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ICE RISK LEVELS - A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO DESIGN

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Summary

The work with the elaboration of a new international standard for atmospheric iceloads on structures under the ISO have come up with a new term to be used world-wide for definition of atmospheric iceload on structure, namely "Ice Risk Level".

The ice risk levels are intended to be used for instance for national mapping giving the ice load in various areas of a country.

The present paper briefly introduce the philosophy of the ISO Standard for Atmospheric Icing on Structures, the ice risk levels, examples of the ice accretion (shape and dimension) on various members and objects, wind drag coefficients for iced members, combination factors for wind and ice, etc.

1. Introduction

Atmospheric icing may have a great impact on the overall design and safety of various structures. The decisive load may be the increased vertical load due to the weight of accreted ice but quite often it is a combination of ice and wind, as the ice may increase the wind drag considerably. This is now commonly known and accepted in many national standards, but the big question is how much ice and how is it deposited onto various kind of structures and structural elements.

The work with elaboration of a new international standard for atmospheric iceloads on structures under the ISO (International Standardisation Organisation) have come up with a new term to be used for definition of atmospheric iceload on structure, namely "Ice Risk Level".

Two different categories of ice risk levels are defined, one for glaze and one for rime. The ice risk levels are intended to be used for instance for national mapping giving the ice load in various areas of a country. A major problem faced by the ISO Working Group for Atmospheric Icing of Structures was primarily connected to rime ice accretion on non-circular, non-rotating objects and rime accretion on various shaped objects with large dimensions. After quite some reflection combined with full scale observations the Group have come up with a proposal for rime accretion on such members and objects.



The new ISO Standard will besides the ice risk levels and the models for ice accretion on various kind and shapes of objects also give rules for the ice accretion dependent on height above terrain, the shapes of ice vanes on fixed objects for the different ice risk levels, drag coefficients for wind drag on iced members, combination factors for combination of wind and ice, etc. necessary for the engineering design of structures exposed to atmospheric icing. The present paper briefly introduce the philosophy of the ISO Standard for Atmospheric Icing on Structures, the ice risk levels, examples of the ice accretion (shape and dimension) on various members and objects, wind drag coefficients for iced members, combination factors for wind and ice, etc.

2. Types of Icing

Atmospheric icing is traditionally classified according to two different formation processes, "in-cloud icing" and "precipitation icing". Often is in-cloud ice called "rime" while precipitation ice often is divided into "glaze" and "wet snow". The physical properties and the appearance of the accreted ice will vary widely according to the variations of the meteorological conditions during the icing procedure. In Table 1 is given typical properties of atmospheric ice.

| Type of ice | Density (kg/m ³) | Adhesion Cohesion | General Appearance | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Colour | Shape |
| Glaze | 900 | Strong | Translucent | Evenly distributed/ icicles |
| Wet snow | 300-600 | Weak (forming) Strong (frozen) | White | Evenly distributed/ eccentric |
| Hard rime | 600-900 | Strong | Opaque | Eccentric, pointing windward |
| Soft rime | 200-600 | Low to Medium | White | Eccentric pointing windward |

Table 1: Typical properties of accreted atmospheric ice.

Besides the properties mentioned in Table 1, other parameters such as compression strength, shear strength, etc. may be used to describe the nature of the accreted ice. For an engineering point of view it has been chosen to operate with two types of ice and simplified into "glaze" and "rime", and in the ISO Standard the practical application rules will be divided into rules for glaze and for rime.

3. Ice Risk Levels (IRL)

To be able to have a precise expression of the design ice load on structures at a certain location it is suggested to introduce the term "Ice Risk Level". Having the specific Ice Risk Level for a location the designer should have very valuable and important information for the assessment of the design atmospheric ice load on structures and combination of wind and ice. Ice Risk Levels are defined for glaze and for rime.

