharging and/or subgrade consolidation. The former may require changing screeding elevations for the subsequent element for example. The latter may require realignment of interior features such as walkways, lighting, ceilings, etc. To provide a best-fit smooth appearing finished interior.  
• Establishing a system of survey control to be used for the life of the tunnel for the possibility of long term changes due to settlement, loss of cover, or anything that might result in leakages or damage.
Annex 14: Tunnel Element Alignment

Allowable tolerances are typically determined by the owner or contractor’s designer. These tolerances are based upon the method of immersion, the expected settlement over the lifespan of the tunnel and the execution tolerances of the geometry (concrete / steel).

Very tight tolerances apply to the fabrication of the end faces of the elements to ensure that an initial seal of the immersion joint can be obtained and that the seal is watertight in the final condition. Permissible tolerances for flatness and parallelism of the plates enclosing the immersion joint seal depend on the properties of the seal.

Documentation (Format, Deadlines)

The interface between Owner and Contractor with respect to alignment can be managed as follows:

- Contractual agreement of who owns the processes and is responsible (RASC) for the alignment in specific stages of the project.
- Functional or specific requirement on the allowable tolerances of immersion and immersed tunnels.

In case of Design/Build the Contractor is required to do this.

Expected Values

Alignment must meet requirements to fit end portal structures or other constraints. Immersed tunnels started from both ends simultaneously must meet within the tolerance limitations of the structural details of the closure joints. A sudden angular correction at this location may not be acceptable where tight traffic envelop tolerances must be met in the case of subway trains for example.

In immersed tunnels it is common for the Owner or the designer of the Owner to present general numerical requirements in making the output specifications for an immersed tunnel such as:

- Required xyz placing tolerances
- Philosophy of misalignment vs. working envelope
- Oversetting of the element in height to compensate for settlement
- Time when final construction works can take place (after xx0% settlement)
- Interfaces between choices made in permanent tunnel design (i.e. joints, requirements, etc.) and immersion design

In case of Design/Build the Contractor is required to do this.

Analysis (Requirements, Timescale...)

The Owner or designer of the owner can provide an overall time schedule of what alignment is affected in what stages of the process. In case of Design/Build the Contractor is required to do this.

Survey crews preferably dedicated to the immersed tunnel part of the Project provided by both Contractor and Owner should work closely together.

Behavioural Tolerances (Limits, Deviations)

Some projects have used ±50 mm in all directions absolutely and ±25 mm across immersion joints. ±35 mm is a common specification for horizontal position of tunnel elements after placing. ±25mm is a common specification for vertical position of tunnel elements after placing. In Design and Build contracts these tolerances can be left to the contractor to determine according to the choice of Gina gasket and the choice of survey and positioning systems, provided the overall deviation limits for the road or rail alignment set by the Owner are adhered to.

Remedial Measures (For Unexpected Behaviour/Values)

A risk based design approach asks for a Risk Inventory List (RIL), in which risk items with appropriate measures for survey and realignment system can be shown. In this RIL, for instance actions required if realignment system fails / does not function properly.

Links to Other Owners Guide Themes

As built survey
Element construction
Element positioning
Foundation settlement
Joints – immersion
Joints – land
Leakages
Tolerances

Performed by / Responsible

The suggested responsibilities for elements relating to tunnel element alignment, subject to type of contract and/or risk allocation are:

- Plans and Specifications - Owner.
- Construction tolerances to be achieved – designer/Owner.
- Establishment and maintenance of project survey control system – Owner.
- Survey planning and method statements – Contractor.
- Design of survey systems – Contractor.
- Design of guidance and positioning systems – Contractor.
- Survey during construction – Contractor.
- Check survey during construction – Owner/independent survey team.
- Acceptance of alignment on completion of immersion – Owner.

4 ANNEX 14: TUNNEL ELEMENT ALIGNMENT - AN OWNERS GUIDE TO IMMERSED TUNNELS
One of the main characteristics of an immersed tunnel is that it consists of one or more prefabricated tunnel elements. These elements can be fabricated on a shipway and launched, or fabricated/cast in an existing or purpose-built temporary dry dock. From there the element may be completed for placing at an outfitting jetty, stored at temporary moorings or transported directly to their placing location.

**WHAT**

**Construction site**

The construction site for the tunnel elements is usually situated at a location other than the immersion site. Depending on the local situation the tunnel elements can be built in the cofferdam for the approach ramps of the tunnel, in a specially constructed casting basin at the tunnel crossing site or at a remote location, in a ship dry dock or a shipyard. The capacity and size of the facility should be taken into account as well as the distance to the immersion location and the obstacles encountered on the transport route. The water depth along the proposed route must be safely adequate for the draft of the elements to be transported.

**Types of transport**

Dependent on the choice of location of the construction dock and the distance to the immersion location different methods of transport can be used.

**Transport by means of winches**

Tunnel elements fabricated in the cofferdam of the approach ramps in general are in line with the final tunnel alignment. After floatation the tunnel elements can be transported to their immersion location by winches. At least two longitudinal winches have to be used. When immersing in a river with current also transverse winches are required to keep the tunnel element in place. Similarly casting basins immediately alongside the tunnel approaches may permit transportation by winches with a similar arrangement of winches to control longitudinal and lateral position of the elements.

**Transport by means of boats**

Tunnel elements fabricated at a location further away from the immersion location have to be transported with tug and push boats. After floatation the tunnel elements are moored to prepare for transport. If necessary the tunnel elements will first be winched to a mooring location near the exit of the basin. After preparations tug boats and / or push boats will connect to the tunnel element for transportation to the immersion location.

Steel shell elements are often transported long distances simply floating with their inherent buoyancy or in some cases where transport of steel shell elements must cross open sea for large distances, a semi-submersible barge has been utilized. (Figure 1.)

**Outfitting**

Steel shell tunnels are usually completed at an outfitting jetty where both the permanent internal and external concrete structure is cast. The steel shell element is also prepared at the outfitting jetty with temporary equipment mounted on it, which is needed for placement.

Concrete box tunnels may be completed and readied for placing at the casting yard or may be transported to a temporary location where they can be outfitted with the temporary equipment necessary for placing.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

**Construction site**

The locations of the construction and outfitting sites have to be chosen at an early stage. Sometimes this may be pre-selected by the project owner, or it may be left up to the contractor. Transport from the element construction site to the immersion location must be possible and agreements must be made with waterway and port authorities.

**Transport**

After floatation a tunnel element often is moored at the launch or construction site to prepare it for transportation. Afterwards the tunnel element can be transported directly to the outfitting jetty, immersion location, or to a temporary mooring location. By using a temporary mooring location the construction of the tunnel element and its immersion can be made less dependent on each other.

The circumstances of the transport route should be investigated at an early stage. Several third parties have to be informed and permits can be required. The local weather and water conditions can be of influence on the time schedule and can restrict the opportunities to start transportation.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY ...)**

**Preparation for transport**

The following aspect should be taken into account to prepare the tunnel element for transport:

- **Trimming.** After floatation the tunnel element will be trimmed to the required freeboard. Generally for a concrete tunnel element a minimum freeboard of 150mm is required floating in fresh water. If the tunnel element has to be transported over sea the minimum required freeboard increases to for example 300mm.
- **Ballast.** For trimming a concrete tunnel sometimes ballast concrete will be applied. If ballast water is used for trimming the event...
of sloshing water should be taken into account. Stability of the element is of great importance, therefore free water should be avoided as much as possible.

- Temporary equipment. The following equipment may be mounted on or in the tunnel element before or after transport to the outfitting or project site: pumping systems for ballast tanks and leakage water, lighting in the tunnel element, generator, bollards, fairleads, push boat frame, navigation lights, signal beacons, access shaft, survey tower, protection of Gina profile.

- Transport of steel shell elements can be done self-floating or on a semi submersible barge. Solid rigging and sea fastening is important when transporting on a semi sub. A sea worthy system should then be the result.

- Checks. Before transport for immersion checks are done on the state of tunnel element and all required equipment for transportation and immersion, including diving checks of the outside of the tunnel element.

**Winching system**

For a winching system the following equipment is used:

- Longitudinal winches
- Transverse winches (capacity dependent on current and other transverse forces)
- Winch foundations
- Winch wires
- Spuds for anchorage

Figure 2 shows an example of a winching system.

**Transport by boats**

Transportation of the tunnel element can be done by tug boats and push boats. In Figure 3 examples are given for two configurations. Sea transport can be done pulling forward on all tugs, because the transverse movement is of less impact (more space). The river transport should be done more controlled in transverse direction, and should be able to stop over short distances, therefore a 4-directional spread is used.

The capacity of the boats depends on the dimensions and weight of the tunnel element, the current flow forces, manoeuvrability and properties of the transport route.

For transport of the tunnel element the following stakeholders have to be consulted: contractor, transporter, client, waterway authorities, port authorities, warranty surveyor, pilots.

Before transportation several decision meetings are held with the stakeholders to decide if all requirements are met for the upcoming transportation of the tunnel element. For example the decision meetings can be held 48 hours, 24 hours and 3 hours before transport.

The following criteria can be checked in the decision meetings: preparation tunnel element, state of transport route, weather forecast, predictions tides and current flows, wave forecasts, expected shipping on transport route, survey transport route for obstacles.

**Transport route**

The following aspects should be taken into account for the transport route:

- Width of the navigation channel, side clearance / fendering
- Shipping lanes
- Necessary blockages of waterways if the transport interferes with the shipping channel too much
- Obstacles such as bridges (top clearance, passage width), locks (width, length, suction forces)
- Keel clearance on transport route
- Current flows in order to know the loads on the transport system
- Tides and tidal flows in order to know the loads on the transport system
- Possibility of transverse current flows at river crossings
- River bends
- Sea conditions (waves)
- Other shipping
- Required permits
**Wave, current and weather windows**

Due to local circumstances the transport can be restricted to for example current flows, tides or wave heights. The impact of those influences on the transport configuration and the time schedule should be determined. If necessary the transport can be restricted towards for example tidal fluctuations. With all restricting influences combined time windows can be determined for transportation. From a safety point of view, one or more safe havens should be identified and prepared, to accommodate mooring of the configuration in unforeseen bad weather.

**Floating stability**

The floating stability encompasses the uprighting properties of the tunnel element when it is brought out of equilibrium or balance by a disturbance in the form of a force or a moment. As a result of these loads the tunnel element will rotate about its centre of gravity. It should be checked if the tunnel elements meet the requirements for the floating stability such as the position of the metacentre, the maximum angle of heel with a stabilising moment and the area underneath the static stability curve.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

Freeboards for transport vary from 0.15 to 1.0m (dependent on expected wave conditions). Up to several meters of freeboard can be expected for light weight steel shell tunnel sections. Metacentric height G’M > 0.50m, maximum stabilizing angle up to 30 degrees. All depending on the applied Class Society regulations (Lloyds, DNV, TUV, etc). Which is often prescribed by the owner.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

**Insurance**

Besides the normal project insurance an insurance with marine coverage is needed. The insurance company is usually involved in decision making and design checks during preparation works, and sometimes even during physical operations.

**Risk assessment**

Before transport a risk assessment has to be done. The following items can be part of this risk assessment:

- Leakage in tunnel element
- Failure of bulkhead caused by for example a collision
- Running aground
- Collision with obstacles (bridges, locks)
- Collision with floating objects (protection of )
- Failure of prestressing due to overload
- Unexpectedly worsening of wave and weather circumstances

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Typical monitoring during transport consists of:

- Loads on system (bollard pull, winch loads, etc)
- Water levels
- Ballast levels
- Weather forecast updates and analysis
- Current and wave analysis
- Position in navigation channel based upon GPS or survey system

**REMEDIAL MEASURES FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES**

The following measures can be taken for unexpected behaviour/values:

- For a longer transport route a safe area can be designated where the tunnel element can be moored temporarily until the wave and weather circumstances are more favourable again.
- Tug configurations are prepared so that with loss of 1 tug, transport could still continue towards a safe haven.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

Element construction / dry dock
Joints – immersion
Joints - segment
Temporary Prestressing
Tunnel element temporary mounted equipment

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

Determine position of construction site: Owner / Designer (preliminary/tender design phase if design-bid-build), Contractor (D&B tender/detailed design phase)

Consultation with waterway and port authorities: Owner / Designer (preliminary/tender design phase), Contractor (detailed design phase)

Functional requirements: Designer / Contractor

Design of temporary constructions & detailing: Contractor / Designer
The permanent structure of an immersed tunnel consists of either a concrete or steel outer shell. Most of the equipment for permanent works is placed inside the tunnel bores. Before transport, immersion and completing the foundation can take place, several items of temporary equipment must be mounted within and on the outside of the element. This chapter outlines this temporary mounted equipment.

WHAT

The following systems / type of equipment are utilised:

- **Bollards** used for towing and mooring operations. A minimum of 4 bollards (1 on each corner) is required for towing an element, for other operations more bollards could be useful (mid-mid or primary/secondary side). As each bollard impacts the permanent structure minimizing the amount is always the better option. Bollards are mainly used for connection of wires from tugs or winches.
- **Suspension lugs** for lowering and supporting the element when immersion takes place (Figure 2). The suspension lugs are positioned on the roof slab of the element in order to lift the element during immersion. Four lifting lugs are usually mounted on the element, positioned in the area where the bending moments of the element are least influenced.
- **Access shaft** for temporary access through the roof of the element or through the bulkhead during outfitting for placement and emergency access after placing (Figure 3). One or more access shafts are mounted on the element for access and to mount GPS antennae / prisms for survey. Also a personnel extraction crane can be mounted if required, for use in the event of accidents inside the element.
- **Supports** (primary and secondary) (Figure 4) for temporary support of the tunnel element prior to sand flow or grouting operations.
- **Bulkheads** for closing off the ends of the element (Figure 5). Steel or concrete bulkheads are fitted.
- **Survey tower** for alignment control during placing (Figure 6). A survey tower is used in areas where the survey can take place from land and where shallow water (<30m) occurs. This tower is fitted with GPS antennae and prisms to monitor the movement of the element.
- **Cast in sandflow or grouting pipes and temporary supply pipework and control valves**, used to transport sand/water or grout mixture underneath the element to create a solid bedding.
TUNNEL ELEMENT TEMPORARY MOUNTED EQUIPMENT

- Prestressing for holding the segments of the element together during transport (Figure 7), applicable for a segmental tunnel. Also indicated in the annex for Temporary Prestressing.
- Ballast tanks and ballast system for the ballasting and trimming of the element before transport and during immersion.
- External jacking frame and jacks (Figures 8 & 9). This frame can be implemented underneath an element and fitted with realignment jacks (lateral) to position the secondary end within the required tolerances.
- Gina and Omega Gaskets for watertight connection to the previously immersed element.
- Fairleads and other rigging for placing and manoeuvring.
- Power, control, signal and CCTV wiring including bulkhead penetrations.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

Equipment applicable to specific situations
Prior to immersion (launching, towing, outfitting, immersion, alignment, etc.) a clear plan should be made regarding what equipment is required at each stage of the construction process. This plan should be input for the detailed design phase. For instance, some bollards can be removed before physical immersion starts. Equipment and materials necessary inside the element for ballasting and immersion are an important part of this process as once completed and prior to immersion, there is limited access to the inside of a tunnel element.

Removal

After immersion the temporary mounted equipment on the external faces of the element should be removed easily by divers or even without the use of divers at all (hydraulic or magnetic self-release systems). Safety is the most critical aspect in this design. All equipment should be easily removable by cranes or light equipment. Partitions in equipment (access shaft, survey mast) can help to reduce weights.

For temporary equipment inside the tunnel often a phased removal is needed. For example the negative buoyancy of the tunnel element should be sufficient before the water in the ballast tanks and the ballast tanks themselves can be removed. This can be done with the use of ballast concrete in the bores. Another example is the sequence of removal of the bulkheads as frequently the permanent water seal (Omega) must first be installed and tested prior to the removal of closest bulkheads.
Design

Early stage interface design is of great importance, because choices made in position, size and number of temporary mounted equipment can have major impact on permanent works design. For example the location of lifting lugs or supports and consequently the forces transferred to the permanent construction.

Another example is the dimension and location of ballast tanks as these must contribute to satisfying buoyancy safety requirements of the element and of the segments in the various stages of immersion, and facilitate the casting of some ballast concrete before their removal. However it is usually considered that temporary mounted items such as bollard should be designed to fail before they could cause damage to the permanent structure they are mounted on.

A design basis specifically written on temporary works, which outlines all interfaces with other (permanent) works is highly efficient in communicating with third party designers. Detailed design must be governed by specified, conservative safety factors and safety design. Failure or damage of objects is not an option, since during the operation there is no chance of repair of the permanent works when, for instance, cast-in anchors break.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)

Method of mounting equipment

Specifications should be prepared for items required for mounting equipment such as:
- Post tension anchors, concrete, glue, welding etc
- Regular steel T-headed or bolt anchors or cast in rebar with couplers
- High grade steel, post tension systems (ie, Diwydag, MacAlloy)

Tolerances of mounting

For the different objects different tolerances apply. Bollard and access shafts are less sensitive to tolerances than survey towers and suspension lugs. Tolerances should be noted on detailed drawings and design documents.

Watertightness

All temporary mounted equipment which penetrates the outer watertight shell of the element, must be designed and detailed to preserve the watertightness of the structure. Points of attention are:
- Access shaft (penetration of roof)
- Watertightness to be guaranteed with the permanent closing details for the opening in the roof with reinforced structural concrete and, for example, a bolted cover plate gasketted to the surrounding waterproof membrane.
- Secondary supports (penetration of floor).
- After the temporary support function during the sand flow operation is finished, watertightness is to be guaranteed by sealing the recess with concrete after retracting the pins.
- Sand flow pipes. It is advised not to penetrate the floor structure with the pipes, but to divert the pipes through the floor/wall/roof or make a coupler on the external toe of the element, so that the travel from one external surface to another external surface.

