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Reliability-Based Geotechnical Design in the 2014 Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code

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Abstract

Canada has two national civil codes of practice that include geotechnical design provisions: the National Building Code of Canada and the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code. For structural designs, both of these codes have been employing a Load and Resistance Factor format embedded within a Limit States Design framework since the mid-1970's. Unfortunately, Limit States Design in geotechnical engineering has been lagging well behind that in structural engineering for the simple fact that the ground is by far the most variable (and hence uncertain) of engineering materials. Although the first implementation of a geotechnical limit states design code appeared in Denmark in 1956, it was not until 1979 that the concept began to appear in Canadian design codes, i.e., in the Ontario Highway Bridge Design Code which later became the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code (CHBDC). The geotechnical design provisions in the CHBDC have evolved significantly since their inception in 1979. This paper describes the latest

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advances appearing in the CHBDC along with the steps taken to calibrate its recent geotechnical resistance and consequence factors.

Keywords: geotechnical code development, reliability-based geotechnical design, load and resistance factor design, Canadian codes, code comparison

1. Introduction

Worldwide, geotechnical design codes have been migrating towards reliability-based design concepts for several decades now. For example, the ISO 2394 (International Organization for Standardization, 2015), which provides general principles of reliability for structures, now contains an Annex D entitled “Reliability of geotechnical structures”. However, prior to 1979, geotechnical design in Canada was based on the classic working stress design (WSD) format which involved satisfying an equation of the form

$$\hat{R} \geq F_s \sum_i \hat{F}_i \quad (1)$$

where \hat{R} is the *characteristic* (also known as *nominal* or *design*) resistance, F_s is a factor of safety, and \hat{F}_i is the i^{th} characteristic (nominal or design) load effect. The factor of safety was traditionally used to account for all sources of uncertainty and is often defined as the ratio of the mean resistance to the mean load. Unfortunately, this definition does not take the width of the resistance and load distributions into account and, thus, the factor of safety cannot accurately reflect the probability of failure of the geotechnical system. Figure 1 illustrates the classic problem with the factor of safety. Although all three plots have the same mean factor of safety ($F_s = 2.4$), the top plot represents a system which is 400 times safer than the bottom plot, in terms of failure probability.

In recent decades, it has been recognized that not all sources of uncertainty are equal. For example, live loads are usually less certain than dead loads, concrete strengths less certain than steel strengths, and soil strengths less certain than most other engineering properties. It has thus

made sense to break up the global factor of safety, F_s , into a sequence of *partial factors*, one for each source of uncertainty in the design.

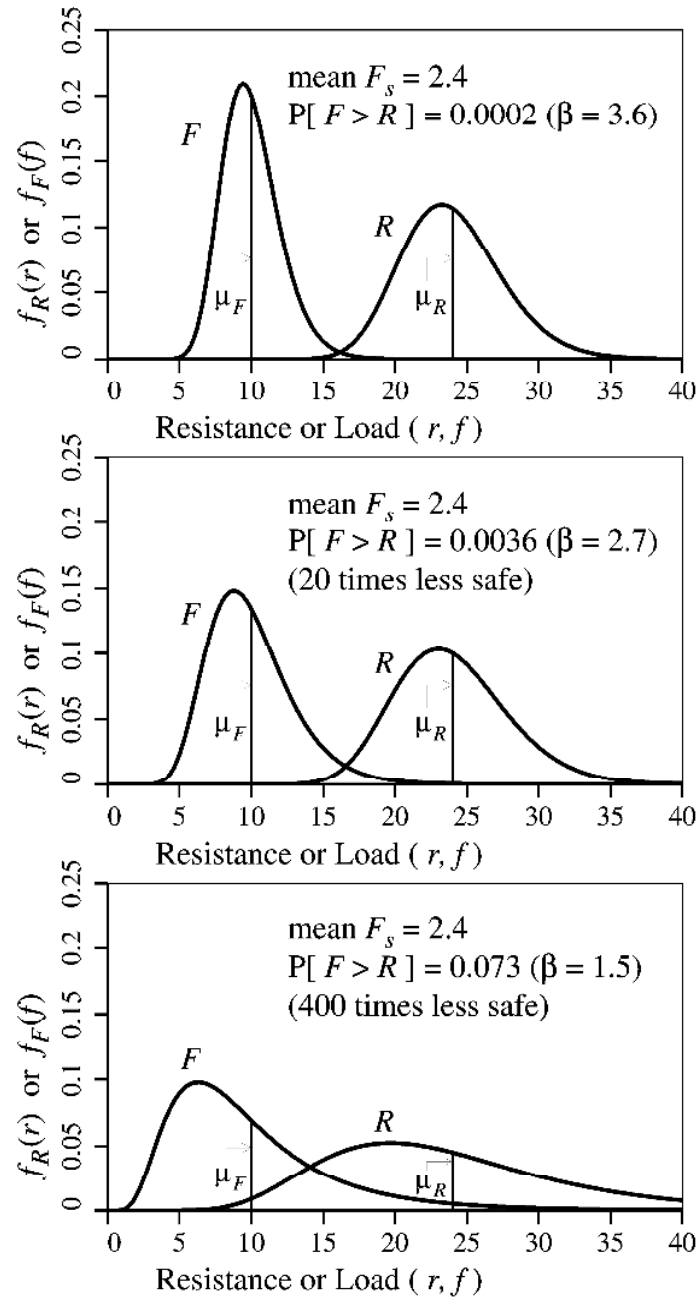


Figure 1. Three geotechnical systems having resistance R under load F can have precisely the same mean factor of safety and yet very different failure probabilities, $P[F > R]$.

Most modern codes separate the resulting set of partial factors into two distinct groups (which

are nevertheless inversely related): the load factors and the resistance factors. These two groups of factors lead to a design methodology referred to as Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD). The partial factors are individually related to the variability of the quantity that they are factoring and are used to scale the characteristic design values to more conservative values such that the overall probability of system failure is acceptably small. In general, this means that loads are scaled up (so long as they are acting in a way that reduces overall system safety) and resistances are scaled down so that the final factored design values are acceptably conservative. Under the LRFD approach, designs must satisfy an equation of the following form (although the right hand side is often expressed more precisely as a series of possible load combinations),

$$\phi_g \hat{R} \geq \sum_i I_i \eta_i \alpha_i \hat{F}_i \quad (2)$$

where ϕ_g is a geotechnical resistance factor, \hat{R} is the characteristic geotechnical resistance (based on characteristic ground parameters), and, for the i^{th} characteristic load effect (\hat{F}_i), I_i is a structure importance factor, η_i is a load combination factor, and α_i is the load factor.

In this paper, the word *characteristic* is used because it suggests a value that characterizes (in some sense) a design parameter that is uncertain, e.g., a random load or resistance. The commonly used words *nominal* or *design* do not convey the underlying randomness of the design parameter, and so will not be used here. Some design codes (e.g., the Eurocodes) provide a specific statistical definition of the word *characteristic*, often as being the 5th or 95th percentile, whichever leads to the highest probability of failure. Eurocode 7 (CEN, 2004) provides a slightly different definition of a characteristic parameter, in geotechnical design, as the value selected such that the probability of occurrence of the associated limit state does not exceed 5%. The Eurocode 7 definition is discussed in more detail in the Section entitled “Characteristic Resistance and Bias Factors”. Most other geotechnical design codes provide only vague definitions for the characteristic value. For example, one popular definition is “a conservative estimate of the mean.”

In most modern civil design codes, and Canada is no exception, the LRFD approach is embedded within a *Limit States Design* (LSD) framework, where the LRFD formulation is satisfied for each of a sequence of possible failure modes, or limit states. Generally, the load and resistance factors are specifically selected for the limit state under consideration. For example, designing against the limit state of bearing capacity failure would usually involve different factors than designing against the limit state of excessive settlement.

The load and resistance factor method typically appears in one of two forms in geotechnical design codes around the world;

- 1) the partial resistance factor approach, in which the individual components of ground strength, e.g. cohesion and friction, are factored separately. The rationale behind this approach is that the components of strength have different levels of uncertainty – for example, cohesion is generally deemed to be more uncertain than friction angle. This is analogous to how live and dead loads are factored separately.
- 2) the total resistance factor approach, in which the geotechnical resistance is computed in the traditional way using best estimates of the ground parameters (i.e. characteristic values) and then the final result is factored. This approach is more analogous to how resistances are factored in structural engineering where each engineering material (e.g. concrete, steel, and wood) has its own resistance factor. The ground is then viewed as just another engineering material. The total resistance factor approach, commonly referred to as LRFD in North America, also allows for very simple calibration to traditional working, or allowable, stress design in that the factor of safety is just equal to the ratio of the load to resistance factors (see, e.g., Honjo et al., 2009).

In 1979 and then again in 1983 the *Ontario Highway Bridge Design Code* (OHBDC) adopted the partial resistance factor approach from Danish practice, in which components of ground strength (e.g., cohesion and friction angle) were individually factored. In 1983, the LSD approach became

mandatory in the Ontario bridge code. Unfortunately, the partial factor format did not lead to design consistency with the working stress design approach and so was not readily accepted by geotechnical engineers. Another concern with the partial resistance factor approach is that by modifying the ground properties away from their characteristic (in this case, best estimate) values, the resulting predicted failure mechanism was sometimes significantly different than the actual failure mechanism in the ground. Many geotechnical engineers found that the myriad of resistance factors that the approach involved made it difficult to retain a clear understanding of the geotechnical problem being considered. In addition, the 1983 edition of OHBDC applied both a partial factor to soil properties along with a load factor to active and passive earth pressures. This double factoring of parameters related to a common calculation led to increases of approximately 30% in required footing widths for cantilever retaining walls (see Green and Becker, 2000) beyond what traditional designs called for.

In 1991, the OHBDC switched to the total resistance factor approach, where the characteristic (or nominal) geotechnical resistance was computed using traditional (working stress design) methods and then factored. In general, the total resistance factor approach was preferred by the geotechnical community for a number of reasons; it more closely preserved the best estimate of the failure mechanism, it was similar to the traditional factor-of-safety approach (Eq. 1), and it was in better harmony with the approach taken by structural engineers in which each engineering material was factored.

The 1991 edition of the Ontario Highway Bridge Design Code (OHBDC) was the third and last edition of the OHBDC. In 2000, the 9th edition of the CAN/CSA-S6 code, renamed the *Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code* (CHBDC), became a national standard and was largely modeled on the 1991 OHBDC. The geotechnical design code provisions in the 2006 (10th) Edition of the CHBDC were little changed from the 1991 OHBDC. The most recent (2014) edition of the CHBDC was published in February, 2015. Section 6, now entitled “Foundations and Geotechnical Systems”

incorporates significant changes with respect to reliability-based geotechnical design.

The National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) permitted both working stress and limit states design for geotechnical systems in their 1995 edition. In the next edition, 2005, limit states design became mandatory for geotechnical designs, with the geotechnical resistance factors appearing in the User's Guide (National Research Council, 2006). The geotechnical code provisions in the most recent edition of the NBCC (National Research Council, 2010) are little changed from the previous edition.