For glaze is the ice risk levels (IRL G) defined as the 50 years thickness of ice on a reference collector. In total is defined 5 levels, G1 to G5, starting with a thickness of 10 mm for level G1 and up to 40 mm for level G4. Ice risk level G5 is to be used for extreme glaze accretions, where the specific information should be given by a specialist.

| IRL | Thick ness [mm] | Masses for Glaze on an object with diameters | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|----------|----------|----------|
| | | 10 mm | 30 mm | 100 mm | 300 mm |
| G1 | 10 | 0,6 kg/m | 1,1 kg/m | 3,1kg/m | 8,8kg/m |
| G2 | 20 | 1,7 kg/m | 2,8 kg/m | 6,8kg/m | 18,1kg/m |
| G3 | 30 | 3,4 kg/m | 5,1 kg/m | 11,0kg/m | 28,0kg/m |
| G4 | 40 | 5,7 kg/m | 7,9 kg/m | 15,8kg/m | 38,5kg/m |
| G5 | to be used for extreme ice accretions | | | | |

Table 2: Ice Risk Levels for Glaze (IRL G)

In Table 2 is given the definition of the five ice risk levels for glaze together with the weight of the glaze on a circular member with different diameter (density of the glaze: 900 kg/m^3).

| IRL | Ice- mass [kg/m] | Ice diameter on an Ø30 mm collector | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Density of ice | | | |
| | | 300 kg/m ³ | 500 kg/m ³ | 700 kg/m ³ | 900 kg/m ³ |
| R1 | 0,5 | 47 mm | 7 mm | 32 mm | 28 mm |
| R2 | 0,9 | 63 mm | 49 mm | 42 mm | 37 mm |
| R3 | 1,6 | 83 mm | 65 mm | 55 mm | 49 mm |
| R4 | 2,8 | 109 mm | 85 mm | 72 mm | 64 mm |
| R5 | 5,0 | 146 mm | 113mm | 96 mm | 85 mm |
| R6 | 8,9 | 195 mm | 151 mm | 128 mm | 113 mm |
| R7 | 16,0 | 261 mm | 202 mm | 171 mm | 151 mm |
| R8 | 28,0 | 345 mm | 267 mm | 226 mm | 199 mm |
| R9 | 50,0 | 461 mm | 357 mm | 302 mm | 266 mm |
| R10 | to be used for extreme ice accretions | | | | |

Table 3: Ice Risk Levels for Rime (IRL R)

The ice risk levels for rime (IRL R) are defined as the 50-years mass of ice per meter accreted on a standard collector. For rime is defined 10 levels starting with 0.5 kg/m for level R1 up to 50 kg/m for ice risk level R9. For extreme ice accretions to be treated individually by specialist level R10 should be used.



The standard collector is for both rime and glaze a 30 mm diameter cylinder rotating around its axis, and orientated perpendicular to the wind direction and 10 m above ground level. In Table 3 is given the defined 50 years ice masses for the ice risk levels for rime, as well as the outer diameter of the ice on a 30 mm cylinder for various densities of the rime.

4. Variation of Icing with Height above Terrain

The amount of atmospheric icing on a structure may vary with height above terrain, normally resulting in an increased ice load with increased height. If no site specific data are available the mass of rime dependent on the height above terrain may be found as

$$m_H = (H/10)^{0.25} m_{10}, \text{ where}$$

m_H is the mass at H meters above terrain

m_{10} is the mass at 10 meters above terrain

For glaze is normally assumed that the amount of accreted ice is independent of the height above terrain.

5. Icing on Members and Objects

The meteorological parameters together with the physical properties are influencing the sizes, shapes and weights of accreted ice on a given object.

The shape the size and the orientation of an object has especially a big influence on the accreted ice when it concerns rime, while glaze normally will have the same thickness independently on the shape of the member/object, see Figure 1.