Durability/coating

Some temporary equipment is reusable and can be applied to more than one tunnel element. Sturdy coating and protection of the objects can be helpful to expand their life expectancy. Usually a light coloured coating is applied, to improve visibility under water for divers. The long term durability of cast in items must be carefully designed. Stainless steel or anti corrosion measures should be considered in designing these items and repair methods or surface treatments to be applied once the equipment is removed should be developed. Possible interaction with cathodic protection systems must be assessed.
DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

Typical documentation includes:
- Construction method statements and work procedures explaining the necessity and functionality of equipment;
- Design basis for temporary works items;
- Temporary works design and check certification;
- Temporary works design reports and manufacturing and installation drawings;
- Manufacturers materials records and test certificates.

As-built survey records of the remaining temporary and permanent items must be documented and surveyed before immersion takes place. Detailed checklists should be used along with photography.

EXPECTED VALUES

Loads (for critical objects)

Bollards

Standardised bollard forces are established depending on the programmed pulling forces of tug arrays during various towing operations.

Suspension lugs

The suspension lug forces are based on the safe negative buoyancy to be used for largest element to be placed for a given tunnel. The negative buoyancy factor usually ranges between 2% and 6% and is based on the range of water density, wave and current actions expected at the site.

Supports (primary and secondary)

In the final stages of immersion the loads on temporary supports used during sand flow or underbase grouting actions are determined by the presence of waves, shipping, sand flow, currents, etc. These loads are also determined in the design basis, before detailed design takes place.

Bulkheads

Loading on bulkheads (hydrostatic + waves) should be transferred to the permanent structure by means of cast in items / strips or consoles.

Access shafts / survey towers

Loads on access shafts / survey towers consist of wind, current, ship impact and waves. These loads impact the structure significantly when the element is immersed. Due to the length of the shaft and tower large bending moments are introduced locally on the structure.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)

Requirements of Temporary Structures:

Implications for concrete / rebar arising from the temporary equipment must be fully analysed in the design process. This may be in relation to forces arising from the different stages of transport and immersion, geometric requirements to accommodate the equipment or durability impacts such as the need to introduce cathodic protection.

Forces on the structure should be taken into account by the permanent works designer. Monitoring of the forces on temporary equipment (lifting lugs, bollards, etc) is a means of controlling the operation and limiting the risk of failure. Design loads can be derived from model testing and computational analysis of an element in current/waves/wind during transport and immersion.

Safety factors should be chosen according to the governing codes or Class Society regulations. The lifespan of temporary mounted structures should be assessed relative to the duration of the works and number of uses.

Logistics must be analysed by the Contractor in terms of efficient deployment of equipment.

BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

Not applicable.

REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)

Remedial mounting actions (extra anchors, repair, etc).

It is critical to always provide guidelines for installing anchors and cast in items on drawings or design interface documents. Mistakes can be costly if items like anchor bolts are not installed correctly, for example.

Risks

There are inherent risks present in the preparation and installation of temporary mounted equipment.

Time can be a critical issue. Since most temporary equipment can't be mounted very far ahead (access shaft, suspension lugs) the time required for redeployment should be planned for.

Properly designed temporary equipment includes conservative safety factors with their loadings taken into account in the structural design of the element in a manner not to cause local overstressing at the interface. There can be the risk that this design is not as carefully done as the permanent structure.

LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES

Concrete – concrete construction
Durability
Tunnel element alignment
Tunnel element transportation
Joints - closure
Prestressing

PERFORMED BY/RESPONSIBLE

Pre-Tender design phase (Design of immersion system, geometry, support locations, support capacities etc.) : Owner & Owner’s consultant.

Detailed design phase (Design of materials, capacities, safety, connections, details, interfaces, etc.) : Owner & Owner’s consultant, or Contractor in Design and Build.

Detailed design temporary works (Design of subsystems, detailed execution design, etc.) : Contractor

Preparation : Contractor

Execution : Contractor
Exceptional load cases are those corresponding to events of very low occurrence probability. They may find their origin in a natural disaster (earthquakes, typhoons, floods etc.) or accidents of a human nature both inside of the tunnel (collisions, fires) and outside the tunnel (sunken or grounded ship, falling or dragging anchors). In order to carry out analysis, the effect of such events on structures like immersed tunnels needs to be translated into actual design loads, which in most cases is only possible within a certain bandwidth. Immersed tunnels are considered to be robust structures and, for peace of mind of the general public, need to be perceived as capable of dealing with exceptional loads.

WHAT

As for any civil structure design, immersed tunnel design has to address exceptional loads. To determine the magnitude and probability of exceptional loads, a risk assessment should be undertaken. For some exceptional loads typical for other structures, such as seismic loads and vehicle collision loads, they have become more and more regulated by Codes and Standards. But for others that are specific to immersed tunnels, such as a sunken or grounded ship or a tunnel fire, the loads are quite often based upon previous projects and interpolated or extrapolated for the actual project conditions.

Exceptional load cases considered for immersed tunnel design include:
- Seismic loads
- Fire loads
- Sunken or grounded ship loads
- Falling or dragging anchor loads
- Explosion or implosion loads
- Flooding of tunnel loads
- Extreme water levels and / or wave conditions (extreme weather conditions like typhoons or tsunami)
- Vehicle collision loads
- Loss of support

The impact of exceptional loads on the design of an immersed tunnel can be significant. However, since the relevant load combinations are to be considered as extreme or accidental load combinations and considering the fact that reduced material and / or load factors are applicable, the impact of exceptional loads is often not critical and the design is governed by the serviceability or ultimate limit state (SLS/ULS) design. However this is not always the case and so these must be investigated carefully.

An event may have consequences for the structural integrity or water tightness or a combination of both. Beside the fact that the structure always has to provide a safe environment for the escape of the tunnel users, it is also very relevant to assess the potential consequences in terms of a possible impact on the service period (fully, partial, none) after the event to allow for repair. In any case, it is also important to realize that the probability of an extreme event is by definition very small. Exceptional loads should be considered and addressed in the design as follows:
- The effect of the exceptional load is often very local (e.g. fire, sunken ship). Taking actions along the whole tunnel may be very expensive whereas minor but repairable damage may be acceptable as well.
- A staged approach in which events are classified according to the level of probability (e.g. minor or major seismic events) is helpful. Typically the design has to be capable of surviving the event either:
  a) without any damage or
  b) minor but repairable damage or
  c) with significant damage (life safety) under which users must still have safe escape from the tunnel.

Obviously the importance of the link in the road or rail system will play an important role in defining design requirements relative to exceptional loads, for example the availability of alternative routes in case the tunnel has to be taken out of service for repair. This implies that the allowable impact of an exceptional load in terms of damage and repair may be low for major links that have few or no alternative routes in case the link is put out of service. For less important links where an acceptable alternative route is available the allowable impact may be greater.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

Important issues that may reduce the impact of exceptional loads are obviously related to the kind of exceptional load that is under consideration. Often at the early stages of design conservative assumptions have to be made, but it is important to carry out investigations and studies to refine any such assumptions as this may have a bearing on the final cost of the project:

Before Design Stage:

Seismic loads
- Thorough investigation of the seismic activity at the project location (site-specific Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment - PSHA); this investigation shall also address the potential impact of tsunami including associated wave conditions at the project location.
- Thorough geotechnical investigation to identify soil layers that are sensitive to liquefaction (e.g. less dense sand layers) to enable proper design measures and soil treatment.

Fire and explosion loads
- Considerations of the type of traffic using the tunnel e.g. use by dangerous good vehicles will impact on the fire and explosion load to be assumed. This should be agreed through a fire life safety committee including the owner, operator and emergency services.

Sunken or grounded ship load
- Determine existing movements of shipping and proposed changes, including potential dredging to greater depths. Consider these in determining the shallowest vertical profile.

Falling or dragging anchor loads
- Research any history of vessels dragging anchors in the vicinity and whether dragging anchors is a possibility.

Extreme water levels and / or wave conditions
- Study and data collection of water levels and wave conditions at the project location and along likely transport routes (desk studies and / or metocean surveys).
Design Stage:

Seismic loads
- Damping measures in the structures that reduce the impact of seismic loads can be considered, especially in areas with more severe seismic activity. Mitigation measures may include special flexible joints (special purpose GINA), pre stressing to limit movement across a joint and seismic joints.

Fire loads
- Ensure that there is an adequate ventilation system for smoke extraction both to allow a safe escape for the tunnel users and safe access for fire fighters.
- Include a fire protection material against the roof and walls to eliminate permanent loss of concrete and steel strength due to overheating and to reduce the risk of explosive spalling that would prevent fire fighters from approaching a fire to extinguish it.
- Make provision for a sprinkler or water deluge system to reduce the development of a fire.
- Protect critical details (seats, etc.) against high temperature.

Sunken or grounded ship loads
- Ensure that the vertical tunnel profile will provide sufficient thickness of protection over the tunnel for it to handle appropriate sunken or grounded ship loads and falling anchors (possible ship size varies with water depth) or else design the tunnel accordingly. For some alignments, it may be appropriate for the top of the tunnel to protrude above general bed level.
- When selecting the vertical tunnel profile, consider the effects of errant ships colliding with the tunnel or provide bed level protection, especially where the tunnel protrudes above the general bed level. Protective measures may include gravel banks or underwater banks that prevent ships from approaching or landing on the tunnel.

Falling or dragging anchor load
- Evaluate the necessary gradation and thickness of any protective layer over the tunnel.
- Shape the protective layer and the top corners of the tunnel in such a way that dragging anchors cannot easily snag the tunnel.
- Consider the need for, location of and appropriate gradation for anchor release bands located on each side of the tunnel to cause the anchor to ride up and out of the ground to slip over the tunnel.

 Explosion/Implosion loads
- Consider pressure release measures and failure modes for life safety in case of very high explosion/implosion loads.

Flooding or tunnel loads
- Reduce the probability of tunnel flooding.
- Provide protective dikes around the open approaches.
- Ensure that the approach alignment rises above flood level.
- Provide portal flood gates.

Extreme wave conditions
- Design the tunnel to be surrounded with gravel or rock to ensure immediate transmission of pore water pressures changes and thereby maintain the same relative hydraulic head around the tunnel (toughs of high waves travelling over the tunnel would otherwise tend to lift the tunnel).

Vehicle collision loads
- Include measures to prevent direct impact of vehicle collision to primary tunnel structure (crash barriers, etc.)

Loss of support
- Monitor the installation of the sand pancakes (sand flow) thoroughly to ensure that an adequate foundation bed is prepared.

Operation Stage:

For the operation phase in particular, measures can be taken to reduce the risks of some of the exceptional loads, especially those involving people:

General
- Exceptional loads inevitably are related to emergency conditions. Critical issues for a successful management of an event are efficient escape measures for tunnel users and efficient access for intervention by emergency services. These should be fully documented as operational and emergency response procedures.

Fire, explosion and collision
- Reduce the possibility of an accident by a safety plan and traffic management system.
- Forbid the passage of dangerous and explosive goods through the tunnel (only when there are appropriate diversion routes available).
- Alternatively the operator may choose to implement an escort system to ensure safe passage through the tunnel.

Dragging or dropping anchors
- Proper signage on the navigation channels that clearly identifies the presence of a tunnel and a prohibition against dropping anchor.

Grounded ships
- Proper signage on the navigation channels that reduces the risk of ships sailing into shallow waters.
ANNEX 17 >> EXCEPTIONAL LOAD CASE

For loads caused by a natural disaster, pre-emptive operational measures may be more difficult to take unless they can be predicted by appropriate forecast systems; this could be the case for extreme weather conditions for which reason the tunnel could be closed to traffic. This may include lowering of flood gates (where included in the tunnel design) if flooding of the area would be a serious risk. Tunnel operators should be in contact with the appropriate agencies forecasting and predicting such events.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)

See “Expected values” section for relevant information.

DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

Design Stage:

Record all assumptions in a design basis summarising the results of investigations, studies and the derivation of appropriate load parameters. It is important for this to be agreed between the detailed designer and the Owner. Third parties may also need to give their agreement, for example the fire services (civil defence) or port operators.

Operational stage:

If an exceptional loading event occurs during the life of the tunnel, where possible the characteristics of the event (magnitude) and the response of the tunnel should be recorded. There are a growing number of immersed tunnels that are fitted out with a permanent monitoring system (Structural Health Monitoring System). Such a system can provide information on the state and performance of the structure, movements of the structure etc. In the design of the monitoring system account can be made for effects that can occur during an event and the way these effects can be recorded.

Following an event, the tunnel will need to be thoroughly inspected. Depending on the type of event, this can either be a local or a full inspection (also see “Remedial measures / actions”). It is recommended that plans for inspections for potential events be made in advance, so that swift and efficient inspections can take place. The inspections should be well documented, since they will be the basis for possible repair plans. In case of damage, the sooner the repair of the tunnel can be undertaken, the sooner the tunnel can be back in full operation again. This is described in more detail under Remedial Actions below.

EXPECTED VALUES

The values for exceptional loads are highly dependent on local circumstances. They can vary considerably from project to project. In addition, there seems to be a tendency for the values used for exceptional loads to increase with time, which may be an indication that more attention is being paid to these types of loads or that without giving it too much consideration values from one project are extrapolated to another.

Seismic loads

Many immersed tunnels have been constructed in heavy seismic areas such as Japan, Taiwan and California. These tunnels have survived major earthquakes with little damage. Immersed tunnels should be designed for seismic effects appropriate to their location. Where there is a reasonable probability for a smaller earthquake to occur during construction, this too must be considered. For the design of a tunnel several levels of magnitude of earthquake loading are to be considered. The way this is done may vary from Code to Code (e.g. Eurocode, AASHTO), although basic principles in many cases are similar. Reference should be made to the Seismic Annex.

Fire loads

• Refer to Annex on Fire Protection and Annex on Ventilation and Fire.

Sunken or grounded ship loads

• Values vary according to vessel type, cargo carried, vessel loaded draught, water depth at the tunnel site and any shallows on the vessel’s route.

• In in-land ports sunken or grounded ship loads have been used varying from 20-70kN/m². More recently loads have been applied in sea ports from 100-150kN/m², to even 250-300kN/m² in main sea ports where tidal ranges may result in a higher load in case the ship is grounded and the portion above water is increasing at low tide (less upward water pressure). The type of shipping and the type of cargo / loads that are carried obviously play an important role in the determination of the potential sunken or grounded ship loads as well.

• Port/harbour or coastguard authorities should be contacted to obtain records of vessel movements to understand the nature of vessels using the waterway and whether this may change in the future.

Falling or dragging anchor loads

• The magnitude of load depends on the location and the type of shipping at the tunnel location.

• The load transmitted to the tunnel structure depends on the type of protection on top of the tunnel.

• For the falling anchor allowance anchor masses of 8000kg to 20000kg and even 30000kg have been used for immersed tunnel design, obviously depending on the type of waterway and the local shipping. Falling anchors design velocities are taken in the range of 7-9m/s.

• For the dragging anchor allowance, chain breaking forces of 4.0 to 6.0MN have been used, with a dragging penetration depth of 2.5-3m.

• Refer to ITA State of the Art Report (Chapter 6) and CEB Bulletin d’Information no 187, August 1988.

Explosion / implosion loads

• The magnitude of load depends on the location of the tunnel and the availability of acceptable deviation routes for the transport of hazardous or explosive goods.

• Explosion / implosion shall be considered in all traffic tubes between the Portals.

• The loads to be applied are usually analysed as a static load, taking place in one tube only.
In many tunnel projects the integrity of the emergency doors has to be guaranteed. They may break, but should not become projectiles.

- Typically in lieu of detailed analysis, a static equivalent equally distributed load of 100kN/m² is applied.
- In heavy industrial areas where deviation routes are not available 300-500kN/m² have been used. This is unusual and will present the structure design with some challenges.

Load due to flooding of tunnel

- The tunnel should resist an accidental flooding of the tunnel in one of the tunnel tubes without any (significant) structural damage as a result of the settlements occurring during the period until the tunnel has been drained.
- In case damage is allowed (depending on the importance of link) easy and efficient repair should be possible.

Extreme wave conditions (e.g. due to extreme weather conditions like typhoons)

- The tunnel shall be able to resist a combined load of a high water level and related wave height. Return periods of 1000 to 10000 years have been used in immersed tunnel design.

Vehicle collision loads

- In many immersed tunnel projects the tunnel walls have to be able to resist a horizontal collision load acting some 1.25 m above road level in the order of:
  - A longitudinally load of 1000 kN
  - A transversally load of 500kN
- Crash barriers often are designed to resist a horizontal load of 150kN acting transversally 0.55 above the road level.
- Rail tunnels generally require derailment provisions to avoid collision impact.
- These loadings are usually defined in nationally applicable standards.

Prevention of floatation

- A minimum factor of safety during construction of 1.04 is typical, reduced for short periods to 1.025, whereas the long term factor used is 1.06 with all interior removable items removed and no erodible backfill on top of the tunnel.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

The effects of loads are applied to a structure as load cases. Some may have minimum applied loads and others maximum. Exceptional loads are combined with other loads into accidental load combinations. In most countries reduced material and load factors apply. However the level of acceptable damage may vary:

- **Level 1**: No damage (Serviceability Limit State / Ultimate Limit State verification)
- **Level 2**: Slight damage, easy to repair (Ultimate Limit State / Accidental Limit State verification)
- **Level 3**: Heavy damage, preventing major failure (total collapse and catastrophic inundation) to maintain life safety (Accidental Limit State verification)

The level of acceptable damage is obviously related to the probability of occurrence (return period). In seismic design this has become an internationally accepted approach. The level of acceptable damage has been related to the return period and the probability of exceedance.