2. Comparison to Other National Codes

As mentioned, geotechnical design in Canada follows the total resistance factor approach within a Limit States Design framework, as do most other geotechnical design codes in North America, e.g., American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO, 2012). The resistance factors that appear in the User's Guide to the NBCC (National Research Council, 2011) are nearly identical to those specified in the 2006 CHBDC, which are the factors that will be considered in the following comparison.

In Europe, the total resistance factor approach is referred to as DA 2, which is just one of three "Design Approaches" that Eurocode 7 considers. Each member country can specify which Design Approach (DA) they will adopt in their national annex, and according to Bond (2013) about half of the member countries currently adopt DA 2. Note that in Eurocode 7 the resistance factors are applied inversely to the North American approach, i.e., by dividing rather than multiplying, and so the factors shown in this paper are the inverse of the factors actually appearing in Eurocode 7.

To compare the resistance factors specified in the CHBDC to those specified in other codes from around the world, a very simple example in which the required area of a spread footing designed against bearing failure is considered (see Fenton, 2013). In this example, characteristic dead and live loads of $\hat{F}_D = 3700$ kN and $\hat{F}_L = 1000$ kN, respectively, are to be supported by a weightless soil (with no embedment, nor surcharge) having characteristic soil properties $\hat{c} = 100$ kPa

and $\hat{\phi} = 30^\circ$ (note that the distinction between drained and undrained parameters is not made since this is not important to the point being made – either condition can be assumed). The resulting required footing areas are shown in Table 1. The design satisfies the following equation (which corresponds to Design Approach 2 in the Eurocode);

$$\varphi_{gu} \hat{R}_u \geq \alpha_L \hat{F}_L + \alpha_D \hat{F}_D \quad (3)$$

where the importance factor and load combinations factors appearing on the right hand side of Eq. (2) are both 1.0 for this simple load combination, and the subscript u on the left hand side (resistance side) denotes that this is an ultimate limit state (ULS). For the example considered (weightless soil with no embedment nor surcharge), the characteristic ultimate geotechnical resistance, \hat{R}_u , is equal to the footing area, A , times the characteristic ultimate soil bearing capacity, $\hat{c}\hat{N}_c$, i.e.,

$$\hat{R}_u = A \hat{c}\hat{N}_c \quad (4)$$

The characteristic bearing capacity factor, \hat{N}_c , is given by (e.g. Prandtl, 1921, Meyerhof, 1951, 1963, and Griffiths et al., 2002),

$$\hat{N}_c = \frac{\exp\{\pi \tan \hat{\phi}\} \left(\tan \hat{\phi} + \sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \hat{\phi}} \right)^2 - 1}{\tan \hat{\phi}} \quad (5)$$

so that the minimum required footing area is computed from Eq. (3) as

$$A = \frac{\alpha_L \hat{F}_L + \alpha_D \hat{F}_D}{\varphi_{gu} \hat{c}\hat{N}_c} \quad (6)$$

For the given problem, $\hat{N}_c = 30.14$, so that $\hat{c}\hat{N}_c = 100(30.14) = 3014 \text{ kPa}$ and

$$A = \frac{1000\hat{F}_L + 3700\hat{F}_D}{3014\varphi_{gu}} \quad (7)$$

In the case of the *partial factor* approach, where the components of the ground shear strength are factored separately, applying partial factors yields a ‘factored’ \hat{N}_c value which will be referred

to here as \hat{N}_f and which is computed as

$$\hat{N}_f = \frac{\exp\{\pi\varphi_\phi \tan \hat{\phi}\} \left(\varphi_\phi \tan \hat{\phi} + \sqrt{1 + \varphi_\phi^2 \tan^2 \hat{\phi}} \right)^2 - 1}{\varphi_\phi \tan \hat{\phi}} \quad (8)$$

where φ_ϕ is the partial factor applied to $\tan(\phi)$. The minimum footing area required for the partial factor approach becomes

$$A = \frac{\alpha_L \hat{F}_L + \alpha_D \hat{F}_D}{\varphi_c \hat{N}_f} \quad (9)$$

where φ_c is the partial factor associated with the cohesion component of shear strength. In Table 1, where a range in factors is given, the midpoint of the range is used. The EC 7 DA 1 result refers to the Design Approach 1 of Eurocode 7 (using Combination 2), while DA 2 refers to Design Approach 2 of Eurocode 7.

Table 1. Values of load and resistance factors suggested by various sources along with the footing area each would require in a bearing capacity design example assuming similarly defined characteristic loads. All factors are applied in a multiplicative fashion.

Source	α_D	α_L	φ_ϕ	φ_c	φ_{gu}	Area (m ²)
CFEM (1992)	1.25	1.5	0.8	0.5-0.65		5.22
NCHRP 343 (1991)	1.3	2.17			0.35-0.6	4.88
NCHRP 12-55 (2004)	1.25	1.75			0.45	4.70
Denmark (1985)	1.0	1.3	0.83	0.56		4.13
AASHTO (2012)	1.25	1.75			0.45-0.55	4.23
AS 5100 (2004b)	1.2	1.8			0.35-0.65	4.14
CHBDC (2006)	1.2	1.7			0.5	4.07
AS 4678 (2002b)	1.25	1.5	0.75-0.95	0.5-0.9		3.89
EC 7 DA 1 (2004)	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.8		3.06
EC 7 DA 2 (2004)	1.35	1.5			0.71	3.04

Table 1 illustrates that a range in conservatism apparently exists across this selection of codes under the above assumptions. The 1992 Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual (CFEM, Canadian Geotechnical Society, 1992) is perhaps the most conservative, with a required bearing area of 5.22

m². The least conservative (apparently) are the two Design Approaches (DA 1 and 2) of Eurocode7 (2004) with required bearing areas of about 3.05 m². However, Table 1 also assumes that the characteristic design parameters are the same for all codes. A more complete comparison of the levels of safety inherent in each design code involves a more careful consideration of how all of the parameters entering the design process are defined and factored, particularly with respect to characteristic values. Such a comparison is considered next.

2.1 Characteristic Loads and Bias Factors

Some codes specify that the characteristic load is equal to the mean, others suggest using a 'cautious estimate of the mean', while others specify the use of an upper (or lower) fractile (whichever yields the most conservative result). Similarly, the characteristic resistance may be computed using mean strength parameters, or using fractiles of the strength parameters. In general, the difference between the characteristic design value and its mean is usually captured by a bias factor defined as the ratio of the mean to characteristic value, i.e.,

$$k_R = \frac{\mu_R}{\hat{R}_u}, k_L = \frac{\mu_L}{\hat{F}_L}, k_D = \frac{\mu_D}{\hat{F}_D} \quad (10)$$

where k is the bias factor and μ is the mean of the subscripted variable. Introducing the dead to live load ratio, $R_{D/L} = \mu_D / \mu_L$, allows Eq. (3) to be re-expressed as

$$\mu_R \geq F_s (\mu_L + \mu_D) \quad (11)$$

where F_s is now a global factor of safety, defined as

$$F_s = \left(\frac{k_R}{\phi_{gu}} \right) \left(\frac{\alpha_L}{k_L} + \frac{\alpha_D R_{D/L}}{k_D} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 + R_{D/L}} \right) \quad (12)$$

Note that F_s in Eq. (11) is seen to take on a similar role (and definition as ratio of mean resistance to mean load) as does the traditional factor of safety used in working stress design approaches. If the coefficients of variation of the loads and resistances are approximately the

same worldwide, then the global factor of safety provides a simple measure of the relative safety of a code design which then allows the safety level of various codes to be compared. Ellingwood (1999) notes that probability models for loads collected in research programs in North America and Europe agree reasonably well, and so the assumption that coefficients of variation are similar, at least between North America and Europe, is deemed to be reasonable. In this paper the global factor of safety provided by the following design codes are compared for shallow foundations at the bearing capacity ultimate limit state;

- 1) The *National Building Code of Canada* (NBCC) published by the National Research Council of Canada (2010),
- 2) The *Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code* (CHBDC) published by the Canadian Standards Association (2006),
- 3) *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* (AASHTO), published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (2012),
- 4) The Eurocodes, in particular EN 1990, which is *Eurocode – Basis of Structural Design* (CEN, 2002a) and provides the partial factors for the loads in all of the Eurocodes, including the partial factors for loads in geotechnical designs, EN 1991-1-1, which is *Eurocode 1: Actions on Structures – Part 1-1: General Actions – Densities, self-weight, imposed loads for buildings* (CEN, 2002b) and *Part 2: Traffic loads on bridges* (CEN 2003), and EN 1997-1, which is *Eurocode 7 Geotechnical Design – Part 1: General Rules* (CEN, 2004),
- 5) Australian Standard *AS5100 Bridge Design* (Standards Australia, 2004a and 2004b)

To compare the level of safety between each of these codes, a hypothetical geotechnical system having dead to live load ratio $R_{D/L} = 3.0$ is assumed.

Eurocode – Basis of structural design (EN 1990, CEN, 2002a) is reasonably specific as to how characteristic loads are defined. With respect to dead loads, EN 1990 states that the variability of

permanent actions (i.e. dead loads) may be neglected if they do not vary significantly over the design working life. In other words, if the coefficient of variation of dead loads, v_D , is less than about 10%, then the dead loads can be considered to be non-random and $\hat{F}_D = \mu_D$ so that $k_D = 1.0$. The other codes considered are less specific about the definition of characteristic dead loads, but generally indicate that \hat{F}_D is to be estimated using mean structural component weights. Bartlett et al. (2003) suggest that often some dead load components are forgotten or missed in the estimation process, so that in practice the characteristic (design) dead load is generally somewhat less than the true mean dead load and the dead load bias factor is more like 1.05 (see also Ellingwood et al., 1980). For highway bridges, Nowak (1994) suggests that the dead load bias factor ranges from 1.03 to 1.05, which is in basic agreement with Bartlett's estimate. Since a similar dead load estimation error is probably common to all localities, it is assumed here that $k_D = 1.05$ for all codes considered.

With respect to live loads, the North American codes define the characteristic live load as the mean maximum live load exerted on the structure over its design lifetime – for example, Clause 4.3.1 of ASCE-7 (2010) states that uniformly distributed live loads are the mean of the maximum load over the design lifetime. Although the NBCC does not specifically define the characteristic live load, Bartlett et al. (2003) implies that it has the same definition as ASCE-7. Both codes specify acceptable characteristic live load values which are typically somewhat higher than the actual mean maximum live load. For example, both the Canadian and US codes specify a uniform live load for office space of 2.4 kPa. Bartlett et al. (2003) suggest that, after reductions for influence or tributary area, the code specified characteristic live load is typically about 10% higher than the actual mean value, so that $k_L = 0.9$ was adopted by Bartlett et al. in their calibration efforts for the 2005 edition of the NBCC. As also reported by Bartlett et al., this bias value is in reasonable agreement with ASCE-7. The AASHTO (2012) Bridge Design code takes its live load bias factor from a detailed statistical analysis performed by Allen et al. (2005) who suggest that $k_L = 0.95$,

which is reasonably close to the 0.9 given above for other North American codes. Similarly, Nowak and Grouni (1994) show that the bias factor for live loads on Canadian bridges ranges from 0.85 to 1.0, depending on the span length, with an average of around $k_L = 0.95$.