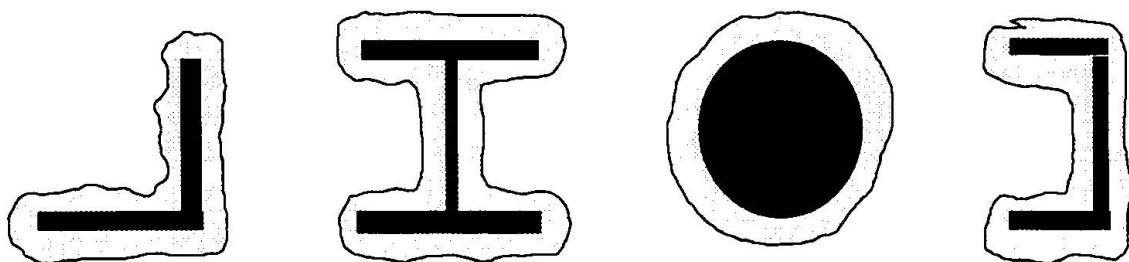


Fig. 1: Glaze on different members

The ISO Working Group for Atmospheric Icing on Structures has after quite some reflection combined with full scale observations come up with a proposal for rime accretion on various shaped members and objects.

For a fixed wind direction rime will accrete forming vaneshapes on profiles with a relatively small width perpendicular to the wind. On objects with larger widths the shapes will be more complex. Cylindrical accreted rime is normally only valid on slender elements with low

torrional stiffness and not sloping more than about 45° degrees to horizontal e.g. cables, mast guys - or on fixed nearly vertical members when the icing wind direction varies.

It is in the ISO Standard assumed that the mass of rime (50-years values) on objects with a width up to 300 mm is the same as defined by the ice risk level, i.e. independent on shape and width of the actual element, but the shape of the ice varies.

Besides theoretical reflections this has also been seen at full scale observations where vertical members of different shape and size has been observed during heavy icing periods. It was then seen that the amount of ice was nearly the same on all members independent on their shape and size.

When it comes to larger objects the constant mass is no longer valid. In the ISO Standard is given simple application rules for estimating the shape of the rime ice on various members and objects dependent on the ice risk levels.

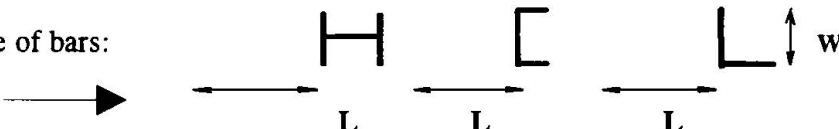






| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cross section shape of bars: | | | | | | | | | |
| <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | | | | | | | | | |
| Wind direction:  | | | | | | | | | |
| <div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div>L</div><div>L</div><div>L</div></div> | | | | | | | | | |
| Object width [mm] | | 10 | | 30 | | 100 | | 300 | |
| IRL | Icemass | ICE VANES DIMENSIONS [mm] | | | | | | | |
| | G [kg/m] | L | W | L | W | L | W | L | W |
| R1 | 0,5 | 101 | 102 | 179 | 37 | 13 | 100 | 4 | 300 |
| R2 | 0,9 | 124 | 104 | 197 | 42 | 23 | 100 | 8 | 300 |
| R3 | 1,6 | 155 | 108 | 223 | 48 | 41 | 100 | 14 | 300 |
| R4 | 2,8 | 196 | 113 | 260 | 57 | 102 | 113 | 24 | 300 |
| R5 | 5,0 | 252 | 122 | 313 | 71 | 137 | 122 | 42 | 300 |
| R6 | 8,9 | 327 | 135 | 385 | 89 | 191 | 135 | 76 | 300 |
| R7 | 16,0 | 430 | 156 | 486 | 114 | 275 | 156 | 136 | 300 |
| R8 | 28,0 | 560 | 185 | 614 | 146 | 390 | 185 | 321 | 343 |
| R9 | 50,0 | 739 | 227 | 793 | 191 | 556 | 227 | 435 | 371 |
| R10 | to be used for extreme ice accretions | | | | | | | | |

Table 4: Ice dimensions for vane shaped rime on bars

In Table 4 is for typical cross sections of bars given the dimensions of the ice vanes for the various ice risk levels. The dimensions in the table are based on a density of the ice of 500 kg/m³.