The analyses that have to be undertaken are related to the level of acceptable damage. When no damage is allowed, linear or simple non-linear analyses will be most appropriate. With an increasing level of acceptable damage it is likely that more advanced non-linear or plastic analyses are required in order to be able to assess the ultimate resistance of the structure.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Not all loads will be known exactly and in some instances the designer may either need to opt for moderately conservative assumption or test sensitivities to evaluate the risks to the structure.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Inspections should be undertaken to identify the impact of an exceptional event. Depending on the type of event this can be either local (fire, vehicle collision, explosion, ship impact) or overall (earthquake, flooding). As a minimum, an inspection should at least be made inside the tunnel. In addition, external inspection may be essential where accessible, depending on the event.

**Level of inspections:**

- Quick scan inspection to assess whether the tunnel can stay in operation or whether immediate action is required (temporary support structures, temporary mitigation leakage etc).
- More detailed inspection to determine the repair plans and to set up the execution plans in relation to the operation of the tunnel.

**Type of inspections:**

- Inspection of the concrete structure for cracking, spalling or other forms of damage. It may be useful to start with the most sensitive parts of the tunnel such as the tunnel joints.
- Inspection of the rebar where exposed (e.g. due to fire and spalling of the concrete).
- Inspection for possible leakages.
- Inspection of fire protection material.
- Inspection of the tunnel joints (water tightness and structural damage).
- Measuring possible movements of the tunnel (permanent monitoring system would be appropriate). Regular inspection and maintenance of this monitoring system should be included in the maintenance manual of the tunnel to guarantee proper performance during an event.

Repair plans need to be developed in case of damage. Obviously the repair actions depend on the kind of damage. In terms of the timing of the repair it is advisable to consider the urgency of repair as well. In case there is no real urgency for immediate repair, the tunnel may remain (conditionally) open to traffic in peak hours and closed for repair in off-peak
hours (nights, weekends). This will depend on the importance of the link and the availability of deviation routes.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Structural form
- Fire protection
- Immersion Joints
- Segment joints
- Ventilation and fire
- Seismic
- Operation & Maintenance

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

The suggested responsibilities with regard to the exceptional load cases are:

- Specification of the type of exceptional loads to be considered / Determination of the exceptional loads to be considered for the design: Owner (assisted by Consultant)
- Design and detailing: Designer
- Repair during construction: Contractor
- Inspection after an event: Owner/Consultant/Inspection contractor
- Repair after an event: Contractor
An immersed tunnel must connect to tunnel structures on the shore at each end of the tunnel. These may be cut and cover tunnels, portal structures, bored tunnels, pneumatic caissons or open ramp structures. These are all referred to as Approach Structures. They may have integrated operational and service buildings. Figure 1 shows a typical tunnel approach in a rural area.

WHAT

Generally, a road or railway will come up to ground level after it has passed through an immersed tunnel beneath a waterway. This requires a transition structure to be built on each approach to the immersed tunnel. The length of the approach structure is defined by the gradient of the road or railway it carries. Gradients are usually maximised in order to keep the structure as short as possible, but taking into account design speeds for traffic, the limitations for railway rolling stock and safety issues.

Several stages of construction are required so that the immersed tunnel can be connected to the approach structure. Either the immersed tunnel is placed first and then an earthworks bund constructed over the tunnel to allow the tunnel approach area to be excavated and dewatered, or the approach structure is built first within a dewatered excavation and then the earthworks is changed to expose the end of the cut and cover tunnel to the water and enable the immersed tunnel to be placed against it.

Approach structures to the immersed tunnel play a vital role in protecting the tunnel from inundation. They therefore will provide flood protection to the tunnel either with the structure or using earthworks, and in some instances with flood gates.

Occasionally the road or railway will pass into another tunnel constructed on land by different techniques such as by TBM. This requires a specific solution in order to connect the two types of construction.

On many immersed tunnels the excavations required for the approach structure are used as a casting basin in which to build the immersed tunnel.

Many of the most complex aspects of design and construction arise in the approach structures as they have a changing foundation level that usually passes through ground of varying quality.

Cut and Cover Tunnels

Cut and cover tunnels are one of two types. They are reinforced concrete structures built in open dewatered excavations formed by earthworks or temporary retaining structures, or they are formed by embedded walls such as diaphragm walls or secant bored pile walls with the base and roof of the tunnel constructed as propping slabs. The options are shown in Figure 2. Space constraints often determine the type of approach tunnel to be constructed.

If the tunnel is built using embedded walls it may be built by a top-down method or a bottom-up method. Top-down methods are useful if the ground above the tunnel is needed for other purposes such as temporary or permanent roads. The top slab is built first, between the embedded walls, the structure is backfilled to the existing ground level and excavation then continues beneath the slab. This minimises the time for returning the land above back into use.

With the bottom-up method the full excavation is completed before casting the base slab first and then the top slab. Temporary props or ground anchors may be needed for the walls to enable the initial excavation.
Because of the weight of the structure in the temporary condition within the dewatered excavation, and because in the permanent condition there may be a significant amount of backfill over the tunnel, it is common to need a piled foundation beneath the cut and cover tunnel. This will depend on the ground conditions. The cut and cover tunnel will therefore usually have different settlement characteristics compared to the adjacent immersed tunnel.

Portal structures

Tunnel portal buildings are frequently combined with the approach structures. They may contain operation and control centres, maintenance and service facilities and plant and equipment rooms. Direct access into the tunnel may also be provided for the convenience of maintenance staff. The buildings may also have ventilation towers, depending on the type and configuration of the ventilation system for the tunnel.

The resulting buildings can be quite complex. An example is shown in Figure 3 from the Oresund Tunnel project. The buildings would normally be built in-situ as an extension to the cut and cover tunnel. However their plan area may be greater and the additional structure will create a different bearing pressure and may need a different foundation solution compared to the rest of the approach tunnel.

Open ramp structures

From the tunnel portal up to ground level, an open structure is required to carry to road or railway. This is typically a U-shaped reinforced concrete structure. Where retaining walls heights are greater than 8-10m permanent props are often used. If there is a high water table in the tunnel approach then measures to prevent uplift may be needed. This can be either a ballast concrete layer similar to the immersed tunnel, or tension elements (pikes or anchors) can be used. The latter is generally more efficient but particular care must be taken to ensure the durability of the tension elements for the design life of the structure.

A combination of structure and earthworks can be used. Often earthworks are used to form flood bunds and to open out the approach to give it a better aesthetic appearance. Buried watertight ground membranes can be used to prevent ground water from draining into the tunnel approach. Figure 4. shows an example.

Use of approaches for casting basin

Tunnel approaches are often used as casting basins in which to construct the immersed tunnel elements. Figure 5 shows an example of this at the Limerick Tunnel in Ireland. If this is done the approach excavations may need to be over-deepened. This will affect the final approach structure as there may be temporary retaining walls, foundations and slabs that need to be incorporated into the final structure.

A simple approach is to keep the temporary and permanent works separate and build the final structure within the approach once the tunnel elements have been floated out. However it can be beneficial to design the temporary works so they can contribute to the final approach structure.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

The sequence of construction of the approach structures compared to the immersed tunnel needs detailed consideration to optimise the construction programme. This can be left to the contractor to determine unless there is a constraint on the site or the tunnel approach is constructed as a separate contract to the immersed tunnel. In such circumstances the project client may decide how this interface is to be controlled.

The detailed requirements for construction will follow good practice for conventional sub-surface structures. Some particular areas for attention in terms of keeping good records are:

- Ground movement history during excavation and construction
- As-built dimensions to be recorded.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY ...)

Depending on the type of construction the detailed specifications for construction will vary. However the specifications for all forms of approach structures should include:

- Methods for achieving watertightness in the structure and its joints.
Requirements to maintain stability and resist uplift from hydrostatic pressures.
• Requirements for ground water control in the temporary construction stage.
• Alignment gradients for road or railway.
• Flood protection requirements (flood protection level for given return period).
• Design life and durability requirements.
• Requirements for control of differential settlement between immersed tunnel and approach structure.
• Drainage sumps.
• Aesthetic requirements, landscaping and architectural treatments.
• Requirements for light attenuation at tunnel portals.
• Safety related items such as escape routes.

The particular form of structure will also have detailed specifications for its construction, whether it is in situ concrete or in situ concrete combined with piling. In case that embedded walls are used, the durability requirements for their use for the permanent structure are important.

The details at the end of the cut and cover tunnel at the point of connection to the immersed tunnel will require preparation to act as an immersion joint or a closure joint, or there may be a specific terminal joint detail to be implemented. Reference should be made to the appropriate annex for requirements associated with these features.

BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)

The detailed requirements for construction will follow good practice for conventional sub-surface structures. Some particular issue to focus on in construction are:

Wall deflections and ground settlements:

Any building or structures falling within the 10mm settlement contour of the ground movement predictions should be assessed to determine if this is acceptable or whether protective measures should be implemented. For structures susceptible to ground movement a range of instrumentation can be utilised to monitor the works throughout the construction stage against pre-determined trigger levels.

Accuracy of pile installation:

Tolerances on verticality are usually specified in the design code. Any out-of-tolerance could lead to leakage in the joints between piles/panels.

Surface tolerance and impact on stability:

against hydrostatic uplift and internal clearance envelopes.

As-built surveys should be taken and cross-checked against the original design before releasing dewatering measures.

Groundwater management:

Water quality and water discharge rates should be predefined to form the basis of the required construction permits. During construction the water flow will need to be controlled and monitored before the water is disposed of.

Protection levels against flooding:

The level will be defined by the economic value...
of the hinterland and the tunnel itself. Special attention should be paid during construction and operation phase to the fact that the tunnel will act as a syphon. When one part floods, the other part will flood as well.

REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)

The detailed requirements for construction will follow good practice for conventional sub-surface structures. Particular issues that may arise at approach structures include:

- Differential settlement. High settlement can be corrected by under-base grouting or installing settlement relief piles.
- Uplift due to tension pile failure. Remedial measures may include ballasting, installation of new piles. Works are likely to be expensive and disruptive to operation.
- Leakage or seepage of piled wall structures. If used for permanent works they should be provided with seepage/leakage management system of drainage pipework. Pipework needs to be maintainable and be cleaned regularly. Excessive seepage can be rectified by grouting if the drainage cannot cope with the water volumes.
- Early thermal cracking of thick concrete sections. Grout injection is usually used to prevent unsightly staining due to seepage and to prevent early corrosion of reinforcement.
- Construction time. The construction programme should define clearly when the approach structure should be ready and exposed to the waterway to receive the tunnel elements. The schedule should allow for sufficient float in case the construction of the approaches runs late.

PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE

Subject to type of contract and / or risk allocation:

- Functional requirements - Owner
- Structural design & detailing – designer/contractor
- Construction specifications – designer/contractor
- Construction – Contractor
- Maintenance - Owner

LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES

Concrete - Concrete construction
Cracks – Concrete construction
Durability
Foundation/Settlement/Backfill
Closure Joints
Terminal joints
Immersion joints
Important aspects of the management of immersed tunnel projects are summarised as seen from the Owner’s perspective. The Operation & Maintenance phase is not addressed, as this subject is dealt with by a separate theme.

**WHAT**

*Project Plan*

The Owner should initially compile a Project Plan defining the objectives and strategies, as well as the project context, main activities, time schedule and the organization necessary for completing the project. The organisation will normally consist of management staff employed by the Owner and external consultants for design, environmental investigations, etc.

*Contract form*

The scope of the Owner’s management for an immersed tunnel project should primarily depend on the contract form under which the project will be implemented. Experience from immersed tunnel projects comprises:
- Construction according to the Owner’s Detailed Design;
- Design & Construct;
- PPP (Public Private Partnership).

The contract form can be a recognised form of contract such as NEC or FIDIC, but as with other underground construction where ground conditions have a large influence on a project, it is important to achieve a fair allocation of risk within the contract, as discussed further in the section on risk management below.

National forms of contract developed by public authorities for road and rail projects are generally suitable; the nature of an immersed tunnel does not mean that an unusual contract form is needed. The unusual requirements of an immersed tunnel can generally be addressed within the particular information and specifications for the project.

Often bespoke contracts are prepared for major crossings if they are deemed high risk or high value, but this is no different for an immersed tunnel compared to say a bridge or a bored tunnel fixed link.

Apart from the tunnel elements, immersed tunnel projects usually include land-based approach structures in the form of cut & cover tunnels and approach ramps. As is common for underground construction projects, there are strong interfaces between the temporary and the permanent structures. Design & Construct, especially when considerable freedom is given to design, may be preferred to allow design optimisation and effective interface coordination by the Contractor and thus reduce costs.

A PPP Contract gives the possibility for the public Owner to share investment costs with a private consortium. This contract form should give the same advantages as mentioned above for Design & Construct. In addition, the operation and maintenance of the tunnel by the PPP consortium during a longer period has proven advantageous for optimising the performance and reliability of M&E installations. Design & Construct projects may emphasise minimum initial cost with higher maintenance costs, whereas PPP projects may result in minimum overall cost for construction plus maintenance through the design life, even if this results in a higher initial cost.

Further, for PPP projects, if the overall Concession Period includes the period of time taken to design and construct the works, the PPP Company can be given an incentive to construct the project faster and open it to traffic ahead of program, if he is entitled to earn toll revenue earlier and for a longer period.

**Risk management**

The scope of the Owner’s management should also be influenced by the risks during the planning, design and construction, and the way they are distributed between the Owner and the Contractor.

The Owner should from the beginning apply methodological risk management techniques to identify and to mitigate, eliminate or contain all the relevant risks. It is recommended, and may be required as well for insurance reasons, that the risk management follows the approach advised by ITIG (the International Tunnel Insurance Group).

As to the allocation of the risks between the Owner and the Contractor, it is normally preferable that the responsibility shall be with the party who is in the best position to control and provide against the risks.

For a Design & Construct contract, by far the most normal and foreseeable risks should thus be allocated to the Contractor who is in position to select his design and construction methods to manage them. Examples of such risks for an immersed tunnel project are ground conditions being different from what was expected, inclement weather conditions and accidents during marine operations.

However, when a contractor tenders for a project he is often reliant on the information gathered by the Owner in advance of procurement, and a contractor would not have time to undertake further investigations during the tendering process, so a degree of risk sharing is appropriate for the information relied upon for the contractors planning and pricing.

An effective way of doing this is for the Owner to take responsibility for the factual information issued and to establish a reference framework that gives boundaries for key parameters within which the contractor must expect to carry risk, but outside of which the Owner carries the risk. An example of the application of this principle is given in the below subsection on procurement.

There are likely to be some risks that are not appropriate to assign to the contractor. These concern the overall planning aspects and authority approvals which are to be defined, negotiated and implemented at an early project stage by the Owner. They may also comprise exceptional events which are outside the Contractor’s control and/or may result in too expensive tenders due to high added contingencies if attributed to him.

When (Start-Finish & Measurement Frequency)

Project phases

As part of the Project Plan, the project shall be divided into a number of main phases each, for example:

- Project preparation:
  - Feasibility Study and Conceptual Design
  - Preliminary Design and EIA
  - Submissions for planning approval and other early permits
  - Public consultation documentation
  - Procurement strategy
  - Baseline time schedule
  - Cost estimates for securing budgets
  - Traffic and revenue forecasting for PPP business case (if applicable)

Procurement:

- Preparation of tender documents
- Tender preparation, tender evaluation and contracting

Project implementation:

- Detailed Design
- Construction
- Testing and commissioning
- O&M preparation

Some important management aspects of the three main phases are mentioned in the following.

Project Preparation

The Design Basis defining all the project site conditions and the design requirements is developed from the basic criteria known at the project start. An important part of the basis is the geotechnical design information which is to be defined from borehole and laboratory data. New ground investigations are usually a critical part of the programme to be managed by the Owner at this stage.

Alternative alignments and tunnel concepts are compared in terms of cost, risks and other key parameters during the early feasibility studies. The design of the preferred alternative is subsequently developed to a level with sufficient details to illustrate the Owner’s needs, to demonstrate a possible way to comply with all constraints and requirements, and to provide the Contractor adequate information to bid.

As a special component of an immersed tunnel project, a suitable fabrication facility for tunnel element construction has to be identified. The Owner should ensure that at least one option either inside or outside the project right-of-way will be available.

The execution of the immersed tunnel project, including the element construction, will imply a number of authority approvals to be secured by the Owner during the project preparation. The most important will normally be the planning permit based on an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and containing a number of essential conditions for the project, and the preparation of the EIA is accordingly an important task to be managed by the Owner.

For many projects, the dredging of the tunnel trench has become the main focus of the EIA, principally due to concerns that the sediment spillage plume will cause damage to the marine environment. However, it is worth noting that the experience gained from many immersed tunnel projects has demonstrated that it is usually possible to control the spillage to be within acceptable limits.

The tunnel safety provisions for prevention of traffic accidents, fires, etc., mitigation of consequences, escape, emergency response and rescue will need to be agreed with the relevant authorities and described in a Safety Concept.

Procurement

Four or five contractors typically prequalify to bid for an immersed tunnel project. Generally, a large degree of planning is required in the tendering process, so a greater number of bidders would not be reasonable considering the bidding costs. Qualified applicants are general contractors with a successful record with heavy civil engineering and marine works. They must also contain within their group a partner or sub-contractor experienced in the special immersed tunnel marine operations as well as (for Design & Construct and PPP procurement) a consultant with the immersed tunnel experience necessary for Detailed Design.

The tender competition is sometimes on price and based on the minimum design requirements, technical specifications and other conditions being defined in the tender documents. However, particularly for Design & Construct procurement, a mixture of quality and price is usual where the contractor’s approach to management, design, safety and quality control is taken into consideration. Practice varies around the world as to the relative weightings and scoring mechanisms for the quality and price components. It can be as high as 60:40 quality/price in some European countries. The tender requirements with amendments agreed with the Contractor prior to contract award will transform into the final contract documents.

There may be additional tender documents for information which will not become part of the Contract. For Design & Construct and PPP projects, they may comprise the results of the Owner’s site investigations as well as an illustrative Preliminary Design meeting the requirements.