EN 1990 (CEN, 2002a) states in Clause 4.1.2(7) that, for variable actions, the characteristic value shall correspond to one of; an upper value with an intended probability of not being exceeded or a lower value with an intended probability of being achieved, during some specific reference period; or a nominal value, which may be specified in cases where a statistical distribution is not known. This is a fairly vague definition, but Clause 4.1.2(4) suggests that an “upper value” (which would be of interest for loads) corresponds to a 5% probability of being exceeded (95% fractile). Clause 4.1.2(4) further states that the action may be assumed to be Gaussian. If assumed Gaussian, then the 95% fractile is given by

$$\hat{F}_L = \mu_L (1 + 1.645v_L) \rightarrow k_L = 1 / (1 + 1.645v_L) \quad (13)$$

where v_L is the coefficient of variation of the maximum lifetime live load. Both Allen (1975) and Bartlett et al. (2003) use $v_L = 0.27$. The authors are not sure what value of v_L was assumed in the Eurocode, but Ellingwood (1999) suggests that Europe uses a similar value to that used in North America. If this is the case, then EN 1990 is using $k_L = 0.69$, which is very close to Allen’s (1975) suggested bias of 0.7.

Another approach to estimating the live load bias factor employed in Europe, at least for buildings, is to compare the characteristic office occupancy uniform live load specified in the European and North American codes, which are 3.0 and 2.4 kPa, respectively. If the live load bias factor of $k_L = 0.9$, adopted by Bartlett et al. (2003), is assumed true for North America, then $\mu_L = 0.9(2.4) = 2.16$ kPa. If it is further assumed that this mean live load is at least approximately true in Europe, then the European live load bias factor is $k_L = 2.16 / 3.0 = 0.72$. On the basis of both of the above approximate calculations, it appears likely, then, that EN 1990 uses a live load bias

factor of approximately $k_L = 0.70$. The authors were unable to determine the corresponding live load bias factor for bridges in Europe, possibly because EN 1991-2 “Traffic loads on bridges” (CEN, 2003) defines several load models which may individually have different bias factors. It is assumed here that the Eurocodes maintain a relatively common bias factor of about $k_L = 0.70$ across all structure types.

The Australian Standard AS5100.1 (Standards Australia, 2004a) specifically defines load actions for ultimate limit state as “an action having a 5% probability of exceedance in the design life” in Clause 6.5. This is the same as used in the Eurocode (albeit more clearly specified). In addition, since the Australian- New Zealand “Structural Design Actions” Standard AS/NZS 1170 (Standards Australia, 2002) specifies that the characteristic uniform live load for office buildings is 3.0 kPa, which is the same as the Eurocodes, it appears that the live load bias factor for Australia is also $k_L = 0.70$.

2.2 Characteristic Resistance and Bias Factors

The estimation of the resistance of the ground to imposed loads is generally a multi-step process:

1) take measurements of the ground properties, 2) correlate the measurements with characteristic engineering parameters (e.g. cohesion and friction angle), and 3) use the characteristic parameters in a prediction model. Each step introduces errors, and so the characteristic resistance and associated resistance factor (discussed later), along with the loads and load factors, must be determined in such a way to ensure a safe design. Eurocode 7-1, Clause 2.4.5.2 (CEN, 2004) provides a number of requirements for the selection of characteristic properties, such as “The characteristic value of a geotechnical parameter shall be selected as a cautious estimate of the value affecting the occurrence of the limit state” and “If statistical methods are used, the characteristic value should be derived such that the calculated probability of a worse value governing the occurrence of the limit state under consideration is not greater than 5%. NOTE: In this respect, a cautious estimate of the mean value is

a selection of the mean value of the limited set of geotechnical parameter values, with a confidence level of 95%; where local failure is concerned, a cautious estimate of the low value is a 5% fractile.” EN 1990 (CEN, 2002a) states that “where a low value of material or product property is unfavorable, the characteristic value should be defined as the 5% fractile value.” According to Schneider (2012), the characteristic values of ground parameters should be selected as a 5% fractile value of the sample mean, using the distribution of the sample mean, rather than that of the samples directly (the sample mean having standard deviation s/\sqrt{n} , where s is the sample standard deviation, and n is the number of samples used to estimate s). The authors note that a 5% fractile value based on the sample mean will generally be quite a bit less conservative (i.e., closer to the mean) than a 5% fractile based on the samples themselves.

Hicks (2013) interprets Clause 2.4.5.2 of Eurocode 7-1 as meaning that the characteristic soil parameters are to be selected so as to ensure a 95% confidence in the geotechnical system being designed, for any limit state. While this is a reasonable interpretation, it will involve both the distribution of the applied maximum lifetime load and an appropriate spatial averaging of geotechnical parameters over the actual failure surface (or failure domain). The authors feel that it is probably easier at this point in time to develop a design code using characteristic soil parameters based on fractiles of the soil parameter distribution.

In any case, the above discussion about characteristic values used in Eurocode 7 refers to the selection of characteristic strength parameters (e.g. c_u or ϕ) rather than to the characteristic resistance appearing in Eq. (3). The characteristic geotechnical resistance, \hat{R}_u , would then be computed employing a (probably non-linear) model which uses these characteristic ground parameters. Thus, the final bias of the characteristic resistance depends not only on the distribution of the ground properties, but also on the model used to predict \hat{R}_u . It has been assumed here that the coefficient of variation, v_R , of \hat{R}_u is approximately equal to the coefficient of variation of the ground

parameters used in the model, which are typically in the range of 0.1 to 0.3 (e.g., Meyerhof, 1995 and Phoon and Kulhawy, 1999). Note that geotechnical resistance often involves an average of ground properties, e.g. along a failure surface, which will have a smaller variability than the point variability suggested in the literature. Thus, a reasonable value for the resistance variability is deemed to be about $v_R = 0.15$, which is assumed here. Similar to Eq. (13), the resistance bias factor assumed in the Eurocode can then be computed from

$$\hat{R}_u = \mu_R (1 - 1.645v_R) \rightarrow k_R = 1 / (1 - 1.645v_R) \quad (14)$$

which for $v_R = 0.15$ gives $k_R = 1.33$

The Australian Standard AS5100.3 (Standards Australia, 2004b) states that “the characteristic value of a geotechnical parameter should be a conservatively assessed value of the parameter.” Although the authors were unable to find a more precise definition, the wording here suggests that the Australians are following the Eurocode approach. Thus, a bias factor of $k_R = 1.33$ has been assumed for Australia as well.

In North America, Commentary Clause C10.4.6.1 of AASHTO (2012) says that “For strength limit states, average measured values of relevant laboratory test data and/or in-situ test data were used to calibrate the resistance factors”, which suggests that $k_R = 1.0$. However, the commentary goes on to say that “it may not be possible to reliably estimate the average value of the properties needed for design. In such cases, the Engineer may have no choice but to use a more conservative selection of design properties” which suggests that in practice, $k_R > 1.0$.

Clause 8.5 of the Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual (Canadian Geotechnical Society, 2006) states that “Frequently, the mean value, or a value slightly less than the mean is selected by geotechnical engineers as the characteristic value.” Commentary K of the NBCC User’s Guide (National Research Council of Canada, 2011) says that “the [characteristic] resistance is the engineer’s best estimate of the ultimate resistance.” Becker (1996a) claims “The design values do not

necessarily need to be taken as the mean values, although this is common geotechnical design practice.” All of these statements suggest that $k_R = 1.0$, or perhaps slightly greater than 1.0. However, Becker (1996a) later argues that the characteristic resistance is typically selected to be somewhat below the mean, due to sampling uncertainties, and he subsequently uses $k_R = 1.1$ in his NBCC development paper (Becker, 1996b). Based on Becker’s reasoning, the value of $k_R = 1.1$ is assumed to apply to all of the North American design codes considered here.

2.3 Load Factors

Load factors are designed to reflect uncertainty in the lifetime loads experienced by a structure or foundation. The basic idea is to set the factored loads, $\alpha_L \hat{F}_L$ and $\alpha_D \hat{F}_D$, to values having sufficiently low probability of being exceeded by the true (random) lifetime loads. Considering, for example, live loads (with dead loads following the same reasoning), the factored live load that has probability ε of being exceeded by the true live load over the design lifetime can be approximated as

$$\alpha_L \hat{F}_L = \mu_L (1 + z_\varepsilon v_L) \quad (15)$$

in which z_ε is the standard normal point with exceedance probability ε , i.e., the point at which $\Phi(-z_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon$, where Φ is the standard normal cumulative distribution function. Note that Eq. (15) assumes that the live load is (at least approximately) normally distributed. Rearranging Eq. (15) leads to an expression for the load factor, which is

$$\alpha_L = \left(\frac{\mu_L}{\hat{F}_L} \right) (1 + z_\varepsilon v_L) = k_L (1 + z_\varepsilon v_L) \quad (16)$$

ASCE-7 (American Society of Civil Engineers, 2010) found that their load factors are well approximated by Eq. (16) when they set $z_\varepsilon = \omega_L \beta$, where β is the target reliability index and $\omega_L = 0.8$ when the live load is a principal action or $\omega_L = 0.4$ when the live load is a companion

action. Equation (16) can be used for other load types simply by changing the subscript. Note that Eq. (16) suggests that load factors are independent of the resistance distribution. It also states that the load factors are very dependent on how the characteristic load is defined, i.e. on the load bias factor, k_L . If designs have a common target reliability index, β , with $k_L = 0.9$ in North America and $k_L = 0.7$ in Europe and Australia, as suggested above, then one would expect the load factors in Europe and Australia to be lower than those used in North America if Eq. (16) is accurate. As will be seen, the European and Australian load factors are generally higher than those used in North America – the European and Australian codes compensate for their higher load factors through higher resistance factors. In other words, Eq. (16) cannot be used as a general formula for load factors. The magnitude of the resistance factors (and bias factors) must still be considered.

Table 2 gives the load factors as specified by the various design codes considered here (using the DA 2 partial factors for the Eurocode 7 GEO ultimate limit state). The last column of the table gives the total load factor, α_T , for a given mean dead to live load ratio, which scales the total mean load, $\mu_L + \mu_D$, to be equal to the sum of factored live and dead loads. The total load factor can be seen in Eq. (12) and is defined by

$$\alpha_T = \left(\frac{\alpha_L}{k_L} + \frac{\alpha_D R_{D/L}}{k_D} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 + R_{D/L}} \right) \quad (17)$$

Table 2. Load and bias factors for various design codes (assuming that $R_{D/L} = 3.0$).

Source	k_L	k_D	α_L	α_D	α_T
NBCC 2010	0.9	1.05	1.50	1.25	1.31
CHBDC 2006	0.9	1.05	1.70	1.20	1.33
AASHTO 2012	0.95	1.05	1.75	1.25	1.35
Eurocode 7 DA 2	0.7	1.05	1.50	1.35	1.50
AS5100.3	0.7	1.05	1.80	1.20	1.50

The dead load factor for Eurocode 7, DA 2, (1.35) is larger than the dead load factors used in

North America (1.2 to 1.25) which, when combined with the smaller value of k_L , yields a final α_T value that is significantly larger than that appearing in the Canadian codes and in AASHTO. The Australian Standard AS5100 has an equivalently high α_T value because of its relatively high live load factor, α_T , and low (assumed) live load bias factor, k_L .