For larger objects the mass of ice per meter will be bigger than that on the standard collector. In figures 2 and 3 is shown the principles for estimating the shape and the mass of rime on large objects.

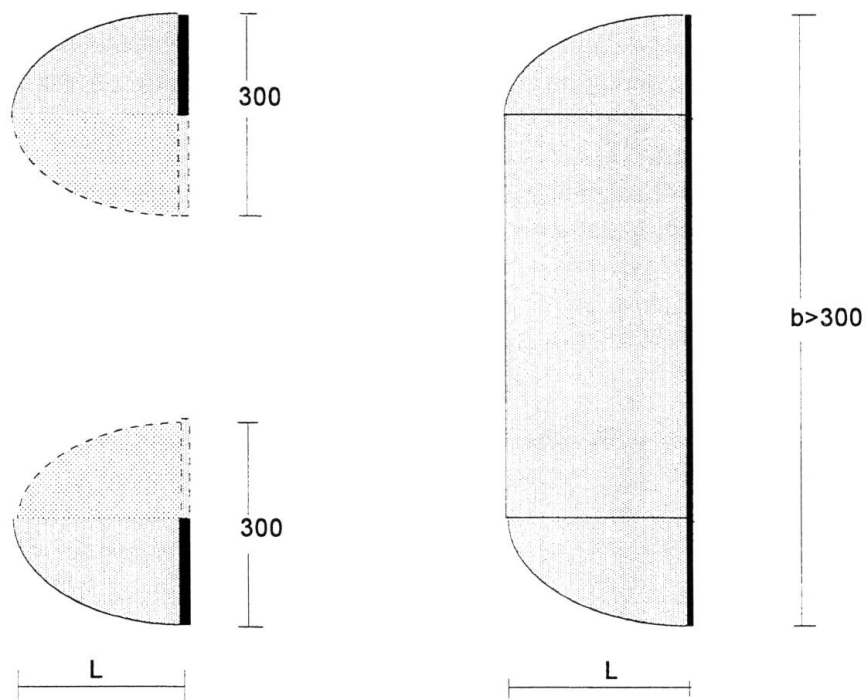


Fig. 2: Principle for estimation of ice on large flat objects

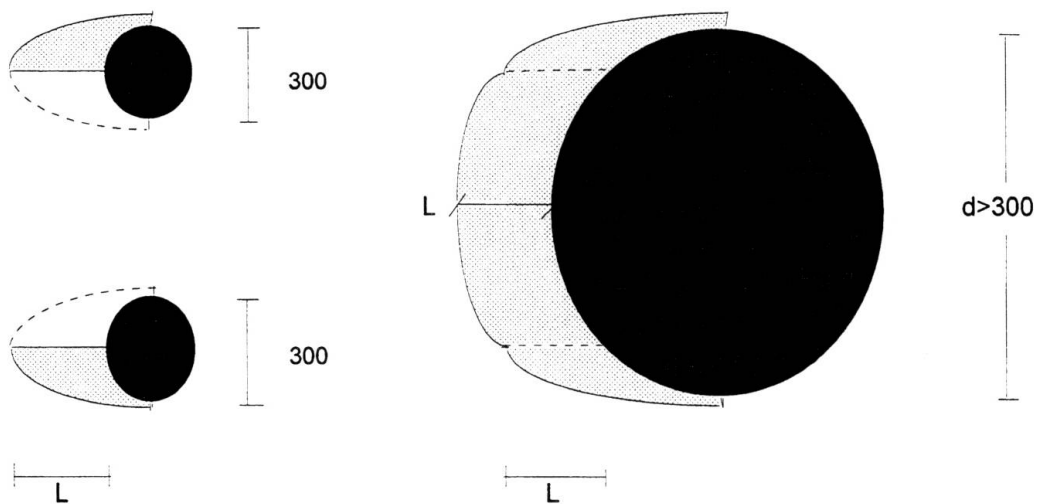


Fig. 3: Principle for estimation of ice on large round objects.