For the Øresund Fixed Link immersed tunnel, the Owner defined a set of «reference conditions» within the Tender and Contract documents, each with assigned maximum and minimum values and frequencies for the ground, weather and hydraulic parameters. All variations in the range within these values were the risk of the contractor, and the Owner carried the risk outside the range.

The Contract for the Øresund Fixed Link was in addition very clear that all risks not explicitly defined as being the Owners risks were to be considered as being the Contractor’s risks. In addition, the Contractor’s scope included all works required to make the tunnel fit for its purpose, except those explicitly mentioned in the Contract as belonging to the Owner’s scope. This was different from many traditional contracts, for which the Contractor is entitled to claim for all kinds of events and work items not explicitly stated to belong to his scope.
The principles of the Øresund Contract were found to lead to a more thorough risk management from the Contractor's side, a very low number of valid claims and substantially lower total costs to the Owner, as compared to traditional contract forms. Other immersed tunnel projects have taken a similar approach.

**Project implementation**

Both Consultants and contractors should be required to establish and adhere to a project Quality Management System based on ISO 9001 and covering the design and construction for all relevant temporary and permanent works, the external environment and the working environment. The system should be approved by the Owner.

For Design & Construct and PPP projects, the Contractor should make use of the freedom to optimise the design and construction methods as possible within the tender and contract requirements, and this could lead to design solutions different from those assumed by the Owner. The Contractors design preparation is often conducted in two stages: a Basic Design and a final Detailed Design.

The Basic Design shall have a level which is sufficient to verify that the design requirements are fulfilled, and to fix all main dimensions and interfaces. The Contractor should carry out his own geotechnical investigations in parallel; so that the resulting interpreted parameters can be implemented in time into the final Detailed Design. The level of the Detailed Design should be sufficient to serve as construction drawings, as it may be supplemented by bending schedules and workshop drawings for special items.

For Design & Construct and PPP projects, the Owner often chooses to assign an Independent Design Checker to verify by their own calculations that the design shown on the Contractor's drawings will fulfil the design requirements.

During Construction, the Owner should review the Contractors design and construction documentation for compliance with the requirements prior to approvals. For an Owner's Detailed Design contract, the Owner should employ a Designer representative or Engineer to supervise the construction, whereas for Design & Construct and PPP contracts, he should monitor that the supervision is done by the Contractor. The Owner should in general monitor the Contractor's compliance with the Quality Management System by inspections and Quality Audits.

Documentation for Operation & Maintenance manuals is delivered by the Contractor towards the end of construction. It should also be noted that there is an increasing awareness of the importance that the operational phase is already considered at an early stage of the scheme implementation, in order to ensure inspectability and maintainability and to establish operating budgets and principles.

By the end of construction, the implementation phase finally includes integration testing and commissioning of M&E and ITS systems and the tunnel operation and control facilities, as well as safety drills, in order to verify the functionality of all systems prior to opening for traffic.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)****

Not Applicable.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

The following documentation is not different for an immersed tunnel compared to another form of waterway crossing, but is listed for completeness. The different requirements that relate to an immersed tunnel will be brought out in the content of the documents.

- Project Plan
- Quality Management System
- Studies and site investigation reports, e.g. Traffic study
- Metocean survey data and hydraulic study
- Seismic hazard study
- Ground investigation factual reports – prepared by GI contractor or Owner’s consultant
- Geotechnical Baseline report – usually prepared by Owner's consultant
- Further geotechnical interpretative reports may be left to the contractor in D&B contracts
- Durability assessment
- Safety Concept
- Operation risk assessment
- Design documentation from all project stages
- Drawings
- Design report
- Construction specifications
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Conditions from the EIA should be transferred into contract requirements
- Tender documents
- Instructions to tenderers including evaluation criteria
- Form of tender
- Pricing schedules
- Contract documents
- Form of contract
- Contract conditions
- Constructions specifications – materials and workmanship
- Design requirements if D&B
- Reference design/detailed design drawings
- Contractors construction plans and procedures
- Contractors test reports and inspection records
- Contractors as-built design
- Operation and maintenance plans
- Maintenance manual

**EXPECTED VALUES**

Not applicable.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE…)**

Not applicable.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Not applicable.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Not applicable.
LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES

The management links in general to the technical processes described by the other themes of the Owner’s Guide.

PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE

• Overall Project Management - Owner or Owner’s consultant/programme manager/delivery partner.
• Design Management - Designer, whether appointed by the Owner or D&B contractor.
• Construction Management - Contractor
Few concrete structures are constructed in a single concrete placement. Most are therefore constructed with joints, either rigid (construction) or movement (expansion) joints, all of which must be made watertight. Some method of preventing the ingress of water is required at all joints. Waterstops are also used to prevent leaks along the interface between concrete and embedded metal, such as at steel end frames at immersion joints.

Special construction methods have been developed to ensure that immersed tunnels are watertight. For an immersed tunnel, movement joints include immersion joints, terminal joints, segment joints and seismic joints; closure joints can be either rigid or movement joints. Other annexes describe specific aspects of segment joints, immersion joints (including Gina-type and Omega-type seals), closure joints, terminal joints and waterproofing membranes.

This annex describes various types of waterstop found effective in the construction of immersed tunnels and where to use them. The waterstop to use will also depend upon the external water pressure, the type of water (fresh, salty or polluted) and the amount of movement and direction thereof that is expected at the joint. The concrete used must also be watertight for waterstops to be effective.

WHAT

External waterstop

External waterstops are mounted on the wet side of a concrete structure. There are versions suitable for both fixed and movement joints. For movement joints, there is a rectangular bulb to allow movement; for large movements, the outer side may be allowed to tear. This type of waterstop protects the joint against ingress not only of water but also of mud or any other substance. This waterstop is often installed in structures where double protection is required; the external seal is then the primary seal.

Internal waterstop

The most common type of seal between two concrete structures is the internal waterstop. The waterstop is preferably located in the compression zone of the concrete or else near the centre of the concrete section. When this type of waterstop is used to seal an expansion joint, the waterstop has a central bulb. The purpose of this central section is to form a free space in the concrete, which is necessary to allow movement. The central bulb usually consists of rubber with a central hole. An alternative arrangement in lieu of the bulb has rectangular strips of sponge rubber at the centre, one on each side, that are easier to fix in formwork without the risk of leaks. The concrete quality in the area around the waterstop is critical in ensuring water-tightness.

Rubber waterstop with vulcanised steel strips

When water pressures are higher, waterstops with steel strips vulcanized into the end bulbs of the rubber waterstop are used (Figure 1); segment joint waterstops typically use this type. Concrete does not adhere to rubber or PVC, but makes a good bond with the steel strip, providing the desired water-tightness. The steel strip also increases the path of leakage which decreases leakage problems.

Injection waterstop

While the waterstop with vulcanised steel strips improves water tightness, in practice, fissures and gravel spots may occur due to concrete shrinkage and errors during casting. The concrete in the direct vicinity of the waterstop may therefore show seepage even though the waterstop is providing the required water tightness. In practice around 10% of all joints may have this leakage through the concrete.

To eliminate this leakage, there is a waterstop system that allows direct injection of epoxy resin or other products into the concrete around the edges of the waterstop (Figure 2). Injection systems are particularly sensitive to installation and should preferably be used as a backup system. Some injection hoses allow reinjection in case the first attempt to seal the leak is unsuccessful, but have not been successful on all projects.

Figure 1: Waterstops with seal strips vulcanised into end bulbs

Figure 2: Waterstops with edge injection system

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

Principles for making joints watertight should be set out in the design.

Selection of waterstop types and final configuration can be left to the contractor (or their designer if a D&B contract).

For sequence of construction and key issues for tunnel segment joints - see segment joints annex.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)

Performance requirements for waterstops should be set out in design specifications. Specifications should be generic as far as possible to allow a choice of products.

Principles for watertightness should be clearly set out in the contract requirements or design requirements. These might include, for example:

- The number of watertight barriers within a joint. This is often specified as 2 no. different methods of watertightness are to be provided.
Material selection

The most common materials used for the manufacture of waterstops are rubber, PVC and vinyl. Waterstops typically have ribs to lengthen the water path to obtain the required seal. Rubber compounds available include Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR), Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer (EPDM), Chloroprene Rubber (CR), Natural Rubber (NR) and Nitrile rubber (NBR), selection being made according to the surrounding environmental conditions.

In view of the long service life required and the fact that waterstops cannot be replaced, material has to be of a very high quality. Repair of leaking joints after construction using, for example, epoxy injection repair systems is a costly operation so the correct choice of the rubber quality is of paramount importance.

Mechanical Properties

All waterstops should be certified by laboratory tests and be accompanied by quality test certificates and conform to relevant standards.

Installation procedure

The watertightness of a joint is often determined by the method used to install the waterstop. The physical position and integrity of a waterstop is particularly vulnerable during its installation, during placement of reinforcement and while concreting. The internal waterstop supplied with vulcanised steel strips has holes in the strips for installation purposes, to allow it to be tied into the correct position.

It is important to ensure that the waterstop is placed at the design location relative to the joint and that the waterstop does not move during concrete placement. Waterstop movement is not uncommon when there are high concrete pressures during the concreting.

The concrete beneath the waterstop must also be vibrated and consolidated during the concrete placement to prevent porosity, cavities and honeycombing.

When the waterstop is mounted horizontally, it is advantageous for the sides to rise upwards to prevent air entrapment (see Figure 3); for the same reason, the number of longitudinal ridges should be minimised.

Corners/special constructions

There are prefabricated corner pieces available that cater for most changes of direction. Improved joint strength and security is achieved by producing these in the factory under ideal conditions.

Any joints required to be made on site should always be made in a straight length of waterstop. A joint requires a minimum straight length of 20 cm each side of the joint. Such joints should be vulcanised. If required, internal waterstops can be made with a radius (Figure 4).

Special solutions are available for:
- connections between different types of waterstop
- connections between a waterstop and sheet piling
- vulcanised steel endstrips.

Clamping joints

In new constructions waterstops are embedded in the concrete. When a watertight seal is desired between two existing structures or between an existing and a new structure, a different type of waterstop is needed. There are a number of different waterstops (or clamping joints) available for this purpose.

Grouting

Depending upon the circumstances such as permissible movement, water pressure and type of construction, typical examples are shown in Figure 5.

Where a waterstop is placed on a rough surface, leakage can appear between the surface and the rubber waterstop. To prevent this, a flexible material is put between the surface and the waterstop. The waterstop manufacturer should be consulted about suitable products. For detailed design and selection of fastener the suppliers should be consulted.

see segment joint annex
As-built drawings should record waterstop products manufacture, suppliers, installers, materials and final installation details, along with any defects or remedial works performed during the construction period.

Product data sheets and testing record should be retained in the as-built records and maintenance manuals.

Grouting records – materials and logs from grouting should be retained in the as-built records. Also see segment joint annex.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

Some waterstops will be located in movement joints. The expected range of movement will depend on the structure geometry and characteristics. For typical movements at segment joints – see segment joint annex.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

Assessment of joint movements should be made in the design and include for:
- Temperature variation – water, air temperature and structure temperature
- Settlement – global, differential and rotational effects
- Material creep/relaxation
- Construction tolerances
- Seismic load

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Permitted limits of joint movement and tolerances for installation will vary according to characteristics of the tunnel and the configuration of joints. These should be set out in the design specifications.

**PERFORMED BY/RESPONSIBLE**

- Design & detailing – designer
- Specifications of materials – designer
- Movement monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage monitoring during construction – contractor
- Leakage repair during construction – contractor
- Movement monitoring over life – Owner
- Leakage repair during operation – Contractor or Owner (depending on contractual requirements for defects liability period after completion of construction)

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

Grouting records – materials and logs from grouting should be retained in the as-built records. Also see segment joint annex.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Segment joints
- Immersion joints
- Durability
- Seismic design
- Leakages
The factory method for the construction of concrete immersed tunnel elements was first developed and used in the middle of the 1990’s by the Øresund Tunnel Contractors for the construction of the Øresund immersed tunnel. It has also been applied for the Hong Kong Zhuhai Macao tunnel in China. The factory method of constructing immersed tunnel elements has introduced new production processes including large scale, full-section casting of concrete tunnel segments and launching of immersed tunnel elements.

**WHAT**

The factory method, as developed for the Øresund project is very briefly described below. For a more detailed description of the Øresund tunnel reference is made to “The Øresund Technical Publications: The Tunnel, May 2001, ISBN nr. 87-90020-56-1”. Figure 1 shows an overview picture of the Øresund tunnel element production site.

The production process used for the Øresund Tunnel is characterized by:
- prefabricating complete reinforcement cages for each segment indoors
- full segment casting indoors
- initial concrete curing indoors
- construction of the tunnel elements above sea level
- horizontal transfer of the elements on skidding beams
- launching of the tunnel elements

Figures 2 shows schematically the lay-out of the production site with two production lines. Some parts of this production process had been pioneered elsewhere before. For example full segment casting was first used in the beginning of the 1960’s for the construction of the Rotterdam Metro Tunnel in the Netherlands.

In the reinforcement prefabrication building the reinforcement cage for one complete segment is prefabricated. The reinforcement cage is stored behind the casting area. At the casting area the reinforcement cage is placed in the formwork system after which the concrete is cast in one continuous pour. When sufficient concrete strength is reached, the formwork is removed and the segment is pushed forward on the production line to create space for the next segment to be cast against it. This process of casting and pushing segments is repeated until a complete tunnel element is constructed.

The complete tunnel element is pushed all the way into the upper basin where the finishing works on the element take place. This gives space to allow the construction of segments for the next tunnel element. After the finishing of the element in the upper basin the sliding gate behind the element and the floating gate in front of the element are closed. Water is pumped into the launching basin until the element in the upper basin floats. The floating element is transferred to the lower basin after which the water level is lowered to sea level again and the gates are opened. The production of the next element has been going on uninterrupted during this process.

As further explained in the following, differences between constructing concrete...
tunnel elements with the Øresund method and traditional casting of element in a casting basin are:

- Structural clearance
- Construction site
- Support conditions during construction of segments
- Time schedule
- Protection against flooding
- Working logistics
- Controlled environment
- Quality Control

**Structural clearance**

The construction method used for the production of the Øresund tunnel elements results in straight elements, both in horizontal and vertical directions. The consequence is that the structural clearance profile for the cross section is not only determined by the required traffic clearance profile, the space needed for the technical installations and tolerances, but also by the additional space required to fit any curvature of the horizontal and vertical alignment over the length of the tunnel elements.

**Construction site**

As for the Øresund site, the production facility can be located above sea level the need for ground water lowering during the construction time of the tunnel elements can be avoided. During the construction period of the site itself local ground water lowering could be required.

The site area required for the factory construction method, specifically for longer immersed tunnels, can be expected to be less than for the casting basin construction method as the finished tunnel elements are directly transported away from the site. The number of production lines is dependent on the length of the immersed tunnel and the available construction time according to the time schedule.

Each production line requires a high investment costs to set up the line. The number of tunnel segments produced on each production line should be sufficiently high to be interesting in comparison with other construction methods. At Øresund the number of segments produced on each production line was 80.

**Support conditions**

Support conditions of tunnel segments during the construction process are important in general due to the significant dead weight of these structures when not submersed in water. At the Øresund construction site the hardened tunnel segments were supported at the wall by hydraulic jack supports which could slide over a foundation (skidding beams). It is important to control the load carried by these hydraulic supports for each segment to prevent overloading of the shear keys between the segments.

This specific situation requires attention in the design phase and monitoring during the construction phase. When the concrete for a segment is cast a significant part of the weight is carried by the formwork system as the concrete has no strength. After a short hardening period of the concrete the formwork is removed, at which moment weight is transferred from the formwork to the hydraulic supports. During this load transfer excessive loading on the shear keys should be avoided. Noting in particular that the shear keys have lower capacity due to the early age strength of the concrete at that time.

Careful attention must be paid to the accuracy of the sliding surface and the likely deformations of the skidding beams when the weight of the tunnel segment is applied during formwork release and the subsequent sliding activities. Either a high level of accuracy is needed or a well controlled hydraulic support system that evens out any variation in surface level. Otherwise distortions to the tunnel structure at early stages may cause overstressing and cracking in the concrete.

**Time Schedule**

In the casting basin construction method the tunnel elements become available for the next activity (transport and immersion) all at once or in case of a longer tunnel in batches (when the size of the casting basin does not allow for all elements to be constructed at the same time). The activities of construction, transport and immersion take place in a staggered sequence. For the factory production method the opposite is valid. The elements become continuously available during the element construction process allowing the other activities to take place in parallel.

**Protection against flooding**

The level of the production line above sea level and the local variations in water levels determine the risk of flooding the site. When the site crosses a sea/river dike, its function shall be kept by relocating the dike around the site. Formal approval from authorities for making adjustments to the dike is usually needed.

**Working logistics**

The sequential construction of the tunnel segments in the factory construction method requires good construction logistics on the construction site, as a delay is more difficult to mitigate.

**Controlled environment**

Most of the construction activities, from construction of the reinforcement cages till the casting and curing of concrete, take place indoors. This results in that the environment/conditions under which these construction activities take place can be controlled and become less weather dependent.

**Quality Control**

As a result of the indoor construction process of the tunnel segments and the application of standardisation the quality of the delivered product can be well controlled.

Developments following the Øresund tunnel project:

Busan-Geoje tunnel, South Korea

This project utilised a similar full-section casting but had moveable formwork and curing tents within a conventional casting basin which was used for a number of cycles of construction.
Annex 21 >> Factory Construction Method

HZMB tunnel, China
This project used a process almost identical to the Øresund Tunnel but with a slightly different layout of the basins and some modifications to the detailed processes, for example, in the jack support system to the tunnel segments for sliding.