Table 3 shows the total load factor, the resistance bias, the resistance factor, and the global factor of safety for the five design codes considered with respect to shallow foundation bearing capacity.

Table 3. Global factor of safety for various design codes.

Source	α_T	k_R	ϕ_{gu}	F_s
NBCC 2010 ¹	1.31	1.1	0.50	2.88
CHBDC 2006	1.33	1.1	0.50	2.92
AASHTO 2012	1.35	1.1	0.45-0.5	2.97-3.30
Eurocode 7 ²	1.50	1.33	0.71	2.81
AS5100.3	1.50	1.33	0.35 0.65	3.07-5.70

¹ the NBCC itself does not specify resistance factors. The resistance factors shown above appear in Appendix K of the NBCC User's Guide (National Research Council, 2011).

² based on Eurocode 7 Design Approach 2 for the GEO limit state.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, and despite the considerable variation in implementation details, the five codes considered here all arrive at quite similar global factors of safety, F_s , as seen in the last column of Table 3. Many assumptions were made in arriving at Table 3 about how characteristic values are actually defined in the various codes, and so there may actually be more discrepancy between the codes for this particular limit state. However, it appears likely that codes are calibrated for much the same target failure probability (certainly the same global factor of safety) regardless of the implementation details. The authors note that, if this is the case, there seems to be little justification in codes being different – we might as well all adopt the same model and work in common towards a safer and more economical design code. The model adopted worldwide should be the simplest and easiest to define.

3. The 2014 Edition of the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code

Geotechnical engineers are, of course, well aware of the fact that their designs depend on one of the most uncertain of all engineering materials. Unlike wood, concrete, steel, and other quality controlled engineering materials, it is not even known how the natural variability of soil properties should properly be characterized. In addition, geotechnical engineers are also aware that their uncertainty about the resistance of a geotechnical system decreases with increased site understanding and site modeling effectiveness. Thus, there is a real desire amongst the geotechnical community to have their designs reflect the degree of their site and modeling understanding. In other words, geotechnical designs should become more economical as site and model understanding increases. In this paper ‘site understanding’ refers to how well the ground providing the geotechnical resistance is known and ‘model understanding’ means the degree of confidence that a designer has in the (usually mathematical) model used to predict the geotechnical resistance.

To provide for designs that account for degree of understanding, it makes sense to have a resistance factor which is adjusted as a function of site and model understanding. There are at least two advantages to such an approach: 1) overall safety can be maintained at a common target maximum failure probability, and 2) the direct economic advantage related to increasing site and model understanding can be demonstrated. For example, the pre-2014 Canadian design codes specify a single resistance factor for bearing capacity design (0.5). It doesn't matter how confident one is in one's prediction of the bearing capacity of a foundation, the same resistance factor must be used. Thus, there is no direct advantage to improving the geotechnical response prediction. If only a single resistance factor can be used, one might as well spend the least amount of time one can on the site investigation and modeling.

The resulting desire for a resistance factor which depends on site and model understanding is not new. Littlejohn et al (1991) made the classic observation that “You pay for a site investigation whether you have one or not,” which, as is well known, is very true. Recognizing this fact, it is of

real economic value to have a resistance factor which can be adjusted to reflect the true lifetime cost of the lack or presence of an effective site investigation. The Australian Standard for Bridge Design, Part 3: Foundations and Soil-Supporting Structures (AS5100.3, Standards Australia, 2004b) provide a range of “geotechnical strength reduction factors” accompanied by guidance as to which end of the scale should be used. For example, AS 5100.3 suggests that the lower end of the resistance factor range (more conservative) should be used for limited site investigations, simple methods of calculation, severe failure consequences, and so on. It is of interest to note that the Australian Standard recommendations for the resistance factor considers both site and model understanding along with failure consequence in their single factor. The idea of accommodating different levels of site understanding also appears elsewhere in the literature. See, for example, the three-tier ground variability classification provided by Phoon et al. (2003) and Phoon and Kulhawy (2008), where residual ground variability can be thought of as reflecting the level of site understanding.

As is well known, the overall safety level of any design should depend on at least three things: 1) the uncertainty in the loads, 2) the uncertainty in the resistance, and 3) the severity of the failure consequences. These three items are all usually deemed to be independent of one another and in most modern codes are thus treated separately. Uncertainties in the loads are handled by load and load combination factors, failure consequences are handled by applying a multiplicative importance factor to the more site-specific and highly uncertain loads (e.g. earthquake, snow, and wind), and uncertainties in resistance are handled by material specific resistance factors (e.g. φ_c for concrete, φ_s for steel, etc).

Because the ground is also site-specific and highly uncertain, it makes sense to apply a partial safety factor to the ground that depends on both the resistance uncertainty and consequence of failure. This would be analogous to how wind load, for example, in the NBCC (NRC, 2010) has both a load factor associated with wind speed uncertainty as well as an importance factor associated with failure consequences. Figure 2 illustrates the basic idea, where the overall partial

factor applied to the geotechnical resistance varies with both site and model understanding and failure consequence level. The numbers in the figure are relative to the default central partial factor (i.e., relative to 1.0) and it is assumed that current geotechnical design approaches in Canada lead to typical or default levels of site and model understanding so that, for typical failure consequence geotechnical systems, the central value is what is currently used in design. From this value, increased site investigation and/or modeling effort leads to higher understanding and a higher overall partial factor (and so a more economical design). Similarly, for geotechnical systems with high failure consequences, e.g. failure of the foundation of a major multi-lane highway bridge in a large city, the overall partial factor is decreased to ensure a decreased maximum acceptable failure probability. Of particular note in Figure 2 is the fact that if a geotechnical system with high failure consequence is designed with low site and model understanding, the designer is penalized by a low overall partial factor.

HIGH Consequence	0.6	0.8	1.0
TYPICAL	0.8	1.0 (default)	1.2
LOW Consequence	1.0	1.2	1.4
	LOW Understanding	TYPICAL	HIGH Understanding

Figure 2. Floating partial safety factor, relative to the default, applied to geotechnical resistance (numbers are for illustration only).

Figure 2 suggests that for each limit state (e.g. bearing, sliding, overturning, etc.) a 3 x 3 matrix of resistance factors would have to be provided. Rather than introducing the resulting myriad tables, the multiplicative approach taken in structural engineering (where the load is multiplied by both a load factor and an importance factor) is adopted for geotechnical resistance as well in the 2014

CHBDC (CSA, 2014). In other words, the overall safety factor applied to geotechnical resistance is broken into two parts;

- 1) a resistance factor, ϕ_{gu} or ϕ_{gs} , which accounts for resistance uncertainty. This factor basically aims to achieve a target maximum acceptable failure probability equal to that used currently for geotechnical designs for typical failure consequences (e.g., a lifetime failure probability of 1/5,000 or less). The subscript g refers to ‘geotechnical’ (or ‘ground’), while the subscripts u and s refer to ultimate and serviceability limit states, respectively.
- 2) a consequence factor, Ψ , which accounts for failure consequences. Essentially, $\Psi > 1$ if failure consequences are low and $\Psi < 1$ if failure consequences exceed those of typical geotechnical systems. For typical systems, or where system importance is already accounted for adequately by load importance factors, $\Psi = 1$. The basic idea of the consequence factor is to adjust the maximum acceptable failure probability of the design down (e.g., to 1/10,000) for high failure consequences, or up (e.g., to 1/1,000) for low failure consequences.

In the context of Figure 2, if the high consequence case were to be assigned a consequence factor of 0.8, and the low understanding case assigned a resistance factor of 0.8, then the multiplication of these two factors, $0.8 \times 0.8 = 0.64$, is approximately equal to the 0.6 value specified in the upper left corner of Figure 2. In this way, the entire table can be expressed by two independent factors, each having three values.

The geotechnical design would then proceed by ensuring that the factored geotechnical resistance at least equals the effect of factored loads. For example, for ultimate limit states, this means that in the 2014 CHBDC the geotechnical design will need to satisfy an equation of the form

$$\Psi \phi_{gu} \hat{R} \geq \sum_i I_i \eta_i \alpha_{ui} \hat{F}_{ui} \quad (18)$$

which is almost identical to Eq. (2), with the exception that the overall geotechnical resistance factor is expressed as the product of the consequence factor, Ψ , and the ultimate geotechnical

resistance factor, φ_{gu} , and the loads and load factors appearing on the right-hand-side are also those specific for the ultimate limit state under consideration (and, hence, the subscript u). An entirely similar equation must be satisfied for serviceability limit states, with the subscript u replaced by s . The serviceability geotechnical resistance factors, φ_{gs} , will be closer to 1.0 than φ_{gu} , since serviceability limit states can have larger maximum acceptable probabilities of occurrence.

Note that Eq. (18) simultaneously specifies a consequence factor, Ψ , and an importance factor, I_i , both of which aim to modify failure probability as a function of failure consequence. As mentioned previously, the basic idea of the importance factor in North America is to account for the high variability of site-specific wind, snow, and seismic loads for differing failure consequences. Since the ground is also a highly variable site-specific parameter, it similarly needs to be specifically factored to account for failure consequences. How the two factors, Ψ and I_i , should interact is still under research. The 2014 CHBDC states that if $I_i > 1$, then Ψ should be set to 1.0.

The geotechnical resistance factor, φ_{gu} or φ_{gs} , depends on the degree of site and prediction model understanding. Three levels are considered in the 2014 CHBDC;

- *High understanding*: extensive project-specific investigation procedures and/or knowledge are combined with prediction models of demonstrated quality to achieve a high level of confidence with performance predictions,
- *Typical understanding*: typical project-specific investigation procedures and/or knowledge are combined with conventional prediction models to achieve a typical level of confidence with performance predictions,
- *Low understanding*: limited representative information (e.g. previous experience, extrapolation from nearby and/or similar sites, etc.) combined with conventional prediction models to achieve a lower level of confidence with performance predictions.

The resulting table for ULS and SLS geotechnical resistance factors appearing in the 2014 CHBDC is shown in Table 4. How the resistance factor values appearing in Table 4 were obtained is explained in the following sections on calibration.

Table 4. Geotechnical resistance factors for ULS and SLS appearing in Table 6.2 of the 2014 CHBDC. Numbers are for illustration only – the CHBDC must be consulted for the actual factors.