6. Wind and Ice

Besides the extra vertical loads due to the weight of the ice on the structure the icing will also increase the wind drag of the structure, and a combination of ice and wind may then govern the design. This is the case for instance for telecommunication masts and towers and for overhead transmission line towers in areas with reasonable ice loading.

In the ISO Standard is given recommendations for the estimation of wind drag coefficients for iced members and objects. The principle is based on factors to be used on the drag coefficient of the uniced members for the different ice risk levels. In Table 6 is as an example shown the factors for uniced members for rime.

| IRL | Ice-mass [kg/m] | FACTOR ON THE DRAG COEFFICIENT | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | Drag coefficient without ice | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 1,2 | 1,4 | 1,6 | 1,8 | 2 |
| R1 | 0,5 | 1,07 | 1,04 | 1,02 | 1,00 | 0,99 | 0,98 |
| R2 | 0,9 | 1,13 | 1,07 | 1,03 | 1,00 | 0,98 | 0,96 |
| R3 | 1,6 | 1,20 | 1,11 | 1,05 | 1,00 | 0,96 | 0,93 |
| R4 | 2,8 | 1,27 | 1,15 | 1,06 | 1,00 | 0,95 | 0,91 |
| R5 | 5,0 | 1,33 | 1,19 | 1,08 | 1,00 | 0,94 | 0,89 |
| R6 | 8,9 | 1,40 | 1,22 | 1,10 | 1,00 | 0,93 | 0,87 |
| R7 | 16,0 | 1,47 | 1,26 | 1,11 | 1,00 | 0,91 | 0,84 |
| R8 | 28,0 | 1,53 | 1,30 | 1,13 | 1,00 | 0,90 | 0,82 |
| R9 | 50,0 | 1,60 | 1,33 | 1,14 | 1,00 | 0,89 | 0,80 |
| R10 | to be used for extreme ice accretions | | | | | | |

Table 6: Drag coefficients for rime on bars.

When combining atmospheric iceload and wind load is normally combined the 50 year value of one load with a reduced value of the other load - for instance the one year value. Further the 50 year wind load is taken as the 50 year value of windload that may occur during icing periods. The reduction factor on the wind pressure to give the wind pressure in icing periods may be taken from Table 7 if no better information is available.

| IRL G | Φ | IRL R | Φ |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| G 1 | 0,6 | R 1 | 0,60 |
| G 2 | 0,6 | R 2 | 0,65 |
| G 3 | 0,6 | R 3 | 0,70 |
| G 4 | 0,6 | R 4 | 0,75 |
| | | R 5 | 0,80 |
| | | R 6 | 0,85 |
| | | R 7 | 0,90 |
| | | R 8 | 0,95 |
| | | R 9 | 1,00 |

Table 7: Reduction factor Φ on wind pressure to give the values in icing periods.



7. Concluding Remarks

The ISO Working Group for Atmospheric Icing on Structures plan to conclude the final draft for the standard in the Autumn 1996 so it will be ready for a voting by the Technical Committee TC 98 in the end of 1996.

Having hopefully finished the ISO Standard there still need to be undertaken a great job to implement the philosophy of the standard nationally as well as internationally. One of the most comprehensive tasks will be the creation of ice maps giving the actual Ice Risk Level for the various parts of the countries, in a similar way as for basic wind speeds and snow loads. The members of the ISO Working Group contributes to the elaboration of the standard without any financial support from ISO, and it is not realistic to include the elaboration of icemaps in the scope of the Working Group. The members of the Working Group may of course to a certain aspect assist national, European or other international organizations in the future implementation of the ISO Standard for Atmospheric Icing on Structures.