Fehmarnbelt tunnel, Denmark - Germany
This project is planned on the basis of the Øresund Tunnel factory production method but in order to meet the required production rate it requires 8 production lines. Longer tunnel elements are envisaged and a protective harbour around the production site will be constructed.

When (start-finish & measurement frequency)
The decision to utilise a factory type method is generally decided by the contractor when tendering. However for large immersed tunnel projects it may be a necessity to meet the required construction programme. This is the case for the Fehmarnbelt Tunnel. However, the precise details of the construction technique can be left to the contractor.

The choice of a factory type method is likely to meet programme, but it may also mitigate against risk of inclement weather and allows greater attention to construction quality through carefully developed processes.

Specifications (number, precision, placement, redundancy ...)
The Owner/contractor will need to develop a construction specification that covers the detailed processes for construction. Some critical areas are:
- Concrete curing procedures
- Formwork striking times
- Strength gain before sliding of elements
- Tolerances on sliding surface

Documentation (format, deadlines)
Not applicable.

Expected values
The determined values (forces, pressures, deformations) from the structural analysis shall be verified/monitored during construction.

Analysis (requirements, timescale...)
Structural analyses during the design phase are specifically recommended for:
- Determination of the stresses/forces in the segments and shear keys between the segments when supported by the hydraulic system as well as when the form work is removed.

Behavioural tolerances (limits, deviations)
With this method small tolerances are achievable, e.g. enabling more simple end frames to be used for the immersion joints.

Remedial measures (for unexpected behaviour/values)
A contingency plan should be developed in case of a failed casting or problem in the sliding operation that would cause blocking of a production line.

Links to other owners guide themes
Alignment
Element Construction /dry dock
Concrete construction – concrete
Transportation
Soil conditions

Performed by / responsible
Design, outfitting and lay-out of the site – contractor
Water conditions determine immersion operations in different ways. Conditions are for instance current, waves, unit water weight (salinity) and tidal movement. In this article the influence of water conditions on an immersion operation are described.

**WHAT**

**Current**

Tidal movement (see figure 1), waves by vessels, wind, precipitation and manmade discharges determine whether currents will occur in certain situations. Tunnel elements, floated or submerged in water, will block the discharge. When flow is obstructed water will have to divert along and around the element thus creating loads and inducing forces on the element.

Hydraulic mechanical design according to known theories (Bernoulli, Navier-Stokes, etc) can be used to determine the amount of blockage and the expected current forces on the system.

A critical aspect is that the current loads change non-linearly to the current velocity. An increase of velocity by a factor of 2 results in an increase of loads by a factor of 4.

Other aspects which influence the resulting loads are the shape of the element (square or rounded edges, the so-called shape factor), the unit water weight and the element size related to the channel cross section.

**Waves**

Waves (see figure for example of waves at 7 Bft) come in 2 types: wind waves and swell waves. Waves are mostly generated by wind and build up strength depending on the situation (open ocean, near shore or sheltered area), wind direction and surrounding area (land masses, mountains, etc).

For immersion of tunnel elements mainly swell waves influence the operation. Dynamic movement of the elements during immersion is the governing factor. This movement translates into loads on cables, vessels and the element itself which need to be taken into account in design of the systems.

**Water density**

The floating behaviour of an element (as per Archimedes principles) is determined by several factors among which is the unit water weight. A higher unit water weight will make the element float higher above the water level (freeboard).

The average unit water weight is determined by several aspects: Temperature, salinity (amount of dissolved saline particles) and silt content (floating particles other than salts). Changes of the unit weight over water depth can occur due to variance in these aspects. Typically water is denser within a dredged trench and ballasting systems need to be designed to take account of this.
Fresh water is mostly present in inland rivers and channels. Nearer to shore, salt water from the sea can penetrate the rivers and channels due to tidal movement and inland currents. In these areas differences over water depth can occur, as shown in Figure 3, therefore making immersion operations more sensitive to lifting load deviation.

**Tidal movement**

Off- and onshore, tidal movements can influence the immersion operation. Amplitude of tides depend on the location on the earth and the geographical situation.

Due to tidal movements the entire immersion system including tunnel element will undergo continuous vertical movements during lowering of the element which can influence the loads in cables and become more important in the final immersion steps (near the bottom of the immersion trench).

**Predictions**

Together with knowledge of allowable water conditions, accurate prediction makes an immersion operation controllable and safe. With the use of operational constraints, decisions can be made whether an operation may continue or even start. Predictions can be done in the following ways:

- **Current**: Currents from tidal movement can be predicted accurately based on the lunar cycle. However when precipitation, wind and discharges are present, values are less predictable. Models for currents can be found online or purchased from specialist companies.

- **Waves**: long term survey of waves using buoys makes prediction of waves possible. Data derived from the surveys is analysed and translated into a wind and wave model for specific locations. General ocean/sea wave models can be purchased or found online, however for unique projects or situations, specific software applications can be developed in order to predict waves.

- **Unit water weight**: Survey of unit water weight can be done in several ways. Simplest is the weighing a sample of water from a certain location. Salinity measurement is based on electric conductivity or light defraction. Silt can be measured by dry filtering the particles from a sample and weighing them. Predictions with reasonable accuracy can be made by long term analysis of survey data and expected precipitations.

- **Tidal movements**: Astronomical tide tables for locations all over the world are readily available. Mostly containing averages, max highs and lows and long term accurate predictions. These tables do not contain local influences like wind set-up and precipitations.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

**Pre-tender**

To obtain more insight of the conditions on the construction site where the elements are built, moored and immersed, information on water conditions should be monitored. Existing weather stations may be available or the Owner may need to establish project specific monitoring stations to collect data. Data should be collected over several years to enable a good understanding of the baseline conditions.

With this information the pre-tender designers can assess the governing situations and loads on the elements in both temporary and permanent stages. The more water condition data is available the more accurate assessments can be made.

**Tender**

Given the information is available, the tender documents should contain a summary of the measurement results (wind rose plots, current plots, tidal graphs, etc. as shown in Figure 4). The effects on the tunnel, the element and the systems can now be assessed by the tenderers.

**Construction phase**

Additional continuous survey and measurements on water conditions will give better insight in specific situations and will make detailed designs more accurate. Design starts with model tests (if required) and design of the tunnel element behaviour in different water conditions. Detailed design is based upon the outcome of these model tests. Water condition prediction is used in this stage to serve as input for decision procedures.

Frequent analysis of the actual occurred water conditions after the immersion has finished is required to improve the next decisions and operations (hindcasting).

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY ...)**

In order to obtain a clear view of the water conditions, several survey methods and frequencies should be taken into account. Current, waves and tidal movement can be continuously monitored with a survey buoy with wireless data upload link. This buoy can be active months to years prior to the actual construction works.

During each stage of the project the frequency and type of survey should be fit for purpose and analysis should be done accordingly. Thereby gaining higher accuracy in order to obtain information more fit for purpose.
Water condition information should be time logged in a database and suitable for extraction to post-processing software. Format standards can be agreed with the supplier or parties involved.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

**Current**

Currents can vary differing from negligible to several meters per second. Since normal immersion operations are suited to take place in conditions up to 1-1.5 m/s, higher currents ask for special equipment (depending on the situation) and make diving works more challenging. For instance, when a rectangular free floating element of 200m long, 10m high subject to a current of v=1.2m/s (in fresh water) the current loads can go up to:

\[ F_{\text{current}} = 1730 \text{ kN} \ (\approx 170 \text{ tons}) \]

But for an element of 120m and 8m high and with a current of v=0.5m/s the current is in the order of:

\[ F_{\text{current}} = 145 \text{ kN} \ (\approx 15 \text{ tons}) \]

For deeper tunnels current may vary in speed and direction with increasing depth. For example the Marmaray tunnel was constructed under conditions of reversing current with depth in the Bosphorus Strait.

**Waves**

Swell and wind waves occur mainly on open sea or near shore. Rivers, channels and estuaries are less likely to suffer from swell waves but wind waves could occur here.

Due to the length of tunnel elements (anything from 100m up to a maximum of 175-225m) and the small freeboard, swell waves with periods of Tp > 6 to 7 sec have the most effect on loads and movement of an element. Wind waves can therefore be described with Tp < 6 to 7 sec.

The significant wave heights, which are governing for the design of immersion operations, depend on the type and layout of immersion system. Works can generally be impeded with wave heights above Hs = 1.5m.

The numbers depend heavily on the layout of the system, the size of the element and the water depth and should be specified / determined per project.

The wave conditions to be used for design of temporary plant and equipment, and to be used to derive loads on the tunnel elements in the temporary condition, should be assessed taking into account the duration of the tow and immersion work, the possibility to seek sheltered water during towing, the weather forecasting system to be used during construction and the flexibility in the construction programme to only work for a percentage of the available time. By this consideration the equipment and the tunnel do not have to be designed for the more severe possible conditions.

**Water density values**

Fresh water is noted as 1000 kg/m³. Seawater is normally noted as 1025 kg/m³. Depending on the location in the world higher or lower values may occur (see Figure 5). Site investigation is the best method to find the specific unit water weight (varying on water depth).

**Tidal movement**

Tides occur all over the world (on- and offshore) and depend on the position on the earth, relative to the lunar cycle and sun. Water level variations from several cm’s to over 14m can occur, for example see figure 6. Tide tables can be found or purchased for the appropriate locations.

**Analysis (Requirements, Timescale...)**

Analysis activities include:

- Appropriate inquiry for data request (what data, data format, when and where)
- Accurate survey / measurement system of water conditions (incl. maintenance)
- Data logging and readout
- Processing, analysis and reports of logged data
It is recommended to record the following data for a minimum of a full year at one or more locations close to the project site and on towing routes if known and applicable:

- Salinity
- Temperature
- Current speed and direction
- Wave height, period and direction
- Swell wave height and direction
- Tide levels
- Suspended sediment
- Degree of ice coverage

**Timescale**

- Install and operate survey system months or preferably years during investigation phase (prior to tender).
- Availability of raw and analysed data during tender phase.
- Full continuous data logging and analysis during construction phase (extended detail level for decision procedures).

**Behavioural Tolerances (Limits, Deviations)**

Possible variations in water conditions must be understood and allowed for in the design, planning and method statement/procedures. Single value parameters are not used, rather a range of values for each design parameter should be used with a degree of safety built in. Weather forecasting and regular sampling/monitoring combined with go/no-go decision processes are used to ensure parameters outside of the assumed ranges are not encountered during construction.

**Remedial Measures (for Unexpected Behaviour/Values)**

Unexpected values should be taken into account as design values during the pre-tender and design phases.

**Links to Other Owners Guide Themes**

- Dredging.
- Tunnel element positioning.
- Tunnel element transportation.
- Tunnel element temporary mounted equipment.

**Performed by/Responsible**

**Pre-tender design phase:**

100% Owner. Install and operate survey system, analysis and summarize data.

**Tender design phase:**

100% Owner (or 100% contractor in Design and Build). Analyse and incorporate data in tender designs (temporary works). Assess risks and opportunities from supplied data. Plan additional surveys for contract phase.

**Detailed design phase:**

Permanent works are designed by owner (or 100% contractor in Design and Build). Design of temporary immersion equipment and operation plans based on weather windows and conditions are generally done by the contractor who will also determine prediction system for water conditions.

**Preparation:**

100% Contractor. Monitor and use prediction systems together with operational constraints.

**Execution:**

100% Contractor. Monitor and use prediction systems together with operational constraints. Decision procedures based on prediction systems.
Waterproofing membranes are applied to the external surface of concrete tunnel elements that are constructed as monolithic structures. The membrane is applied to minimise the risk of leakage in the case where the concrete structure may have cracks through the full thickness of its walls or slabs due to thermal, shrinkage or tension behaviour. A number of membrane types are available and each has its specific considerations in construction.

Membranes are applied to individual tunnel elements during their construction within a dry dock or casting basin.

**WHAT**

Concrete immersed tunnel elements have either a segmental or monolithic structural form. Segmental tunnels are jointed at regular intervals (20-25m) and this enables watertight concrete construction to be reliably achieved. Monolithic tunnel elements are subject to greater bending moments, shears as well as thermal and shrinkage effects during and after their construction. They are therefore more susceptible to through-section cracking and there is a higher risk of leakage occurring through the structure. Permanent prestressing is sometimes used to place the tunnel in compression and minimise the possibility of leakage through cracks but it is a common approach to manage the risk of leakage by applying an external waterproofing membrane to the exterior surface of the tunnel structure.

Different forms of membrane are required for the underside of the tunnel element and for the walls/roof of the element. This is because the base slab of the tunnel element must be cast on top of the membrane as there is no access to the concrete surface to apply the membrane afterwards. Therefore a rigid or semi-rigid membrane is necessary that can be laid on the ground and retain its shape during the concreting operations and not suffer any damage. Steel plate has often been used for this part of the membrane and in some tunnels a stiff plastic sheet. The membrane will have preformed corners at the base/wall of the tunnel structure and the membrane returns some distance up the wall of the structure.

The height of the return up the wall may be a notional distance to get a good overlap with the wall membrane. In some instances it has been extended up so that it passes the construction joint in the concrete structure between the base slab and the walls. In other instances the steel has been extended for the whole height of the tunnel structure. The membrane is used as the formwork for the wall construction, with suitable temporary support from behind.

As the sides of the tunnel element are accessible after the concrete construction is complete, a spray applied membrane or sheet membrane can be used.

The roof of the tunnel element also has a spray applied membrane or sheet membrane as it is difficult to place concrete beneath a steel plate and ensure there are no voids. Although that technique is used for steel tunnels the curved shape of most steel tunnels helps limit the risk of voiding. Although not common a steel plate can be fixed after concrete work is complete e.g. Soderstrom tunnel. This had a facility for grouting the void space between the roof slab and the steel plate. It is essential that good continuity is achieved between the base membrane and the wall/roof membrane. If a spray applied system is applied to the roof/walls then a suitable overlap of the spray onto the floor slab membrane should be achieved.

The types of membrane available are:

- **Steel membrane**
- **Semi-rigid plastic membrane**
- **Spray membrane**
- **Sheet membrane**
- **Bitumen membrane**

**Steel Membranes**

Steel membranes are made of mild steel and are typically 5-9mm thick excluding any corrosion allowance, and depending on the environment and the applied cathodic protection. The membrane is formed of panels welded with full penetration butt welds. All welds are tested for watertightness during fabrication. The membrane is keyed to the concrete using shear connectors. However there remains a risk of local separation of the membrane from the concrete so the membrane is partitioned by welded stiffener rails to avoid long water paths should water penetrate the steel. The membrane is made continuous with the immersion joint steelwork at the ends of the tunnel element. The membrane forms the shuttering for the concrete construction. It will require stiffening and a bracing frame for its assembly, and wall panels may require additional external support.

**Semi-rigid plastic membrane**

Semi-rigid plastic membranes are formed with tough plastic compounds such as HDPE or PVC. The sheet is typically 1.5-3mm thick and is hot air welded to create a continuous sheet. Corner pieces between the base and...
wall sections are pre-formed. The membrane can be laid directly onto a granular formation surface or onto a no-fines concrete layer in the base of the casting basin/dock, provided this is smooth and has no sharp steps or protrusions. If a plastic membrane is used on the tunnel walls, it is supported against traditional formwork. Continuous T shaped locks or discrete Y shaped anchors ensure the connection between membrane and concrete.

However, dependent on the exposure conditions there are uncertainties over the effectiveness of bentonite-based systems, in particular in highly saline conditions and so they are not preferred.

**Spray applied membranes**

Wet-applied systems comprise a range of material types but are typically based on elastomeric polymer materials, methacylates or polymer-modified cementitious materials. They are typically spray-applied on site to finished concrete surfaces, and require a high degree of site supervision and quality control to ensure their effectiveness. Nevertheless they have the potential to achieve an extremely watertight seamless membrane, and are particularly useful for dealing with irregular or complex element geometries, which are challenging for sheet materials.

The most robust spray membranes are a high build material, usually applied in two coats. The finished product can be tough and resistant to abrasion and minor impacts from construction operations. However, protection of the membrane will be required from large impacts and damage from winch cables used for towing, manoeuvring and immersion of the tunnel elements.

Membranes may require a primer to be applied to the surface of the tunnel or may be able to be applied direct to concrete and steel surfaces provided they are cleaned and free of oils or other substances that may prevent adhesion. The materials used for different coats are often pigmented to provide an indicator to operatives and ensure full coverage of the surface is achieved.

**Bitumen membranes**

In earlier tunnels a bitumen membrane has been applied (e.g. the Ruppeltunnel, scheldebeton & drechsteden tunnel). Typically these membranes consist of one or two layers of polyvinylalcohol fiber and two or three layers of oxidised bitumen. The roof and walls are often protected with protection concrete.
membrane types, and at features such as corners and around cast-in items should receive particular attention in the quality control processes.

All works should be complete and verified, including curing of materials, ahead of the casting basin or dry dock being flooded to float up the tunnel elements. Protection to vulnerable parts of the membrane should be installed at this stage ahead of the marine activities commencing.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)

General:

Specifications should include the following items:

- Material types acceptable to the client and suitable for the specific site conditions and required service lifetime.
- Nominal thickness and permitted variation.
- Methods of joining or welding to make the membrane continuous.
- Requirements for preparation of substrate.
- Specific requirements at interface with cast-in items.

All membrane types can be considered to have a finite design life. Therefore the concrete construction is usually specified to be watertight or to be constructed to limit the possibility of through-cracking, for example through temperature control during casting and curing. The expected design life of the membrane and the required quality of concrete construction must be clearly specified.

Steel and plastic membranes may be subject to thermal expansion prior to concreting when they are placed up against formwork or on the formation to base slabs. Limits on temperatures may need to be specified or suitable protective measure implemented to prevent distortion of the membrane.

Pre-pour surveys and inspections should check distortions due to temperature are within specified limits.

Steel membranes:

Welding procedures and testing for watertightness are the most important specification items. 100% testing of welds should be carried out using recognised methods such as soap bubble tests, dye penetrant tests or x-ray testing.