Application	Limit State	Test Method/Model	Degree of understanding			
			Low	Typical	High	
Shallow foundations	Bearing, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.45	0.50	0.60	
		Scale model test	0.50	0.55	0.65	
	Sliding, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90	
		Scale model test	0.75	0.85	0.95	
	Frictional	Analysis	0.55	0.60	0.65	
		Scale model test	0.60	0.65	0.70	
	Passive resistance, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.40	0.50	0.55	
		Settlement or lateral movement, ϕ_{gs}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90
			Scale model test	0.80	0.90	1.00
Deep foundations	Compression, ϕ_{gu}	Static analysis	0.35	0.40	0.45	
		Static test	0.50	0.60	0.70	
		Dynamic analysis	0.35	0.40	0.45	
		Dynamic test	0.45	0.50	0.55	
	Tension, ϕ_{gu}	Static analysis	0.20	0.30	0.40	
		Static test	0.40	0.50	0.60	
	Lateral, ϕ_{gu}	Static analysis	0.45	0.50	0.55	
		Static test	0.45	0.50	0.55	
	Settlement or lateral deflection, ϕ_{gs}	Static analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90	
		Static test	0.80	0.90	1.00	
	Ground Anchors	Pull-out, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.35	0.40	0.50
			Test	0.55	0.60	0.65
	Internal MSE reinforcement	Rupture, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.75	0.80	0.85
			Test	0.85	0.90	0.95
Pull-out, ϕ_{gu}		Analysis	0.35	0.40	0.50	
		Test	0.55	0.60	0.65	
Retaining systems	Bearing, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.45	0.50	0.60	
	Overturning, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.45	0.50	0.55	
	Base sliding, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90	
	Facing interface sliding, ϕ_{gu}	Test	0.75	0.85	0.95	
	Connections, ϕ_{gu}	Test	0.65	0.70	0.75	
	Settlement, ϕ_{gs}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90	
	Deflection/tilt, ϕ_{gs}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90	
	Embankments (fill)	Bearing, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.45	0.50	0.60
		Sliding, ϕ_{gu}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90
Global stability-temporary, ϕ_{gu}		Analysis	0.70	0.75	0.80	
Global stability-		Analysis	0.60	0.65	0.70	

permanent, ϕ_{gu}				
Settlement, ϕ_{gs}	Analysis	0.70	0.80	0.90
	Test	0.80	0.90	1.00

The consequence factor, Ψ , appearing in Eq. (18), adjusts the maximum acceptable failure probability of the geotechnical system being designed to a value which is appropriate for the magnitude of the failure consequences. Three failure consequence levels are considered in the 2014 CHBDC;

- *High consequence*: the foundations and/or geotechnical systems are designed for applications, including bridges, essential to post-disaster recovery (e.g. lifeline) and/or having large societal or economic impacts.
- *Typical consequence*: the foundations and/or geotechnical systems are designed for applications, including bridges, carrying medium to large volumes of traffic and/or having potential impacts on alternative transportation corridors or structures.
- *Low consequence*: the foundations and/or geotechnical systems are designed for applications carrying low volumes of traffic and having limited impacts on alternative transportation corridors.

These failure consequence definitions are somewhat in agreement with the “importance definitions” appearing in the seismic design (Section 4) provisions of the 2014 CHBDC, which specify the following;

- *Major-route bridge*: Structure that is on a route that is critical to facilitate post-disaster emergency response, security and defence purposes, and subsequent economic recovery. The route is a key component of the regional transportation network.
- *Lifeline bridge*: Unique and/or very large structure that represents a major investment and would be time-consuming to repair or replace. Note: A lifeline bridge is vital to the integrity of the regional transportation network, the ongoing economy and security of the region.
- *Other bridge*: a structure that does not fall into the importance categories of Lifeline or

Major-route bridges

The seismic design (Section 4) definitions for “Major-route”, “Lifeline” and “Other” are similar to the definitions for “High”, “Typical”, and “Low”, given for geotechnical design (Section 6), respectively. However, there is little way to compare the definitions in the two sections, since no performance reliability targets were available for the three importance levels in Section 4 at the time of writing. Efforts are ongoing to bring the sections into harmony.

In Eq. (18), the value of Ψ is not subscripted by u nor by s , which implies that it is independent of the ultimate and serviceability limit states. Preliminary evidence that Ψ is independent of the limit state is at least true for deep foundations has been provided by Naghibi et al. (2013). Although it is not known if this independence also holds for other geotechnical systems and limit states, it does seem to be reasonable that it would. For example, a typical geotechnical system might have a target maximum lifetime failure probability of 1/5,000 for an ultimate limit state, but only 1/500 for a serviceability limit state. If the geotechnical system has high failure consequences, the lifetime maximum acceptable failure probability might decrease by the same fraction for both limit states; i.e. to 1/10,000 for ULS and to 1/1,000 for SLS. Thus, it seems reasonable that the same (or quite similar) consequence factor can be used to adjust the target maximum acceptable failure probabilities for both ULS and SLS designs, since the probabilities scale by the same fraction.

The consequence factors specified in the 2014 CHBDC for the three consequence levels are shown in Table 5. How the values are determined will be discussed shortly. This table is very similar to Table B3 in EN 1990 (CEN, 2002a) which specifies three multiplicative factors, 0.9, 1.0, and 1.1, to be applied to loads (actions) for low, medium, and high failure consequences, respectively (these factors are approximately the inverse of the factors seen in Table 5 because they appear on the load side of the LRFD equation). In other words, the concept of shifting the target failure probability to account for severity of failure consequences is certainly not new, although the application of the consequence factor to the resistance side, rather than the load side, of the LRFD

equation does appear to be new.

Table 5. ULS and SLS consequence factors, Ψ , appearing in the 2014 CHBDC, Table 6.1. The CHBDC must be consulted for the actual values.

Consequence level	Consequence factor Ψ
High	0.9
Typical	1.0
Low	1.15

4. Calibration of Geotechnical Resistance Factors

Before discussing how the resistance factors are calibrated to achieve a target maximum lifetime failure probability, it makes sense to look at how (or whether) the target failure probability is defined in the first place. The 2006 CHBDC specifies in Clause 3.5.1 that “Calibration of load factors and resistance factors shall be based on a minimum annual reliability index of 3.75 for CL-625 loading in accordance with Clause 3.8.3”.

There are a number of problems with this requirement. The first has to do with its annual basis. In general, design codes must have a defined *target lifetime*. There is little point in trying to design for a reliability index of $\beta = 3$ over a lifetime of 5000 years unless society is willing to expend the level of resources required to build, for example, the Egyptian pyramids. Granted, the Egyptians aimed for a very high reliability level 4000 years ago, but presumably modern society is no longer willing to spend at similar levels (especially considering that the Egyptian expenditure also involved considerable life loss, according to historic records).

The second problem with the specification that the minimum annual reliability index is 3.75 is how to derive from this what the lifetime reliability index should be? Clause 1.4.2.3 of the CHBDC states that “the design life of new structures shall be 75 years.”. If each year is considered to be independent, then an annual $\beta_{ann} = 3.75$ corresponds to a 75-year lifetime reliability index of $\beta = -\Phi^{-1}(1 - \Phi^{75}(\beta_{ann})) = 2.5$ where Φ is the cumulative standard normal distribution function. Of course, each year is not actually independent, so it is unlikely that the actual lifetime reliability index

suggested by Clause 3.5.1 is as low as 2.5. To determine the actual lifetime reliability index, one has to consider the time variability of both the loads and the resistance. Table B2 in EN 1990 (CEN, 2002a) provides target reliability indices for high, medium, and low failure consequences both annually and for a 50-year lifetime. Of interest is the fact that the 50-year lifetime target reliability indices in EN 1990 are computed from the annual reliability indices assuming independence between years.

It has been argued that the resistances of the structure and geotechnical systems remain relatively constant with time. However, anybody who has looked at an older bridge in Canada knows that this is evidently not true. Both the structural and geotechnical systems often exhibit substantial degradation over a 75 year period. Certainly, geotechnical systems are continually degraded by pore-pressure variations, freeze-thaw effects, erosion, seismic motion, local liquefaction, and so on. Thus, even if the annual reliability index of 3.75 is achieved in the first year after construction, the 75-year reliability index will certainly be lower. The actual 75-year reliability index will be somewhere between 2.5, assuming independence (as assumed in EN 1990), and 3.75, which assumes neither degradation nor fluctuation in loads. Although what the actual lifetime reliability should be needs further research, it seems reasonable to assume a lifetime reliability index between 3.0 and 3.5 would conservatively correspond to an annual reliability index of 3.75. The theoretical calibration exercises described in this and the following section will target a 75-year lifetime reliability index of a typical structure to be approximately 3.5, at least theoretically.

The calibration of the resistance factors appearing in the 2014 edition of the CHBDC includes the following considerations;

- 1) It is, of course, clear that probabilistic theories are only as good as their assumptions and that most of the assumptions in geotechnical engineering are fraught with uncertainties. For example, the SLS design of a foundation frequently does not involve

estimating the foundation settlement at all. Rather, the maximum SLS load on the foundation is often assumed to be 1/3 of the maximum ULS load, which typically results in a very conservative SLS design (see, e.g., pg 254 of French, 1999). Such conservatism should not then be compounded by applying an SLS resistance factor obtained using a best estimate of the actual (non-conservative) foundation settlement.

- 2) The primary value of probabilistic methods is that they provide a rational approach to *com-paring* designs, in terms of relative safety. Thus, any code factor calibration should start with existing code values, since they have been shown over time to be reasonable and societally acceptable, and then adjust the existing values to rationally account for uncertainty and failure consequences.

The resistance factor calibration must therefore start with a review of the factors currently used in Canadian geotechnical design codes, as well as those used in other codes from around the world, along the lines of the comparison presented in the “Comparison to Other Codes” Section. Table 6 illustrates such a review, where the rightmost column provides the total resistance factor estimated for each code using Eq. (12). Table 3 is a subset of Table 6 and Table 6 is a small subset of a much more extensive table that was prepared to compare the load and geotechnical resistance factors between a variety of codes, reports, and manuals from various jurisdictions. The complete table can be found at **[URL to be provided by CGJ]**.

In the calibration process, Table 6, and its more extensive counterpart at the URL given above, is used to suggest the ‘best’ currently acceptable estimates of ‘typical’ resistance factors. These are the factors that have been found to lead to societally acceptable failure probabilities under current design practice.

Table 6. Table of design factors used for geotechnical design as specified in various codes of practice. Only a subset of bearing resistance factors for shallow foundations is shown here.

Source	$R_{D/L}$	α_L	α_D	α_T	ϕ_{Ru}	F_s
NBCC (2010)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	0.5	2.88
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	1.7	1.2	1.33	0.5	2.92
CFEM (1992)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohesion (foundations) 0.5 • Cohesion (stability, earth pressure) 0.65 • Friction 0.8 	2.88 2.22 1.80
AASHTO (2002)	3.7	2.86	1.3	1.65	<p>a. Sand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-empirical procedure using SPT data 0.45 • Semi-empirical procedure using CPT data 0.55 • Rational method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using ϕ_f estimated from SPT data 0.35 - using ϕ_f estimated from CPT data 0.45 <p>b. Clay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-empirical procedure using CPT 0.50 • Rational method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using shear strength measured in lab tests 0.60 - using shear strength measured in field vane tests 0.60 • using shear strength estimated from CPT data 0.50 <p>c. Rock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-empirical procedure (Carter and Kulhawy) 0.60 	4.04 3.30 5.19 4.04 3.63 3.03 3.03 3.63 3.03
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.7	1.75	1.25	1.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical method (Munfakh et al., 2001), in clay 0.50 • Theoretical method (Munfakh et al., 2001), in sand, using CPT 0.50 • Theoretical method (Munfakh et al., 2001), in sand, using SPT 0.45 • Semi-empirical methods (Meyerhof, 1957), all soils 0.45 • Footings on rock 0.45 • Plate Load Test 0.55 	2.97 2.97 3.30 3.30 3.30 2.70

For example, Table 6 suggests that the resistance factor for the bearing capacity of a shallow foundation ranges from about 0.35 to about 0.60, depending on the confidence in the geotechnical performance prediction and also on the values chosen for the load factors, with a typical value of about 0.50. This ‘typical’ value forms the starting point for the ‘typical understanding’ values

appearing in Table 4. The range suggested in Table 6 provides some insight into the range that might be appropriate for the three levels of site and model understanding considered in the 2014 CHBDC.

