
Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 May 2019. It was prepared by Subcommittee B/514/26, *Falsework*, under the authority of Technical Committee B/514, *Access and support equipment*. A list of organizations represented on these committees can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 5975:2008+A1:2011, which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

This is a revision of [Section 1](#) and [Section 2](#) of this British Standard. [Section 3](#) on the permissible stress design of falsework remains unchanged. The following principal changes have been introduced in this revision.

- BS 5975 was always intended to be used by all organizations involved in temporary works and provided details of the procedure for contractors to adopt, but lacked detail about the procedures for clients, permanent works designers and temporary works designers to adopt. The detail on these procedures is now included.
- The text has been updated to take account of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM) [1], particularly in respect to the interface between the design of permanent works and the design of temporary works.
- The terms and definitions have been updated.
- The principal contractor's temporary works co-ordinator (PC's TWC) retains overall responsibility for the temporary works on the site, but where another contractor manages their own temporary works within that site, they have their own procedures and appoint their own TWC. The committee understood that some organizations were using the temporary works supervisor (TWS) of sub-contractors to act as de-facto TWCs but this is incorrect and the text has been changed to reflect this.
- [Section 2](#) has been updated to include recommendations for designers on the partial factors to be used in limit state design of temporary works and on design considerations to be applied for all temporary works design.
- Although a full revision of [Section 3](#) has not been undertaken at this point, an important safety point was brought to the committee's attention and a relevant note has been added in [16.3.5](#).

The following matters, from the partial revision in 2011, were re-considered and it was confirmed they were to be retained in this revision.

The European standard on falsework, BS EN 12812, exists in parallel with this British Standard. It specifies performance requirements for the design of falsework in accordance with one of three classes: A, B1 and B2. Limit state design methods are specified for design classes B1 and B2. It does not provide guidance for the structural design of Class A. It is recommended that [Section 3](#) is used to provide guidance for Class A falsework.

BS EN 12812 does not provide guidance on procedures necessary for the successful management of work on site. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Falsework (the Bragg Report [2]) in respect of the temporary works co-ordinator have not been included in BS EN 12812.

Subsequent to the revision of BS EN 12812, this British Standard was updated in 2011, to BS 5975:2008+A1:2011, and the principal changes introduced by that amendment were as follows.

- The term temporary works co-ordinator (TWC) was adopted to reflect the need for procedural controls of all temporary works and to recognize that the majority of contractors already control temporary works in this manner.
- Information on the wind loading on falsework and attached formwork, together with the effects of shielding of falsework members in unclad structures, in accordance with BS EN 1991-1-4:2005+A1 and the UK National Annex (NA) was retained.
- The section for the design of falsework was substantially rewritten, in BS 5975:2008+A1:2011, to bring it up-to-date with current practice and materials. It defines the conditions for top restrained and free standing falsework and the dependency of the former on the stability of the permanent works and plate action of the formwork.

Although BS EN 1991-1-4:2005+A1:2010 is widely applicable, its application in accordance with its National Annex (NA to BS EN 1991-1-4:2005+A1:2010) restricts its use to the UK. For other locations covered by BS EN 1991-1-4, users can refer to the relevant National Annex. For locations outside of those covered by BS EN 1991-1-4, local design codes can be used to calculate the peak velocity pressure.

Users of this British Standard are reminded that it might be necessary for them to appraise third parties, with whom they are not in contractual relations, of certain provisions in this code of practice.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.