When applied, electrical testing of cathodic protection (CP) systems prior to concreting and after concreting to verify system is connected correctly.

Procedures for suitable lapping of sheet membranes to the steel at the overlap of the different membrane types should be specified and an inspection, testing and checking regime implemented. Overlap details between sheet and steel membranes usually include clamping systems

Plastic membranes:

Inspection and test plans for checking in situ hot air welding are required; procedures will be in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. Tests should include production tests for the sheet materials and 100% on-site testing of thermal welds for watertightness

Spray membranes:

Application procedures should be thoroughly developed based on standard procedures but enhance to deal with the specific circumstance on an immersed tunnel. Specific procedures should be developed for:

- Overlapping with steel or plastic membrane.
- Overlapping at immersion joint end frame steelwork.
- Treatment around cast in items for temporary works for tunnel immersion.
- Protective measures against damage during transport & immersion of the element, for example by winch cables running over the surface of the structure. Protection concrete on top of the spray membrane is a possibility.
- Repair procedures for defects and damages identified prior to flooding the casting basin/dry dock.

The key tests for spray membranes are measurement of wet film thickness during application, and adhesion tests once the membrane has cured.

Product tests should include:

- Abrasion resistance.
- Accelerated aging tests.
- Crack bridging properties.

In situ tests should include:

- Adhesion tests.
- Thickness test.
- 100% surface area inspection for defects after initial application.
- 100% surface area inspection for defects prior to flooding of the casting basin/dry dock.
- 100% surface area inspection of tunnel roof prior to immersion.

Sheet membranes:

Specifications and testing requirements should be similar to the spray membranes and should focus on bonding, adhesion and effectiveness of sheet overlaps with respect to watertightness.

DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

The following records should be retained for reference over the operational life of the tunnel:

Product test data

- General product data sheets for the maintenance manual.
- Material test records.
- QA/QC records for installation indicating non-conformances and repair works.

Insitu ITP records

- Weld test records.
- Thickness measurement records.
- Damage & repair records.

These may help pin-point locations of leakage if it were to occur during the lifetime of the structure.
For steel membranes records for the commissioning of CP systems should be retained to assist in ongoing maintenance.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

Permitted tolerance on thickness should be specified by the designer. Typically a minimum thickness will be specified. The maximum thickness may depend on the method of the membrane material application or production and is a less critical item.

- Welding testing 100% pass
- Clamping tests e.g. bolt torque 100% pass
- Adhesion testing 100% pass

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE…)**

Design specifications need to take into account the available systems and materials on the market, to ensure they are realistic and appropriate.

Confirmation of compliance with material and performance specifications and requirements should be demonstrated at an early stage of construction planning to give time for the design to incorporate any specific details related to a selected waterproofing system.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

As per Expected Values.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Remedial measures may be necessary to repair local damages caused during construction or to repair sections of membrane that were installed incorrectly.

Once the tunnel elements have been immersed there is no access available to undertake further repairs to the membrane. If leakage is found to occur then the only practical remedy is injection grouting from the inside of the tunnel. Determining the exact point of leakage, and therefore the point at which to inject grout, is very difficult. Therefore emphasis should be placed on achieving high quality, watertight initial construction to avoid this need.

Soil injection with sealing products could be considered but the reliability of such methods could not be expected to be 100%.

If steel membranes are fitted with CP then correct functioning of the CP system must be checked in the ongoing maintenance procedures. Failure of the CP system may require replacement of components where accessible. Requirements for monitoring and renewal of CP components should be set out in the operation and maintenance plan.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Durability
- Structural form
- Welding – steel construction
- Operation & Maintenance

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

- Design & detailing of permanent structure – designer
- Method and sequencing of work - Contractor
- Specifications of materials – supplier/designer
- Inspection & repair during construction - contractor
- Testing of CP system effectiveness (if used) - contractor.
An immersed tunnel usually consists of several elements; for a concrete tunnel each concrete element may consist of several separate segments (short lengths of tunnel). Before leaving the fabrication facility these segments are temporarily assembled into a single element using temporary prestressing cables in order that the element may be floated, transported and immersed as a single unit.

This Annex covers the temporary prestressing of segmental tunnel elements. Prestress is also referred to as Post-Tensioning (PT).

WHAT

Segmental concrete tunnel elements are formed by a series of separate segments with typical lengths of 20-25m. The segments are cast independently from one another with a joint between them that can open and close and will allow the tunnel to articulate in the final placed condition.

To form a rigid tunnel element for the purpose of floating, transporting and immersing the element the segments of the element are stressed together using temporary prestressing cables running the length of the element. Water tightness is ensured by using cast-in waterstops in the segment joints.

To ensure that segment joints will not open up or fail during transport and immersion operations, the cables are designed in such a way that the joints will (under predefined load combinations) not open up and always remain under compression.

Loads which influence the required prestress amount include:
- Weight and buoyancy distribution of the assembled element, temporary bulkheads and other attachments;
- Ballast water in tanks;
- Wave and current actions;
- Hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads on bulkheads;
- Changes in water density;
- Lifting lug loads;
- Temporary supports and sand flow foundation preparation (if used);
- Shipping passing above a placed tunnel element;
- Foundation below element and underlying materials.

Both at roof and bottom slab level, sufficient prestressing cables are provided to handle expected sagging and hogging bending moments. The cables are usually located within the slabs. Horizontal bending moments can also occur and be handled by the cables. Since segment joints are designed not to go into tension while the temporary prestress is in place, these joints can also carry shear forces.

The prestress cables are located within cable ducts (PT ducts) that provide corrosion resistance. Ducts within concrete are placed and secured in the reinforcement cages prior to placing concrete. Sufficient fixing and straightness of the PT ducts is required to make feeding of the prestressing cables possible and to minimise friction losses during stressing.

After the concrete has hardened and the formwork has been removed, the prestressing cables can be fed through the ducts, stressed using hydraulic jacks and then anchored (locked in position). Final checks of correct installation are done by the engineer in charge by comparing the expected elongation of the cables against the actual elongation obtained. Finally, grouting of the PT ducts will ensure durability and adhesion of the cable to the surrounding concrete. This grout is also applied from the outer ends. Over the joint, adhesion of the grout is prevented by taping in the PT duct (this allows for elastic behaviour of prestress strands in this area).

It is possible to use un-grouted tendons or even external tendons that can be removed after use. It should be noted that un-grouted arrangements are less efficient from a design perspective at meeting code requirements.

If tendons are within ducts cast into the concrete structure, but are left un-grouted with the intention of removing them, the remaining ducts will need to be grouted once the tendons are removed after immersion of the elements. This is possible but less practical than grouting the ducts in the casting basin where access is better and the operation can be planned into the construction schedule better.

The usual approach for segmental tunnels is to utilise a grouted system and the remainder of this Annex assumes this approach.
After immersion has been completed and the element supported on its foundation and backfilled, then the prestressing cables can be removed or disabled. This can be done by cutting or sawing the cables from within the element. For that purpose, special recesses in the roof and floor are prepared, in which a large bladed concrete saw or a long circular concrete drill can cut through the cables. The de-stressing should be carried out in a pre-determined pattern that has been designed to ensure even stress distributions are maintained in the tunnel structure.

It is noted that grouted prestress systems will leave some inherent benefit to the concrete structure in that it applies compression which would assist with closing any cracks from the construction process. This benefit is not lost if the tendons are cut. The remaining tendons are not considered in the structural design of the tunnel as the 20-25m long segments attract very little bending moments and so the prestress is of little benefit. There is also a risk of corrosion and loss of effectiveness in the long term.

A question that often arises is why should the prestress be cut and why not take the benefit of its presence in the long term. If an Owner is satisfied that corrosion is protected against in the long term then this is possible. However, the behaviour of the tunnel will be very different to that of a segmental tunnel as the elements will behave as monolithic. Settlement behaviour will be different and the benefit of the segmental articulation will be lost. The longitudinal shears and bending moments carried by the tunnel elements will also be different. The choice between segmental or monolithic elements should be made at the start of design and carried through to construction. It is not correct to design a tunnel as segmental and then leave the prestress in place as an afterthought without a full assessment of the consequences of such a decision. The risk in this is that rotations at immersion joints are more severe for a monolithic tunnel than a segmental tunnel and the prestress, which is designed for a temporary condition will have to carry permanent loads and if it is overstressed and fails at a single joint, the load distribution, joint rotations and settlement behaviour could be unpredictable.

If monolithic element behaviour is assumed in design and segmental construction is preferred, the prestress can be designed for the permanent loads and settlements considered on the basis of monolithic elements. A satisfactory design may then be prepared.

**WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)**

**Application of prestress system**

During construction, the PT ducts and prestressing cables are installed while good access is still possible. This may require upper reinforcement layers not to be placed until all PT ducts are well secured and supported. Installation of the PT ducts may be done by the reinforcement supplier, since these specialists know best how to integrate the system into the reinforcement cages.

After hardening of the concrete (usually 28-day strength) the prestress cables can be tensioned.

**Removal of prestress system.**

The temporary prestressing cables are no longer required once the tunnel is locked in position by placing adjacent tunnel elements and each segment has sufficient temporary or permanent ballast. Cutting of the cables is one of the final actions of the permanent concrete works inside the element, and is very dependent upon the programme for completing the internal finishing works and the overall project time schedule.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)**

High tensile strength and ductile steel cables (1800N/mm² or more) are often used, the cables built up of 12, 15, 19 or even 22 strand. Alternative approaches are possible and any prestressing bar or cable system on the market could be applied.

The PT ducts are often made from stainless strip steel (thickness 0.6mm) in diameters varying from 60mm to 110mm. It is important that ducts are placed and secured tightly, so no additional curves or dents will occur, making insertion of the cables more difficult.

New developments are PE ducts which are more easily installed.

**Design**

A number of steps are required to design the temporary prestress, including:

1. Sizing the tunnel cross section (permanent works designer);
2. Selection of temporary loads and combinations of load (designer and immersed tunnel specialist);
3. Determining locations for ducts, additional reinforcement and anchor heads (permanent works designer);
4. Calculation of temporary works bending moments and shear forces (designer and immersed tunnel specialist);
5. Preliminary design of required PT ducts and cables (designer and immersed tunnel specialist);
6. Detailed design, including drawings of prestressing cables (designer and PT specialist).
**Loads**

Determining the magnitude of wave and current loading is a complex process and a critical item for the determining the amount of prestress; a high degree of cooperation is required between designer and contractor. Loads are typically determined by computer based dynamic analysis of the floating tunnel elements. This may require specialist input from naval architects. The loads (bending moments/shear) are sometimes validated by scale model testing in wave tanks by specialist hydraulic testing institutes. This takes considerable amount of time and so the initial design is normally based on preliminary loads and the final design based on the validated loads. The time to conduct the scale model tests needs to be considered in the design schedule.

**Quality documents**

To ensure quality control of the prestressing, documentation of the construction of PT ducts, provision of prestressing strands, prestressing cable loads and extensions and details of the grout mix and tests thereon should be documented. Specialized companies have developed documents for this.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

**Number of cables**

The number of cables applied in the cross section will depend upon:
- Cross section of tunnel element;
- Available space (spacing of cables/anchor heads usually 600-700mm);
- Required capacity for bending moments;
- Available room for applied splice reinforcement around element outer ends;
- Loads and combination of actions;
- Number of joints.

Prestressing cables for immersed tunnels are usually straight and parallel to the floor and roof, not draped.

**Compressive stress in segment joints**

The minimum required compressive stress in the segment joints during construction under the worst loading and taking the temporary prestressing into account will be defined by the Owner or his designer. Typical minimum values are 0.1N/mm² to 0.2N/mm². Under some circumstances (such as under extreme loads) 0N/mm² may be permitted, but this may depend upon the water tightness of the joints.

For example, if the concrete cross-sectional area is 60m² and if no bending moments are present, at least 4+3 12-strand cables would be required for 0.2 N/mm². Adding bending moments will increase the number of cables significantly.

**Safety Factors**

Because stresses calculated are working stresses, safety factors of 1.0 are applied to the loads and their combinations when calculating bending moments and shear forces.

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

**Requirements**

Information required prior to design of prestress:
- final cross section;
- final segment lengths and number of joints;
- external loads;
• type of prestress (supplier and brand)
• interfaces with permanent works design (location, reinforcement, etc.);
• required compression in joint.

**Timescale**

Design of prestress is usually executed parallel to the permanent works design. Practice varies as to the responsibility for the design of prestress. Some contractors prefer to design the details of prestressing themselves while others prefer their designer to undertake the design. The permanent works designer needs to coordinate the prestressing anchors, ducts and bursting reinforcement with the other design requirements and should therefore produce the final construction drawings. If design is undertaken by the contractor, or specialist immersion contractor, then the permanent and temporary works design must be coordinated and prepared in time to meet the overall design schedule.

The PT ducts are installed during construction of the segments; early delivery of the PT system is therefore critical. The remaining operations involving the strands and grout are done in a later stage.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Since the locations of the prestressing cables are set early in construction, allowable tolerances are small. Deviations in position exceeding 10mm must be reported to the designer prior to placing concrete; additional reinforcement may be necessary.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

**Broken strands**

Should a prestressing strand break during tensioning, it may be possible to extract the broken one and replace it with a new strand. However, broken strands often coil up inside the PT duct and cannot be removed without damaging the duct. The provision of cables with more strands than needed, or spare ducts as a precaution against broken strands would be a wise precaution. Under no circumstances should the design load of the other strands be exceeded.

As similar approach can be used if ducts are partially blocked by cement grout that prevents the full number of strands being pulled through the duct.

**Welding**

Prestressing steel should never be welded on or come in contact with hot weld spatter. The capacity of the strands diminishes to almost nil once this has occurred. Removal and replacement of the strands that have been affected is required.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

Concrete – concrete construction
Durability
Element construction – casting basin
Joints – segment
Joints – immersion
Joints – closure
Leakages
Post immersion works

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

Pre-tender design phase - 100% Owner/Owner’s consultant.

Tender design phase - 100% Owner (or 100% contractor in Design and Build)

Detailed design phase - 100% Contractor’s designer with specialist subcontractor

Preparation - 100% Contractor

Execution - 100% Contractor
The durability of an immersed tunnel structure is usually specified in terms of a design life, typically in the range of 100-120 years. Metal typically corrodes, such as structural steel, reinforcing bars and external waterproofing membranes. Corrosion of metal can shorten the life time. For corrosion to occur, a galvanic cell must form in which corrosion occurs at the anode. One way in which corrosion can be controlled is by providing cathodic protection in place of or in addition to providing a sacrificial thickness of metal.

WHAT

There are two basic methods of providing cathodic protection:
- Sacrificial Anode Cathodic Protection (SACP)
- Impressed Current Cathodic Protection (ICCP)

Both methods work by making the metal to be protected cathodic relative to its surroundings.

Anodes for both systems come in various shapes and sizes. Sacrificial anodes typically consist of zinc, magnesium or aluminium or alloys thereof. Zinc and aluminium are most appropriate for saline environments, and magnesium elsewhere.

Where sacrificial anodes are provided, the system should ensure that other unprotected structural steelwork and reinforcement does not become anodic with respect to the protected steelwork.

If the need for a possible future cathodic protection is demonstrated, sufficient electrical connections between the rebar and embedded items will be required to allow for the steel, embedded or otherwise, to be electrically continuous. This will require the use of weldable rebar to facilitate welded connections. Bolted connections can be used subject to checking sufficient electrical continuity exists across connections, typically checked by resistance testing.

Where practicable, each immersed tunnel element and segment should be electrically isolated from adjacent immersed tunnel elements and segments, and from any adjacent connection structures abutting the terminal elements. Utilities and pipes crossing the joints between elements and across the terminal joints should maintain this electrical isolation. All fixings used to support metallic service pipes/ducts should be non-metallic. Electrical isolation would not apply to rigid joints across which an external steel plate is continuous. Each individual tunnel element should be able to be treated as a separate entity prepared for its own cathodic protection system, which should be able to be energized at any time in the future. This applies to items to be installed in the future if and when a cathodic protection system is required, and includes:
- anode assemblies,
- power supply (including transformer rectifier units),
- anode feed cables,
- negative return cables,
- anode current control units
- reference electrodes

Space within each element will need to be provided for impressed current equipment if an impressed current system is to be utilized. As part of this provision, electrical continuity of the outer reinforcement cage within each reinforced concrete immersed tunnel element should be ensured during construction.

Reinforcement connections for negative cathodic protection returns should be provided at the internal face of the external walls. Connections should be provided to enable electrical bonding across isolation joints in the event that circumstances arise where it would become beneficial to have certain elements or even the whole tunnel electrically continuous. To achieve this, separate connections to reinforcement and to any internal and external shell plates at each end of each element should be provided, together with facilities for joining any or all of the connections.

Where metallic cover/fire plates are fixed across immersed element joints, they should be fixed to the substrate using non-metallic fixings that will remain secure in the event of a fire. An insulating pad should be placed at the interface between any metallic cover/fire plates if the plate is to be fixed to a metallic substrate.

All other metallic connections across element joints should be electrically isolated. This includes all service pipelines whose isolation should be achieved by the installation of insulating gaskets at each end of the tunnel.

It is desirable to keep the anode feed cables short; a connection through the roof of the element for future connection to the anode sled can assist in reducing losses.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

When a decision to use sacrificial anodes for passive protection has been made, anodes will usually be installed during construction of an element. Locations where anodes have been installed on some past projects or could be considered for future projects include:
- External steel waterproofing membranes.
- Steel shells of tunnels (single, double or sandwich).
- Immersion joint steel end frames.
- Isolated embedded items on the external face of the tunnel structure.