Once the typical resistance factor values have been established, the next two steps are to look at how the resistance factors should change as a result of changes in the level of site and model understanding, and how the consequence factor should be set to reflect changes in the failure consequence severity. This paper will not attempt to report on all of the research relating to these two steps, but will rather concentrate on the results relating to one particular limit state, namely the bearing capacity of a shallow foundation, which has been a common example used throughout this paper to illustrate the calibration process.

The question of how the resistance factor should be adjusted as the level of site and model understanding changes brings up the question of how the reliability of a geotechnical design can be estimated in the first place, for any given level of site and model understanding. While statistical estimates of reliability rely on multiple realizations of the random outcome (in this case, failure or non-failure of the particular design in question), we usually have only one ‘realization’, which is the as-designed and constructed geotechnical system. If that system fails, it is difficult to say if failure was due to a poor design model or just due to exceptional ‘random’ events. To assess the reliability of a geotechnical design, the use of properly designed Monte Carlo simulations is an essential tool, since it allows the direct estimation of the design performance distribution due to changes in the level of site and model understanding.

The approach used here is essentially to use Monte Carlo simulations, modeling the ground as a spatially varying random field, and carry out a virtual site investigation, design, and construction of the geotechnical system. The geotechnical system is then subjected to random maximum lifetime loads and checked to see if the particular limit state under investigation is exceeded. If so, a failure is recorded and the process is repeated. The failure probability of the design is then estimated as the number of failures divided by the number of trials – if the failure probability is

too high, the design factors are suitably adjusted, and so on. The detailed steps are as follows;

- 1) for a particular geotechnical system (e.g., shallow foundation) and limit state (e.g., bearing capacity), choose a resistance factor to be used in the design,
- 2) simulate a random field of ground properties, having a specified variance and correlation structure,
- 3) *virtually sample* the ground at some location to obtain ‘observations’ of the ground properties. The distance between the sample and the geotechnical system acts as a proxy for site and model understanding – the farther the sample is from the geotechnical system, the more the uncertainty about the system performance (decreased site and model understanding),
- 4) design the geotechnical system using the characteristic geotechnical parameters determined from the sample taken in step 3. The definition of ‘characteristic’ depends on the design code being used. For example, in Europe, the characteristic values might be a lower 5-percentile for local failures, or more generally a cautious estimate of the value affecting the occurrence of the limit state. In North America, a ‘cautious estimate of the mean’ is probably a more common definition, as discussed previously. In most of the calibration exercises undertaken for the CHBDC, the characteristic values were taken as the geometric average of the sampled ‘observations’. The geometric average is always at least slightly lower (more so for higher variability) than the arithmetic average, and so can be viewed as a ‘cautious estimate of the mean’,
- 5) *virtually construct* the geotechnical system according to the design in the previous step and place it on (or in) the random field generated in step 2,
- 6) employ a sophisticated numerical model (e.g., the finite element method) to determine if the geotechnical system exceeds the limit state being designed against (this is a *failure*),
- 7) repeat from step 2 a large number of times, recording the number of failures.
- 8) the probability of failure is then estimated as the number of failures divided by the number of

trials. If this probability is too high, the resistance factor needs to be decreased, if too low, the resistance factor can be increased. After adjusting the resistance factor appropriately, the entire procedure can be repeated from step 1 using the new resistance factor.

This calibration exercise can be demonstrated through an example, which will again be that of a shallow foundation designed against bearing failure (Fenton et al., 2008). The finite element model used is derived from Smith and Griffiths (2004) and is illustrated in Figure 3, where the ground is represented using spatially variable random fields for both c and ϕ . Due to the randomness of the ground, the bearing failure shown is non-symmetric and erratic, passing through the weaker ground to the right of the foundation.

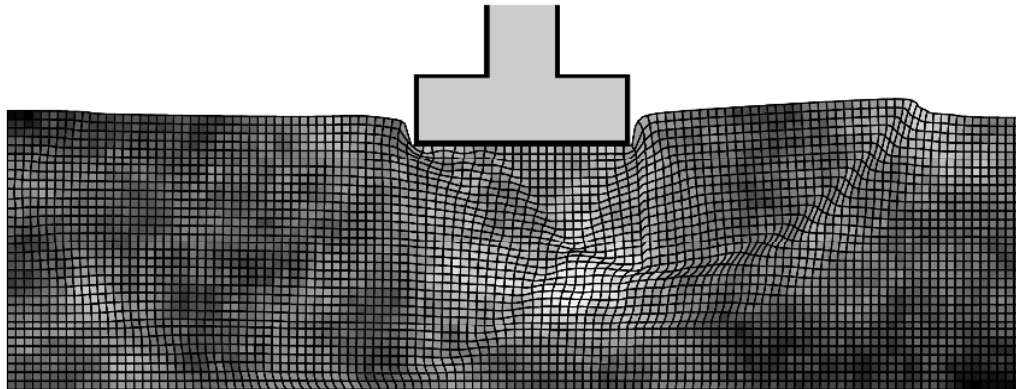


Figure 3. Bearing failure of a shallow foundation on a spatially variable soil.

The reliability of a specific foundation design can be assessed by the random finite element method (RFEM, Fenton and Griffiths, 2008), one realization of which appears in Figure 3. Figure 4 illustrates the idea of sampling the ground at a distance r from the footing centerline – the larger r is, the less well known are the ground properties under the footing. Also, shown in Figure 4 are two local averaging areas, D and Q . The geometric average of the ground properties over D is used to approximate the actual behaviour of the random field in an analytical solution to the probability of bearing failure, and the geometric average over Q is used to provide the characteristic ground parameters used in the footing design (to determine the footing dimension B). Details of the analysis can be found in Fenton et al. (2008).

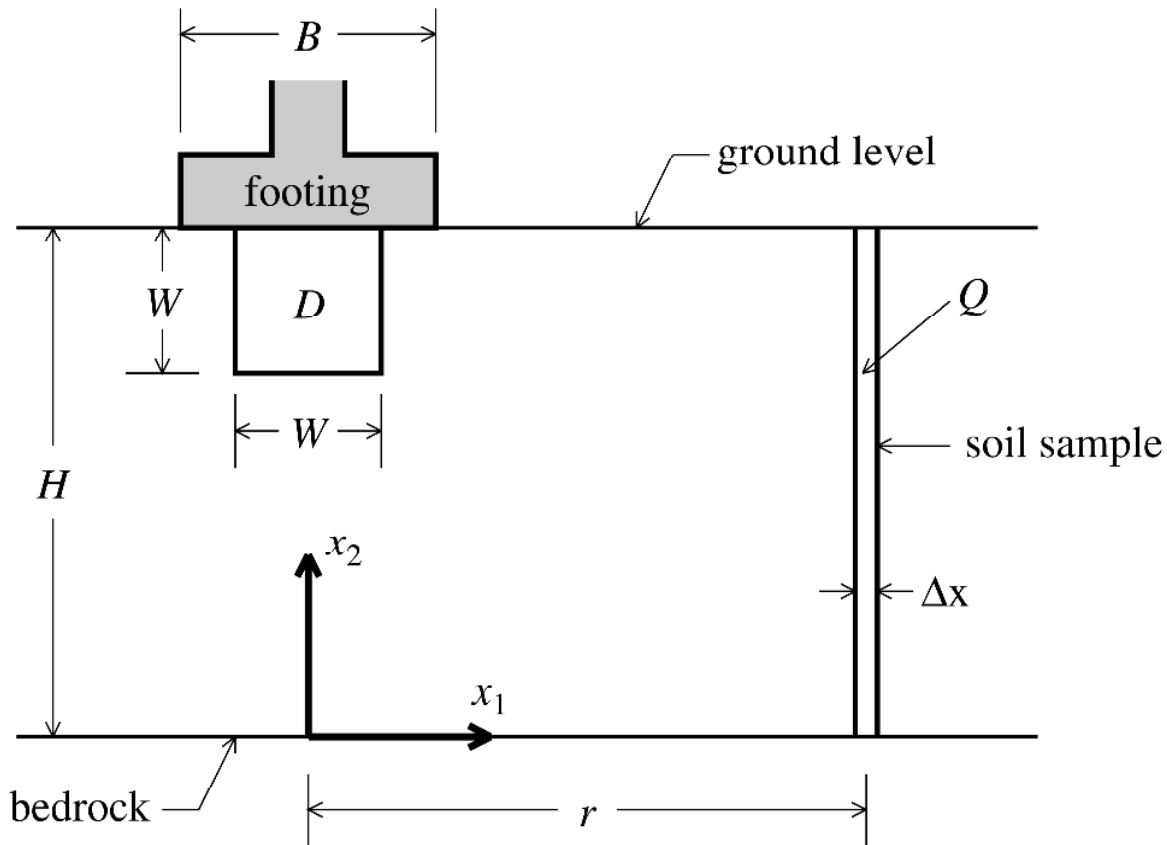


Figure 4. Locations of footing and sample used in the calibration of bearing capacity resistance factors.

Figure 5 presents the theoretically determined resistance factors for the case where the target maximum lifetime failure probability is $p_m = 0.001$, which corresponds to a reliability index of about $\beta = 3.1$. Note that this is somewhat below the target lifetime reliability index of 3.5 (the study did not include $\beta = 3.5$) so that the resistance factors will be slightly higher than those theoretically appropriate for $\beta = 3.5$. However, as mentioned previously, interest is primarily in how the resistance factor changes as the level of site understanding changes, and not on the actual magnitude of the theoretical resistance factors, since these are unlikely to be exactly the same as the currently accepted resistance factors in any case.

The three plots in Figure 5 correspond to the ground being sampled directly under the footing ($r = 0$) in (a), the sample taken at a moderate distance from the footing ($r = 4.5$ m) in (b), and the sample taken at a larger distance from the footing ($r = 9$ m) in (c). As expected, the required

resistance factors decrease as the sampling distance increases.

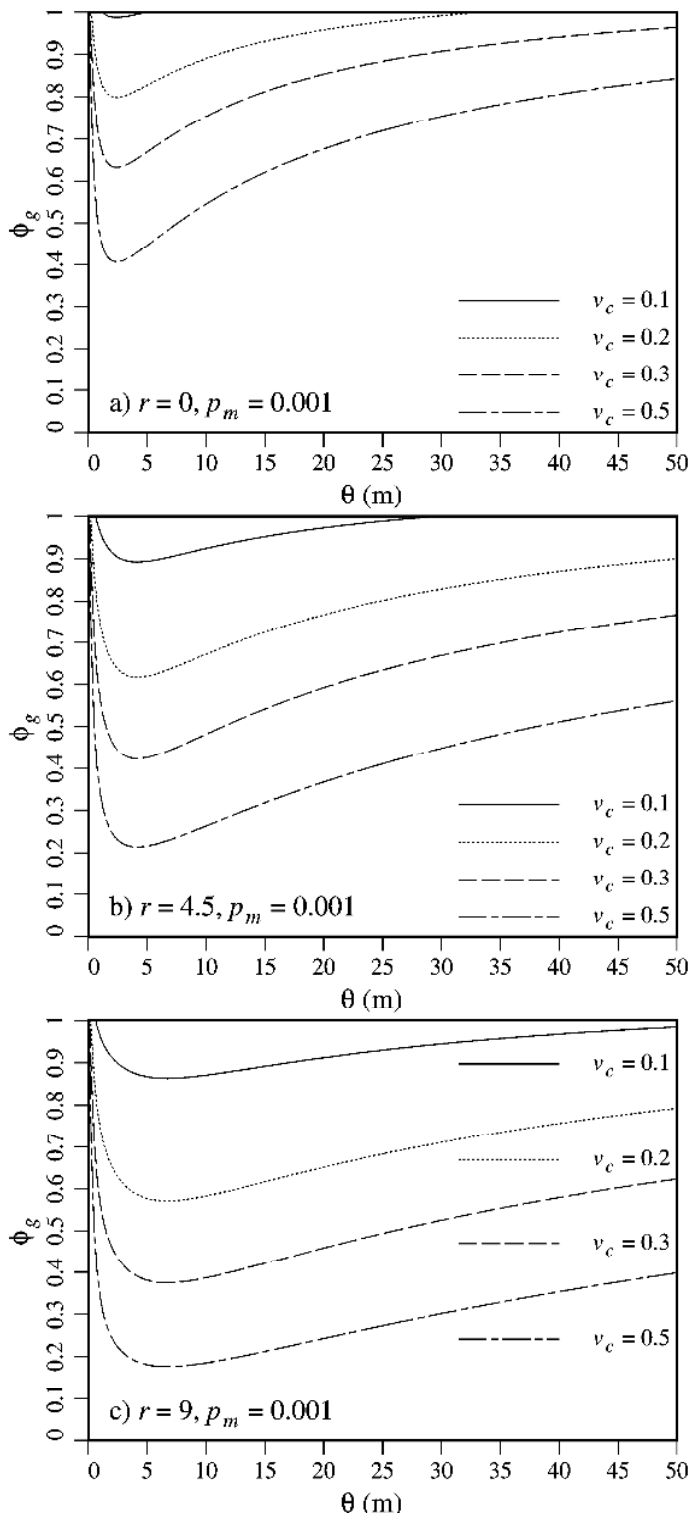


Figure 5. Resistance factors required to achieve acceptable failure probability, $p_m = 1/1000$, when soil is sample under the footing ($r = 0$ m) in (a), at a distance of $r = 4.5$ m in (b), and at a distance of $r = 9$ m in (c).

Figure 5 also illustrates the existence of a ‘worst case’ correlation length, θ . The correlation length governs the rate at which ground properties vary spatially – small correlation lengths lead to rapid variation (but lots of variance reduction when averaging takes place), while large correlation lengths lead to slow variation in the ground properties. At very small correlation lengths, the small variance in the geometric average of the sample means that there will not be much difference between the sample ‘characteristic’ ground properties and the geometric average of the ground properties under the footing (it is assumed here that the uncertainty in the ground is ‘stationary’, i.e., having the same mean and standard deviation everywhere). Similarly, at very large correlation lengths, the ground properties at the sample and under the footing will be very similar. Thus, for both very small and very large correlation lengths, the understanding of conditions under the footing is high, so that the failure probability is low, for any given resistance factor. Conversely, if the target failure probability, p_m , is fixed, then for both very small and very large correlation lengths, the resistance factor will approach 1.0.

It is at intermediate correlation lengths that the failure probability becomes the largest (or the resistance factor becomes the smallest). In other words, it is at intermediate correlation lengths that the failure mechanism follows a path having both minimum length and minimum shear resistance along its length, so that the sum of shear resistances over the failure path is truly minimized. The failure path seen in Figure 3 is the path of overall least resistance for that particular realization of ground properties. The ability to find the path of least resistance in geotechnical failures is one of the most significant advantages of the RFEM.

It is also at intermediate correlation lengths that the ability of the sample to predict the conditions under the footing becomes the worst. As discussed above, when the correlation length is either very small or very large, the ground sample (suitably averaged) is a good estimator of the ground conditions under the footing. However, when the correlation length is approximately equal to the distance between the footing and the sample, the sample is poorest as an estimate of the ground

under the footing (largely independent combined with less variance reduction). These two effects, minimum length and shear resistance along with poorest prediction of ground conditions, leads to the ‘worst case’ resistance factors seen in Figure 5. Note that the existence of a ‘worst case’ correlation length is important in a design context since it allows for the selection of conservative design factors even if the true correlation length is unknown. The correlation length is notoriously difficult to estimate (see, e.g., Fenton and Griffiths, 2008), and very few projects will perform the extensive sampling required. This means that the correlation length will be unknown for the majority of designs.

If the worst case resistance factors for a reasonable coefficient of variation of the ground shear strength $v_c = 0.3$, are examined, it can be seen from Figure 5b that the intermediate ‘understanding’ (assumed to be $r = 4.5$ m) resistance factor is about 0.45. This is only slightly lower than the currently accepted resistance factor for bearing capacity of 0.5 (which is deemed to correspond to the ‘typical’ understanding level). Note that these results suggest that the currently accepted resistance factor ($\phi_{gu} = 0.5$) corresponds to a lifetime reliability index which may be less than 3.1. The actual reliability of current designs is unknown – it has been assumed here that it corresponds to $\beta = 3.5$ ($p_f = 1/5000$) targeted here and that it is the RFEM study that is underestimating the resistance factor magnitude (probably because the ‘worst case’ results are overly conservative). For ‘high’ understanding ($r = 0$ m), Figure 5a suggests a resistance factor of about 0.65 when $v_c = 0.3$. At the other extreme, for ‘low’ understanding ($r = 9$ m), Figure 5c suggests a resistance factor of about 0.4.

Since it is unlikely that the correlation length at an actual site will actually be at the worst case value, it seems reasonable to select a resistance factor which isn’t quite as pessimistic as the ‘worst case’ value suggested by theory. In addition, since the currently accepted ‘typical’ understanding resistance factor is 0.5, an upwards shift of the results suggested by Figure 5 appears to be in order. That is, the calibration results of Figure 5 suggest that the bearing capacity resistance factors should be 0.45, 0.50, and 0.70 for low, typical, and high understanding. However, it was also

felt that perhaps using a resistance factor as high as 0.70 for the ‘high’ understanding case was overly optimistic, especially considering the fact that measurement errors begin to be important when $r = 0$ m, and measurement errors were ignored in this RFEM study. As a result, the ‘high’ understanding resistance factor was lowered to be 0.60 in the 2014 CHBDC. This adjustment was felt to be reasonably conservative.

A similar calibration exercise was carried out for the limit states where associated RFEM studies were available. These are;

- 1) resistance factors for the ULS design of deep foundations (Fenton and Naghibi 2011; Naghibi and Fenton 2011),
- 2) resistance factors for the settlement design of shallow foundations (Fenton et al. 2005a),
- 3) resistance factors for the settlement design of deep foundations (Naghibi et al. 2014),
- 4) effect of site sampling on the failure probability of retaining walls (Fenton et al. 2005b).

The high and low understanding resistance factors for limit states not having an associated RFEM study were obtained through judgment and experience with similar limit state results.

5. Calibration of the Geotechnical Consequence Factor

The basic idea of the consequence factor is to adjust the target maximum lifetime failure probability, p_m , to a value which is appropriate for the failure consequences. For example, if the geotechnical system supports a storage warehouse which is rarely visited, the failure consequences are slight and its failure probability should be higher than that for typically supported structures. If, on the other hand, the geotechnical system supports a hospital or lifeline bridge, then the failure probability should probably be lower than that for typically supported structures. The maximum lifetime failure probabilities targeted in the 2014 CHBDC for geotechnical design are as shown in

Table 7. The target reliability indices reported in EN 1990 (CEN, 2002a) are 4.3, 3.8, and 3.3 for ULS designs at high, typical, and low consequence levels. These targets are somewhat higher than those presented in Table 7, but whether EN 1990 actually achieves those targets is an open question – their global factor of safety seems to be similar to, and perhaps a bit lower, than the 2006 CHBDC (see Table 3).

Table 7. Targeted theoretical maximum lifetime (75-year) failure probabilities, p_m , and equivalent reliability indices, β for ULS (SLS shown parenthesized) in the 2014 CHBDC.

Consequence level	p_m	β
High	1/10000 (1/1000)	3.7 (3.1)
Typical	1/5000 (1/500)	3.5 (2.9)
Low	1/1000 (1/100)	3.1 (2.3)

The calibration of the consequence factor was based on two RFEM studies;

- 1) bearing capacity design of shallow foundations (Fenton et al., 2011)
- 2) SLS and ULS design of deep foundations (Naghibi et al., 2013)

The consequence factor calibration exercise is illustrated using the bearing capacity design study performed by Fenton et al. (2011) which is summarized as follows.

Having established the required resistance factors, attention can focus on the consequence factor. Figure 6 illustrates how the probability of bearing capacity failure changes with the consequence factor for the typical site understanding case ($r = 4.5$ m), correlation length $\theta = 6$ m, using design resistance factor $\phi_{gu} = 0.5$. It can be seen that fairly small changes in the consequence factor, Ψ , can make large differences in the failure probability, p_f . As expected, the soil variability (v_c), also has a very significant effect on p_f . The two horizontal lines in Figure 6 bound the low to high failure consequence acceptable probabilities, $p_m = 1/1000$ to $p_m = 1/10,000$ (see Table 7).

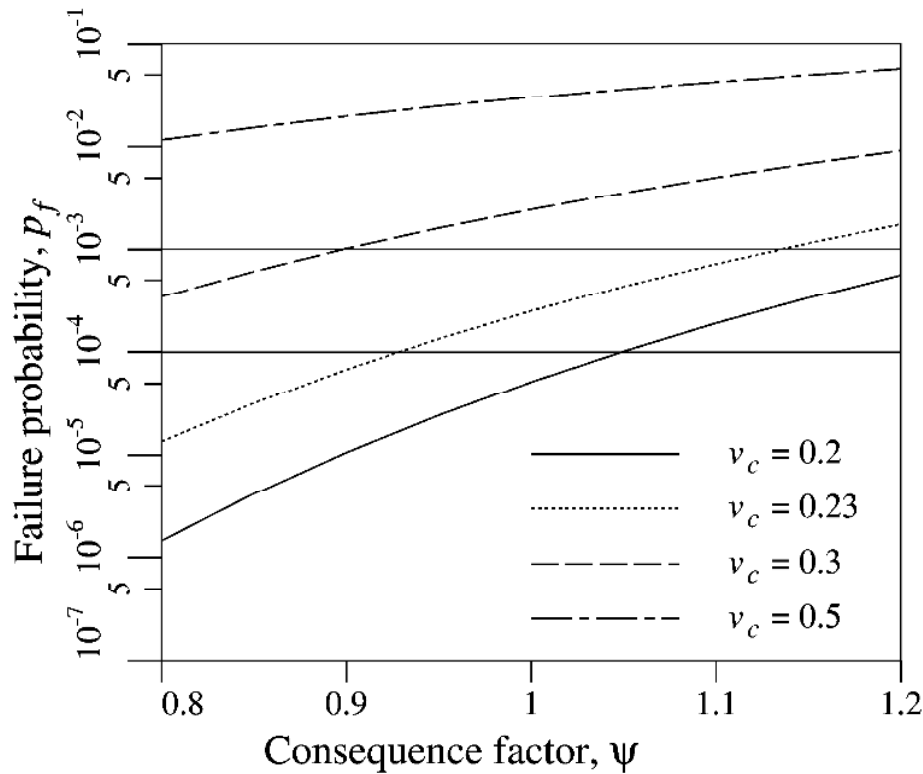


Figure 6. Failure probability versus consequence factor for $\theta = 6$ m, $r = 4.5$ m, and $\phi_{gu} = 0.5$.