Provisions for impressed current systems are also installed during the construction of elements. Where this has been for possible future systems, this has been limited to bonding of the reinforcement and providing electrical connection points within the tunnel for future use. Monitoring systems are also installed so that the time for activating the impressed current system can be chosen, based on the risk of corrosion being initiated by the depth of chloride penetration through the concrete cover zone.

Sacrificial anodes for impressed current protection will usually be installed on sleds at bed level of the waterway at the time that protection is to be initiated, or can be placed within boreholes in the tunnel backfill. An electrical connection to the equipment within the tunnel element is required. Space is required with tunnel elements for the necessary power supply and connections.

An Owner may decide to make provision for future impressed current systems whether or not sacrificial anodes have been provided from the outset.
SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY ...)

Design life of a sacrificial anode system should consider whether replacement of the anodes is possible or not. In most instances, replacement will not be possible; those anodes will need to be designed for the full design life of the structure.

When sizing anodes, the design life of protective coatings to steelwork may be discounted from the overall design life, e.g. coatings with a design life of 20 years may allow the anodes to be sized for 100 years, giving an overall life of 120 years. The combination of coatings and sacrificial anodes is an effective approach because large areas of the coating system will remain intact well beyond its design life and the corrosion protection system only initially needs to deal with defects in the coating as they arise. Therefore the current demand is much reduced in the early part of the structure’s design life, allowing a more cost effective solution for the corrosion protection system to be used.

Additional anodes or anode material should be provided to allow for variation in the anode sizing, errors in installation or defects in electrical connections.

Effects of current shielding must be considered to ensure anodes provide sufficient protection to all areas of the steelwork being protected.

The electrical bonding strategy should be clearly determined by the designer. This should state clearly the need for and locations for bonding or isolation between features of the tunnel. For example, immersion joint steel end frames may have a separate protection system to that of the structural reinforcement; in such a case, the two should be electrically isolated. However this is hard to achieve in practice and so the protection systems may need to be designed assuming electrical connections exist.

An alternative approach that has been adopted for some projects is to bond all steelwork items in the tunnel structure. When this is done, features that will have highest current demand will have the greatest influence over the sizing of anodes.

DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

The Maintenance Manual should contain:
- Records of electrical continuity testing of reinforcement cages in tunnel segments and elements.
- Records of isolation tests conducted during construction.
- Initial readings of monitoring systems following commissioning.

EXPECTED VALUES

Predicted rates of chloride penetration through the concrete cover zone can be determined using one of a number of service life prediction durability models. These take account of concrete constituents and the density of the concrete matrix. If such predictions are made during the design of the tunnel, these should be transferred to the maintenance manual so that a comparison can be made to the actual progress of chlorides, based on actual potential readings obtained from corrosion monitoring probes.

Criteria for measurement of the effectiveness of the corrosion protection system should be developed together with the design and included in the maintenance manual, together with guidance on how to interpret monitoring systems and their expected readings.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)

For all types of tunnel, the expected rates of corrosion for permanently exposed and unprotected steelwork during the design life should be determined during design of the elements.

If cathodic protection systems are employed with consumable items such as sacrificial anodes, the rate of consumption should be assessed following tunnel inspections and the need for anode replacement determined.

Data Collection and Testing

It is recommended that each immersed tunnel element be provided with a corrosion monitoring system designed to enable monitoring of the corrosion condition of structural steel and/or reinforcement at or near the external surface.

The corrosion monitoring system should comprise permanent embeddable reference electrodes, reinforcement connections if relevant, reference electrode distribution boxes and monitoring facilities. It is recommended that reference electrodes be replaceable, or at least partially replaceable, from within the tunnel because they have a finite operating life (typically 20-25 years). It is recognised that this may not be practical since the ideal position for reference electrodes used for monitoring potentials within the concrete is adjacent to the outer face reinforcement.

In addition to reference electrodes in concrete immersed tunnels, it is recommended that embeddable corrosion monitoring probes be installed at regular intervals along the immersed tunnel to monitor the ingress of aggressive chloride ions through cover concrete; the monitoring facilities for these devices should be incorporated in the permanent reference electrode monitoring facility. It can also be useful to incorporate embedded resistivity probes at selected locations.

At the selected locations for monitoring, the reference electrodes and corrosion monitoring probes should be distributed around the perimeter of the tunnel to obtain data for the base, roof and walls of the tunnel separately. A reference electrode should also be included at each location of the corrosion monitoring probes.

For external steelwork, reference electrodes should also be used to monitor potentials and hence the effectiveness of sacrificial anodes. If reference electrodes cannot be replaced then Zinc reference cells can also be used which have a longer design life and should be usable in the longer term.
The resistance between any cover/fire plate and a metallic substrate should be greater than 10 ohms, measured by the four-probe method. The resistance between any cover/fire plate and the reinforcement within a concrete substrate should be greater than 10 ohms, measured by the four-probe method.

Following welding, each connection provided for electrical bonding across isolation joints in the immersed tunnel should be checked for continuity. The criterion should be that the AC resistance, measured by the four-probe method, should be less than 0.1 ohm. Any connection failing to meet this criterion should be re-welded.

**Operation stage monitoring**

During operation, it is suggested that the frequency of monitoring of embedded corrosion monitoring probes and reference electrodes should initially be at 6 monthly intervals over the first 3 years and thereafter at longer intervals of approximately 3 years. It is important that this task is carried out by engineers experienced in the interpretation of this type of data. Typically the following types of measurement are taken:

- potential readings between the structural reinforcement and the reference electrode.
- current and potential readings between the anode arms and cathode base of the corrosion monitoring probes.
- resistivity readings.

Measurements should be included in the maintenance manual and readings plotted graphically to assist in identifying any trend over time and the likely progression of chloride through the cover zone of the concrete.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Ranges of expected values should be specified to assess performance of a CP system, rather than single value targets or limits, as monitoring results require interpretation taking a number of factors into consideration.

Ideally the installed monitoring system will allow two methods for assessing corrosion risk, to cross-check the results and conclusions from the interpretation.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

If the CP monitoring system identifies the components are expired, replacement is necessary, if such a provision has been made.

If the monitoring system fails components will need to be replaced as necessary or an alternative retro-fitted system introduced.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

Concrete construction
Immersion Joints
Durability
Steel construction

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

Functional requirements - Owner
Structural design & detailing – designer / contractor
Specifications of materials – designer / contractor
Analyses – designer / contractor
Monitoring – contractor for commissioning and during construction / Owner (or his appointed specialist) during operation
Surveys – Owner / designer / contractor
Immersed tunnel elements are installed partially if not fully within a dredged trench (Fig 1) which is eventually backfilled sufficiently to provide protection around and over the tunnel.

Dredging, i.e. the removal of soil below water, may also be required for associated works such as approach structures, the fabrication facility or an artificial island used as a transition between a bridge and an immersed tunnel (e.g. Figure 2, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel) but are not specifically discussed here.

Dredging technology has improved considerably in recent years, and it is now possible to remove a wide variety of material underwater with little or no adverse effects on the environment of the waterway. However, this can be a particular challenge for rock removal that is too hard for a backhoe and needs chiselling or drilling and either blasting or splitting.

This theme covers planning of the dredging works and how to select the best method and equipment for the project.

**WHAT**

A trench is required within which a tunnel foundation is to be constructed; the immersed tunnel will rest on the foundation layer and it will usually have backfill to the sides and a layer of protective backfill over the top. Some tunnels have substantially more fill over the top, particularly at the shoreline. In most cases the trench must be deep enough for the top of the protection to be no higher than the pre-existing waterway bed. However, under certain conditions, a shallower trench is used.

The side slopes of a trench may vary according to soil properties; in rock they may be near vertical (e.g. 2:1) and in soil often in the range of 1:3 to 1:5 or even flatter. In deep trenches an intermediate berm may be required in the slope. A slope of 1:1.5 is often achieved in reasonably firm soil. Some contracts specify minimum slopes to be used; others leave the slope to use at the contractor’s discretion and risk. The contractor is usually best placed to decide this based on the time period he intends to leave the slope exposed for and how much cleaning he is prepared to undertake. Necessary side slopes may determine how close to an existing structure that a new excavation can be made, even if temporary excavation supports are used. A major challenge for any project that involves dredging works will be to re-use as much excavated material as possible. Ideally, the material should be re-used without intermediate handling. In most cases disposal areas are required not only for materials suitable for re-use but also for unsuitable materials. Disposal areas may be either on land or under water. Since immersed tunnels are often in urban areas, temporary storage areas for re-use of materials are not easily found. Innovative ideas have found ways to re-use contaminated and unsuitable material within confined disposal areas. Options for the re-use of dredged materials in a beneficial way have included:

- **Land reclamation**, e.g. a new container terminal, dike, raising low-lying land.
- **Landscaping**, recreation areas, agriculture, horticulture, forestry.
- **Trench backfilling material**.
- **Engineered materials** for use in construction (bricks, clay, concrete).
- **Creation of new wetland habitats** for wildlife.

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- **Engineered materials** for use in construction (bricks, clay, concrete).
- **Creation of new wetland habitats** for wildlife.
Annex 26: Dredging - An Owner's Guide to Immersed Tunnels

When (Start-Finish & Measurement Frequency)

Decisions regarding dredging activities as such are made by the owner early on in the design process because the extents and methods for environmental control usually need to be included in the project environmental impact assessment. The decisions will be based on results from soil investigations and advice from the designer. Contaminated materials must be removed before the main dredging operation starts. This is typically a regulated operation in shallow water. Sonar surveys can monitor where and measure how much of the material has been removed. Investigation of whether the spoil or soil is contaminated is a scope of works that should be done early in the design process. Following the removal of contaminated layers, the trench can be dredged as and when required.

Dredging is usually carried out as a two-stage process. Rough dredging to about 1m above final excavated elevation is usually carried out as a continuous operation. However the timing of this operation may depend upon availability of equipment, anticipated siltation, heave and settlement, or potential deterioration of the excavated surface. Leaving an open trench is considered a risk to all parties. Fine dredging to final dimensions is usually delayed until shortly before placing the foundation or the immersed tunnel element. Immediately before either of these is placed, the trench is checked for accumulation of silt or material sloughed down from the side slopes; it is essential that such material be removed.

Environmental regulations can play a large part in the operations and may require special sealed buckets and restrictions during certain seasons to avoid impact to marine species such as disturbing feeding or breeding grounds or interfering with annual migrations. Restricting the periods when dredging works may be carried out has been used to mitigate such impacts.

It is important to define the location where land based excavation, including approach works, is no longer practicable and where excavation by dredging should continue. In most cases, this will be where the immersed tunnel begins. There are several criteria that may determine where this interface can be located:

- Available space to float or manoeuvre a tunnel element into place.
- Cost difference between the approaches and the immersed tunnel.
- Available construction time.

Technical requirements, such as dredging depth, soil strength, waves and currents will define which equipment is capable of carrying out the dredging. Dredging works can be executed in very soft up to very hard and stiff soils. Rocks can also be dredged up to about 15MPa compression strengths. Harder rocks will need chiselling or drilling and either blasting or splitting. Only the hardest rock types such as granite can be problematic and very time consuming. The suitability of this equipment should be investigated for the project area, in particular:

- Sufficient reach.
- Size or capacity of the equipment too small or too large.
- Unable to dredge certain materials.
- Too low/high production rates.
- Environmental restrictions, including suspended solids.

Having established that, the final selection of the most appropriate method is today more likely to be governed by environmental requirements. Such decisions are critical and may have a serious impact on construction cost and duration, or even whether it is acceptable. Leaving the dredging contractor unrestricted as to how contaminated materials are removed could expose the Owner to greater risk. Some dredged materials can be reused. This is desirable from a sustainability perspective but the practicalities of material storage and re-handling have to be considered.

Marine traffic information also plays a crucial part in the decision process; passing ships can cause extra constraints to the dredging process. Dredging is sometimes required to provide a temporary bypass channel for vessels to enable dredging to continue unhampered. Furthermore, adverse weather and water conditions such as high winds or large waves have been known to restrict dredging more to some months than others.
Dredging and transportation methods and equipment used should limit the dispersal of fine materials in the water. The effect on the environment would include the suspended solids due to dredging which will affect the flora and fauna.

Precautions should be taken to preserve suitable materials below and beyond lines of excavation. State-of-the-art positioning, navigational control systems and continuous sub-aqueous survey capability are used to maintain high accuracy during dredging operations. Measures may be necessary to ensure the safety and security of existing structures that might be affected by dredging, including underwater utilities. Temporary excavation support may be required before dredging close to existing shorelines or structures.

The possibility that over-dredging of unsuitable materials may be required should be considered when selecting the dredging equipment. If material unsuitable for supporting the tunnel structure is found below the foundation of the trench, the material should either be removed or processed to make it suitable. Remedial measures without removing the poor material have included vibroliftation, compaction piles, piles (wood, concrete or steel) and temporary surcharge (including dewatering). Over-dredged areas should usually be refilled with suitable material. Compaction of fill may be required such that the subsequent settlement together with the settlement of the foundation material itself meets design requirements.

Equipment

The dredging process consists of three essentially different phases – excavation, transport and placement. The excavation phase of the dredging process itself can be performed in three different ways – mechanically, hydraulically and hydro-mechanically. Equipment capable of these forms of excavation include:

- Air lift.
- Amphibious dredger.
- Backhoe dredger.
- Bucket ladder dredger.
- Bucket wheel dredger.
- Clamshell bucket dredge.
- Cutter suction dredger.
- Dipper dredger.
- Disc cutter dredger.
- Dustpan dredger.
- Grab dredger.
- Pneumatic dredger.
- Self-elevating dredger.
- Suction dredger.
- Trailing suction hopper dredger.
- Water injection dredger.

Except for a cutter suction dredge that transports material by pipeline, dredged material is most commonly transported by barge. For suitable materials to be disposed of in deep water, bottom-dump barges might be used. The dredged soil would typically be transported from the point of excavation to the point of placement by one or more of the following types of primary or ancillary equipment:

- Barges (flat top or hopper, and either dumb or self-propelled).
- Booster Station (floating, submerged or on land).
- Pipeline (floating, submerged or on land).
- Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger.

The dredged soil might be placed in a reclamation area or disposed of in marine or land based disposal areas by one or more of the following:

- Barges (side or bottom dumping).
- Barge Unloading Dredger.
- Crane Barge.
- Dump trucks.
- Fall or drop pipe installation.
- Jetting or rainbowing.
- Pipelines (floating, submerged or on land).
- Side-casting.

Data Collection and Testing

Official approvals may be required for any borings needed in order to carry out a geotechnical investigation. Laboratory tests are needed to provide data for design and construction analyses. Some projects require a full Geotechnical Design Report (GDR) encompassing the entire project to be prepared from which such information can be extracted.

The Owner should obtain information spanning longer periods regarding type and frequency of vessels passing the crossing. This data can really affect the risk profile for the tunnel construction period. Records of tonnage, size and speed are vital because not only the tunnel but also the temporary works including dredging must be designed for...
these conditions. Maritime, harbour and river authorities also have requirements in terms of ensuring that shipping can pass freely or under certain constraints.

Bed surveys related to dredging would typically extend 100m or more from the tunnel centreline on a 10m grid. Slow survey vessel speeds relative to the bed (less than 3 knots) are typical. Accuracy would typically be ±1m horizontally and ±200mm vertically. Results should include:

- Contoured sounding plan (e.g. swath multi-beam bathymetry).
- Contoured plans of subsurface layers can also be very useful.
- Seismic profiles along and close to the tunnel alignment can be very useful.

Other information that might be needed includes:

- Extreme water level statistics (min and max) over longer periods, i.e. 100 to 1000 year intervals.
- Typical river or harbour conditions over the years, including the location of vanished structures (timber piles, stone jetties, etc) and shoreline changes.
- Wreckage or other constraints in the ground (e.g. locations of ferrous metal objects at or close to bed level).
- Seabed features from side scan sonar.
- Locations of anticipated unexploded ordinance.
- Current velocity parameters and extreme values, including variation with depth.
- Tidal data.
- Suspended solids.
- Siltation information or updated forecasts.
- Salinity levels, including variation with depth.
- Water temperatures (to convert salinity to density).
- Wave climate.
- Expected tsunami height and period
- Air temperature.
- Wind history and frequency of storms during the year, especially hurricanes and typhoons.

**SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)**

Specifications will need to transfer any requirements from the EIA, planning approvals or consultations with the licensing authorities into the contract. These may include:

- Restrictions on dredging methods, moorings, or requirements for working within shipping lanes.
- Dredging tolerances to be achieved.
- Requirements for testing and analysis of soils pre-construction and during construction.
- Requirements for spill monitoring and water quality monitoring.
- Treatment of overdredged areas.
- Methods and required accuracy of surveys for bathymetry before and after dredging.

Speed restrictions for vessels may therefore be appropriate and the state of currents carefully selected when elements are to be placed; if not, dredging may need to be repeated.

Immersed tunnel elements are installed partially if not fully within a dredged trench (Fig 1) which is eventually backfilled sufficiently to provide protection around and over the tunnel. Dredging, i.e. the removal of soil below water, may also be required for associated works such as approach structures, the fabrication facility or an artificial island used as a transition between a bridge and an immersed tunnel (e.g. Figure 2, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel) but are not specifically discussed here.

Dredging technology has improved considerably in recent years, and it is now possible to remove a wide variety of material underwater with little or no adverse effects on the environment of the waterway. However, this can be a particular challenge for rock removal that is too hard for a backhoe and needs chiseling or drilling and either blasting or splitting.

This theme covers planning of the dredging works and how to select the best method and equipment for the project.

**WHAT**

A trench is required within which a tunnel foundation is to be constructed; the immersed tunnel will rest on the foundation layer and it will usually have backfill to the sides and a layer of protective backfill over the top. Some
tunnels have substantially more fill over the top, particularly at the shoreline. In most cases the trench must be deep enough for the top of the protection to be no higher than the pre-existing waterway bed. However, under certain conditions, a shallower trench is used.

The side slopes of a trench may vary according to soil properties; in rock they may be near vertical (e.g. 2:1) and in soil often in the range of 1:3 to 1:5 or even flatter. In deep trenches an intermediate berm may be required in the slope. A slope of 1:1.5 is often achieved in reasonably firm soil. Some contracts specify minimum slopes to be used; others leave the slope to use at the contractor’s discretion and risk. The contractor is usually best placed to decide this based on the time period he intends to leave the slope exposed for and how much cleaning he is prepared to undertake. Necessary side slopes may determine how close to an existing structure that a new excavation can be made, even if temporary excavation supports are used. A major challenge for any project that involves dredging works will be to re-use as much excavated material as possible. Ideally, the material should be re-used without intermediate handling. In most cases disposal areas are required not only for materials suitable for re-use but also for unsuitable materials. Disposal areas may be either on land or under water. Since immersed tunnels are often in urban areas, temporary storage areas for re-use of materials are not easily found. Innovative ideas have found ways to re-use contaminated and unsuitable material within confined disposal areas. Options for the re-use of dredged materials in a beneficial way have included:

- Land reclamation, e.g. a new container terminal, dikes, raising low-lying land.
- Landscaping, recreation areas, agriculture, horticulture, forestry.
- Trench backfilling material.
- Engineered materials for use in construction (bricks, clay, concrete).
- Creation of new wetland habitats for wildlife.

**DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)**

Prior to any consideration of dredging, the following investigations should have been completed and the results available:

- Environmental baseline survey, the work for which can take several years.
- Meteorological survey.
- Hydrographical survey of existing bed including track plot.
- Geotechnical survey, which can be time consuming. In deep water this is very expensive.
- Other information may also be relevant in some areas and can provide valuable data, such as hydraulic modelling and data analysis.

The following design calculations are required in order to determine the shape of the dredged trench and the depths of excavation.

- Slope stability.
- Settlement/heave.

For the actual execution of the dredging works, the following documentation is required:

- Methods statements for dredging, transport and disposal are required before start of work.
- Bed Surveys to establish progress and volumes (before, during and after dredging).
- Environmental monitoring (suspended particles/contaminations) method statements before start of work plus documentation of results during dredging to measure compliance.

Contract documents should clearly identify ownership of risk with regard to the final quantities dredged versus the estimated volumes during bid preparation, taking into account bulking factors. The payment mechanisms for the dredging activities should be clearly laid out in the contract documents, both for the bulk dredging and subsequent cleaning/maintenance of the trench.

Prior to using disposal areas for dredged material, site plans should show:

- The location and approximate boundaries of the disposal area;
- Access routes to the area, including haul roads, shipping channels and constructed or natural waterways used for discharge;
- Procedures to minimize erosion and siltation;
- Provision of environmentally compatible restoration, including drainage, screening and cover vegetation, if required;
- Other uses of the disposal site;
- A sequence and schedule to achieve the plan;
- Permission for use and constraints imposed by the licensing authority.

**EXPECTED VALUES**

N/A

**ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)**

Appropriate data should be collected for geotechnical evaluation of the stability of trench side slopes and base. The slope stability of a trench will typically need to be analysed for the following failure mechanisms (timescale: weeks):

- macro stability
- static liquefaction
- erosion
- uplift
- piping
- squeezing

The required total depth of excavation and the timing of it may be affected by the following analyses (timescale: weeks):

- Potential heave and settlement of the proposed tunnel foundation and underlying soils;
- Dredging tolerances during trench excavations;
- Dredging tolerance of the waterway after project completion.

In seismic areas, analyses to determine the liquefaction potential of existing soils are required.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

Tolerances for dredging works may be specified by the designer to limit the variation in thickness of the tunnel foundation layer, or by the Owner to set parameters for control of the work or to meet environmental limits on dredged volumes. Typical excavation tolerances in sand or soft soils are between +0 mm and -500 mm or less for the trench. Nowadays these tolerances can
be more stringent but that does demand more sophisticated excavation equipment. Tolerances for slopes are in the same range but are not critical in terms of alignment or foundation layer depth.

A +/- level tolerance to be achieved against the design level for the trench base is often specified. This will vary according to water depth and the type of equipment that is envisaged.

A layer of spoil (unsuitable material) from the dredging equipment is usually left behind in the base of the trench. As this is poor quality material that may be compressible a maximum thickness of this layer is often specified to prevent excessive settlement of the tunnel. This would need to be checked by sampling once dredging is complete.

The maximum amount of sediment that is allowed to accumulate in the base of the trench is often specified, again to prevent excessive settlement of the tunnel. Sediment in excess of this thickness would need to be removed by the maintenance dredging equipment.

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Out of tolerance dredging will require re-dredging or reinstatement of over dredge. Reinstatement of over dredge usually requires a specified material type and method of placement which may include compaction of the material.

Spill is the amount of sediment released into the water column from the dredging activities and which does not settle within the area of the excavation. Spill can cause an impact on the environment and often spill requirements are set to protect the environment from the effects of these suspended sediments by means of spill requirements.

A receptor-based approach to spill requirements is often used. In this approach the environmentally sensitive areas are identified and restrictions are set at the boundaries of these areas. For instance a maximum sedimentation rate can be required to avoid “burying” certain species or a maximum turbidity is set in the contract during the growing season, depending upon the species to be protected in those areas. This receptor-based approach is intended to leave some space for a dredging contractor to optimize his working method around the dredging areas. This will limit the spill by the related design criteria for the sensitive areas.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

Backfill and protection
Contaminated soils
Water conditions
Duellung of tunnels
Foundation
Backfill
Settlement

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

Subject to type of contract and / or risk allocation:

Functional requirements - Owner
Structural design & detailing – designer / contractor
Environmental assessment – Owner
Preparation Investigation – Owner
Specifications of materials – designer / contractor

Analyses – designer / contractor
Monitoring excavation – contractor
Monitoring environment – Owner / contractor
The operation and maintenance (O&M) of an immersed tunnel is little different to any other tunnel in most respects. However there are a few specific maintenance aspects that should be considered.

WHAT

Operation

A tunnel will have an operating authority. This may be a transport authority (road or rail) or a concessionaire who has contracted to operate the tunnel for a set period. This is often connected to a PPP or DBFO form of procurement under which the tunnel is constructed. The operator may have its own maintenance crews and equipment or may subcontract the maintenance activities.

Accident & vehicle recovery may be part of the Operator’s duties or responsibility of police. Similarly escorting of wide vehicles or vehicles carrying hazardous goods may be allocated to the Operator or the traffic police.

Most transportation tunnels will have an operation and control centre (OCC) which may be adjacent to the tunnel or located at some distance away. Typically road tunnels have an OCC located in the tunnel approach. Often the OCC has a view over one of the tunnel approaches but this is not strictly necessary as full camera coverage of the Highway is usually provided. If it is located close to the portal it can be combined with plant and equipment rooms which are generally located there to minimise cabling distances from transformers into the tunnel. The optimum location is often determined by the highway layout and the need to give quick access to the tunnel.

An OCC building is usually manned and may have maintenance facilities such as storage sheds, workshops and maintenance compounds combined with it. A typical list of facilities for an OCC is:

- Control room
- Plant and equipment rooms
- Welfare accommodation
- Maintenance workshops
- Storage for spares
- Vehicle recovery
- Tolling facilities – barriers, offices
- Border control facilities
- Maintenance access roads/tunnels
- Incident room where emergency services can coordinate information and response

Facilities for break-down recovery of road vehicles may also be provided though it is not uncommon for this to be outsourced to an off-site specialist company.

A remote OCC is more typical for urban situations with multiple road tunnels in a concentrated area, or for rail tunnels. Rail tunnels are more likely to have a remote OCC that controls the wider rail network. There will still be a need for a small unmanned facility at the tunnel location to house essential plant and equipment.

Maintenance

Maintenance activities in a tunnel are predominantly associated with the mechanical and electrical systems that have been installed. A programme of regular maintenance will be established by the tunnel operator along with a programme for ongoing replacement of life-expired items of equipment. The latter is a necessary planning exercise to ensure suitable budget is allocated.

Procedures for the various maintenance and replacement operations will be set out in advance to ensure the work can be done safely and in a manner to minimise disruption to the operation of the tunnel. Maintenance of the civil works will be a relatively small task as the structures are predominantly reinforced concrete. Regular inspections will be carried out. These are typically on a 1 year and 5 or 6 year cycle.

Some particular maintenance activities may be required for the tunnel joints but otherwise the maintenance activities are quite conventional for tunnel structures.

WHEN (START-FINISH & MEASUREMENT FREQUENCY)

Development of the operating principles should be carried out at the outline design stage by a safety committee. This committee will work alongside the designer but has a specific remit to ensure the tunnel will adhere to current safety standards and legislation and reflects the particular operational strategy that is desired.

The safety committee has different names in different countries. In the UK for example it is the Tunnel Safety Design Consultation Group (TDSCG). This group should contain representatives from the fire and ambulance services, police, tunnel operator and the designer.

Requirements from the safety committee should be captured in a design brief / AIP (often referred to as the Safety Concept) that forms the basis of the ongoing design work.

Development of detailed O&M plans and procedures will be carried out during the preparation of the detailed design.

Operation activities will commence on handover of the tunnel to the Owner/operator. In advance of this, full operational documentation should be prepared.

SPECIFICATIONS (NUMBER, PRECISION, PLACEMENT, REDUNDANCY …)

The contract documents prepared by the client should clearly state the requirements for the documentation to be prepared for the operational phase of the tunnel. Maintenance manuals are usually prepared by the designer of the M&E systems and the contractor who built the works.

Operational manuals are usually prepared by the designer for the M&E systems who will have been part of the safety committee determining the principles of operation for the tunnel at the early stages of design. There will, however be additional documents that the tunnel operator will prepare. Responsibility for compiling the full set of documentation should be clearly assigned in the specifications.

Detailed contents lists for the documentation should be provided to the designer/contractor to ensure the required quality of documentation is provided.
For PPP projects or other O&M concession forms of contract, there will also be hand-back documentation to be prepared that the concession company will prepare to hand to the Client at the end of the operating period covered by the concession. This will include condition surveys sufficient to demonstrate the residual life of the assets. It will also include records of all major maintenance undertaken throughout the life of the structure since the works were constructed. The initial specifications for the project should clearly describe the type of documentation required. As the documentation is likely to be voluminous, the method of data storage should also be specified.

DOCUMENTATION (FORMAT, DEADLINES)

To operate the tunnel safely and effectively a suite of documentation is required to be produced during the design and construction phase of the project. Once the tunnel is in operation the O&M plans are live documents and should be updated with new/changing information over the life of the tunnel. Essential operation and maintenance documents include:

Maintenance manuals.

These should contain details of all elements of the constructed civil engineering works and the installed equipment within the tunnel. Detailed records are required including sources of materials, suppliers, manufacturer’s recommendations for maintenance, as-built survey records and records of all non-conformances that arose during construction and how they were addressed.

Commissioning records for all mechanical and electrical systems should be retained in the maintenance manual.

Survey records should include:
• Level survey through the tunnel.
• Condition surveys for defects that arose during construction.

A maintenance plan should set out the regular routine maintenance procedures, periodic maintenance procedures and longer term maintenance procedures and refurbishment plans. It should contain descriptions of the specific procedures to be followed for the replacement of parts and components of M&E systems and the tunnel structure.

Operating Procedures

Operation manuals/plans should include detailed procedures for both normal operating conditions and emergency conditions.

The “normal operation” includes the traffic operation mode during maintenance work. Early during the design phase it should be decided whether the closure of one tunnel tube for maintenance shall imply bi-directional or alternating traffic in the other tube. This aspect may be of larger importance for an immersed tunnel than for a tunnel in a city environment with other options for diversion of the traffic to an adjacent street network.

The emergency operating plans should describe the response that should be implemented to all potential incidents that could arise in the tunnel, for example fire and vehicle accident or breakdown. The operating procedures will describe the operation and control procedures for each individual system installed in the tunnel and the response required for any alarm raised by a particular system.

Automated sequences may be set up for different incident scenarios, for example, the sequence of ventilation fan operation for a fire breaking out at a specific location.

There should be clarity of the response expected from the emergency services – fire, ambulance, police – and of the operator so there is no confusion or delay is reacting to the incident, and this should be tested by drills. This is particularly important if responsibilities differ on either side of the tunnel due to the tunnel crossing borders or county/borough jurisdictions.

Contact details for the emergency services should be contained in the O&M manual.

Traffic management plans

Traffic management plans should be in place for a variety of circumstances such as:
• Lane or tube closure for vehicle recovery or inspections and minor maintenance;
• Tube or tunnel closures for periodic maintenance activities;
• Implementing traffic diversions to alternative routes in the event of tunnel closures.

Such traffic management plans are usually agreed with the highway authority and traffic police in advance.

EXPECTED VALUES

Typical values for replacement of equipment within a tunnel, to act as a guide, are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPICAL EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENT REPLACEMENT PERIODS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lighting replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspended ceiling replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall tile replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebuild roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace pumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replace fan motors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical repair &amp; maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switchgear, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor starter maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS battery replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway overlay replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireproofing replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic marking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The frequency of activities related to defects such as leakage repair will depend on the nature of any defects.

ANALYSIS (REQUIREMENTS, TIMESCALE...)

For maintenance activities it is typical to have a schedule of tasks that are required on a periodic basis. Washing of a tunnel interior is normally carried out on a regular basis at
between 1 and 3 month intervals. However this will depend on traffic density and the speed of dirt build-up.

For the M&E systems the schedule of tasks will be the same as any other tunnel and will set out system by system what requires inspection, testing and replacement, and the timescales for each.

The tunnel structure is not the same as other forms of tunnel and so has some specific requirements. A typical checklist for an immersed tunnel structure is given below. This is based on the UK system of General (yearly) and Principle (6-yearly) inspections set out by the UK Highways Agency. There are also items that would be carried out on a routine basis, which may be monthly or to coincide with night-time closures for regular washing activities. This Schedule should be adapted according to particular authority requirements. Some authorities may have a simpler process and implement a full process at, say, 2 year intervals.

**BEHAVIOURAL TOLERANCES (LIMITS, DEVIATIONS)**

N/A

**REMEDIAL MEASURES (FOR UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOUR/VALUES)**

Defects in the tunnel structure that are identified by the inspection regime will need to be fully documented in the inspection reports and recommendations given as to whether further investigations are required, what remedial work may be needed and the timescale that it should be completed in.

Monitoring systems installed in the tunnel that are monitoring the structural health may also identify when a remedial work is required. Readings and interpretation of readings from the monitoring systems should form part of each inspection report (also refer to Annex on durability).

Defects in M&E systems, particularly the lighting need to be reported on a regular basis so that replacement and renewals can be planned into the routine maintenance activities.

**M&E systems should be designed such that minor failures are always compensated for by there being a level of redundancy and back-up in the design such that there is no safety risk to the tunnel users from minor failures. Planned renewals over the life of the tunnel ensure this condition is always maintained.**

There should be a clear communication and reporting process whereby the inspection or maintenance team can raise an item for urgent attention of the Operator if it constitutes a safety risk to users of the tunnel.

**LINKS TO OTHER OWNERS GUIDE THEMES**

- Durability
- Joints – immersion
- Joints – segment
- Cathodic protection
- Approach works
- Structural form

**PERFORMED BY / RESPONSIBLE**

- Development of operation and safety strategy – Owner / Operator / Designer / Emergency services
- Preparation of O&M plans – Designer creates initial documents to be developed further and taken over by the Operator
- Operation – Owner/Concessionaire
- Inspections – Owner/Specialist
- Maintenance – Owner / Operator / Maintainer

### Element: Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Maintenance Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal surface</td>
<td>Inspection for seepage, staining, spalling</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mapping of cracks – check for changes</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mapping of cracks – re-mapping</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Testing for carbonation and chloride ingress</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shear keys</td>
<td>Inspection for signs of distress at bearing surfaces and corrosion of steel components</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inspection for deterioration of bearings (if used)</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Corrosion cell monitoring</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance of sacrificial anodes</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activate impressed current or alternative CP system</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Element: Settlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Level survey through tunnel and approaches, check for rotation</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Element: Immersion Joints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omega seals</td>
<td>Inspection of seal and clamping system condition if access is available. Replacement is not an anticipated maintenance activity.</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Frame steel</td>
<td>Test performance of sacrificial anodes, if installed</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Void spaces</td>
<td>Check for water between Gina seal and Omega Seal and if present check if saline/fresh</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renew internal sacrificial anodes to joint steelwork (if used, and accessible)</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Check tunnel interior perimeter for evidence of leakage</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure seal</td>
<td>Inspect if visible on walls and roof, for signs of deterioration or leakage</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road surface seal</td>
<td>Inspect during road surface renewal.</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Element: Segment Joints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structure seal</td>
<td>Inspection for signs of deterioration or leakage - walls &amp; soffit</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballast seal</td>
<td>Inspect during road surface renewal.</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road surface seal</td>
<td>Inspect for signs of deterioration or leakage</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Element: Internal Finishes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Protection Boards</td>
<td>Inspect for deterioration of surface colour, integrity of fixings, damage to boards and joint overlap details</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spray applied fire protection</td>
<td>Inspect for delamination, spalling, dampness, deterioration of surface coating and integrity of joint overlap details</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cladding Panels</td>
<td>Inspect security and integrity of fixings, corrosion of support frame and deterioration or discoloration of surface coating</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiles</td>
<td>Inspect for delamination, cracked tiles, staining/leakage</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Inspect for deterioration of coating layer or surface colour</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finished surfaces</td>
<td>Test luminance levels are satisfactory</td>
<td>Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning</td>
<td>Overall clean of interior structure, cladding etc.</td>
<td>Routine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Routine = monthly or 3 monthly; General = yearly; Principle = 6 year interval (Based on UK practise)

Courtesy Lunniss & Baber 2013