To illustrate how Figure 6 works, one additional curve was produced for $\nu_c = 0.23$. When $\Psi = 1.0$ (typical consequence), the $\nu_c = 0.23$ case has failure probability $p_f \approx 2 \times 10^{-4} = 1/5000$, which is the maximum acceptable failure probability for typical consequences ($\beta = 3.5$, see Table 7). To adjust this case to have failure probability $p_f = 1 \times 10^{-4} = 1/10000$ (high consequence), a consequence factor of about $\Psi = 0.93$ should be used – the required Ψ value occurs where the $\nu_c = 0.23$ curve intersects the horizontal $p_m = 1/10,000$ line. The recommended consequence factor for this case has been rounded down to 0.90, as discussed shortly. Similarly, to adjust the $\nu_c = 0.23$ case for a low consequence design ($p_m = 1/1000$), the consequence factor is obtained at the intersection of the $\nu_c = 0.23$ curve and the upper horizontal line. This occurs at about $\Psi = 1.13$ (which will be rounded to $\Psi = 1.15$ shortly).

The consequence factor should ideally depend only on the target maximum acceptable failure

probability, p_m , and not on soil variability, correlation length, nor on sampling location. Variations in the latter three parameters should ideally be entirely handled by the resistance factor, ϕ_{gu} , which looks after the issue of site understanding. For the high consequence level case, Fenton et al. (2011) found that the range in Ψ values (for r ranging from 0 to 9 m, θ ranging from 0 to 50 m, and ν_c ranging from 0.1 to 0.5) is from 0.91 to 0.976, a relative change of only about 7%. When compared to the more than 200% relative change in resistance factors over the same parameter set, it can safely be concluded that the high consequence factor is largely independent of soil/sampling parameters (θ , ν_c , and r) and primarily dependent on p_m . These results were obtained when the resistance factor was selected as a function of p_m , r , θ , and ν_c to yield $p_m = 1/5000$.

For the low consequence level case, Fenton et al. (2011) found the range in Ψ to be from 1.06 to 1.28, a relative change of about 19%. If the $\nu_c = 0.5$ case is ignored, the relative change drops to about 13%. This is a wider range than achieved for the high consequence level, but still a small range when compared to the changes in the resistance factor. Again, it appears reasonable to conclude that the low consequence factor is largely independent of site understanding and primarily dependent on p_m .

When the resistance factor is held fixed with respect to θ and ν_c , the range in the consequence factor is increased considerably. For example, when the resistance factor is fixed at $\phi_{gu} = 0.4$ for low understanding ($r = 9$ m), the consequence factor for the high consequence case varies from 0.38 to 2.47. The equivalent range for the low consequence case is 0.52 to 2.69. More details can be found in Fenton et al. (2011). Figure 7 shows how the consequence factor varies with the correlation length, θ , for $r = 4.5$ m (typical understanding) and $\phi_{gu} = 0.5$.

Considering Figure 7a, the task is to choose a factor for the high consequence case which is sufficiently conservative and yet not excessively so. Reducing the consequence factor results in

more conservative designs (lower failure probability). A solid horizontal line has been drawn across the plot at $\Psi = 0.9$ and it can be seen that this value is conservative for all $v_c \leq 0.25$ (approximately) in that the curves for $v_c = 0.1$ and 0.2 lie entirely above $\Psi = 0.9$. What this means is that if v_c is known to be 0.1 , for example, then using $\Psi = 0.9$ in the design would result in a failure probability well below the target of $p_m = 1/10,000$. On the other hand, if v_c is not clearly known, then $\Psi = 0.9$ is reasonably conservative for all but sites with large soil variability (e.g. $v_c \geq 0.3$). If site investigation is sufficient to keep the residual variability below this level, then $\Psi = 0.9$ is a reasonable design value for the high failure consequence case which will almost always lead to a failure probability well below $p_m = 1/10,000$ ($\beta = 3.7$).

A similar argument can be applied to Figure 7b for the low consequence case, where a solid line at $\Psi = 1.15$ has been drawn across the plot. It can be seen that this value is not quite as conservative as the high consequence factor (selected above) in that the $v_c = 0.2$ curve comes somewhat closer to $\Psi = 1.15$. The authors feel, however, that conservatism is not quite as important for the low failure consequence case, and so selected the somewhat less conservative value of 1.15 .

Research into the consequence values for deep foundation design (Naghibi et al., 2013) yields similar consequence factors for both ULS and SLS design. Thus, it appears that the consequence factors selected for the 2014 CHBDC are reasonably appropriate for any limit state and geotechnical system.

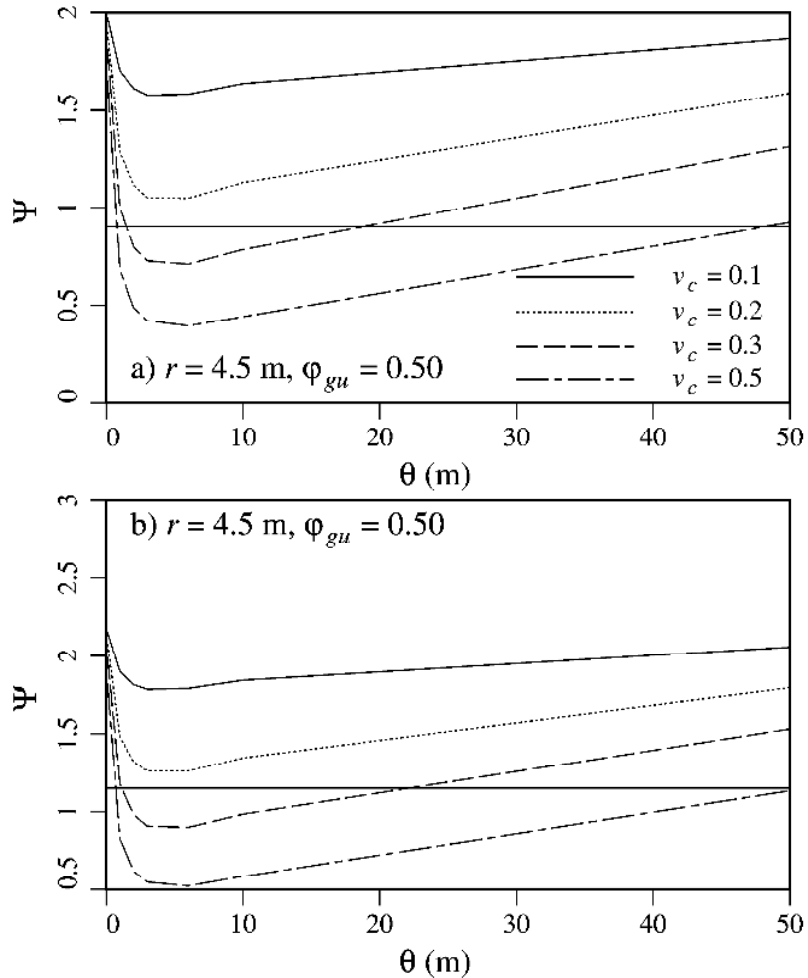


Figure 7. Consequence factor versus correlation length for $r = 4.5$ m and $\phi_{gu} = 0.50$ at high consequence level ($p_m = 1/10,000$) in (a), where $\Psi = 0.9$ is proposed, and at low consequence level ($p_m = 1/1000$) in (b), where $\Psi = 1.15$ is proposed.

6. Conclusions

The evolution of geotechnical design codes, from traditional working stress design (factor of safety) to reliability-based design approaches, has been lagging well behind structural design codes. There is no question that this lag is due to the much larger uncertainty about the ground than exists with most other engineering materials. For example, while a batch of 30 MPa concrete will have pretty much the same distribution in strength properties whether ordered in Halifax or in Denver, the ground properties at sites in these two cities will almost certainly be significantly different – in fact, ground properties may differ significantly from point to point within the same

site.

In general, all sources of uncertainty entering into the LRFD equation (e.g. Eq. 2) are factored to arrive at an acceptably safe design solution. The factors applied are related to the magnitude of the uncertainty in the parameter being factored. For example, the uncertainty associated with steel reinforcing is less than that with concrete and so the steel resistance factor is closer to 1.0 than is the concrete resistance factor. Reduced uncertainty about an engineering material results in an increased resistance factor. The ground is simply another engineering material and the resistance factor associated with the ground should be related to its site specific uncertainty. Since the distribution of the ground strength varies from site to site and even within a site, it makes sense to relate the geotechnical resistance factor to the magnitude of the residual uncertainty, i.e. the uncertainty remaining after site investigation and modeling efforts have been accounted for.

The structural design codes in Canada also recognize the fact that some of the parameters in the LRFD equation are highly variable and so need to be treated with special consideration in the event that the system being designed is of higher or lesser importance, i.e. if the failure consequences are higher or lower than usual. Because earthquake, wind, and snow load are highly variable and have site specific distributions, both the NBCC and the CHBDC apply *importance* factors to these loads. The importance factors increase with increasing system importance. Similarly, ground properties are both highly variable and site specific, and so the application of a factor to account for system importance is appropriate on the resistance side, especially in the event that snow, wind, and seismic loads are not considered for a particular load combination.

With the above thoughts in mind, the 2014 edition of the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code includes several philosophical changes to their geotechnical design provisions. The most important of these are;

- the introduction of three levels of site and model understanding – high, typical, and low – through the ULS and SLS resistance factors. These factors are intended to account for site

and modeling uncertainties and are aimed at producing a design with a target maximum acceptable failure probability for typical geotechnical systems (i.e. systems having typical failure consequence levels). For example, ULS and SLS typical maximum acceptable lifetime failure probabilities are selected to be 1/5,000 and 1/500, respectively, and so the resistance factors are targeted at these values.

- the introduction of three levels of failure consequence – high, typical, and low – through a consequence factor which multiplies the factored resistance. The basic idea of the consequence factor is to allow the target maximum acceptable lifetime failure probability provided by the resistance factor to be adjusted up or down depending on whether the failure consequences are lower or higher than typical.

Research into the determination of the required resistance and consequence factors for the Canadian codes is ongoing. The consequence factor applied to geotechnical resistance is a new idea and work is still needed to determine when it should and should not be applied. For example, the probabilistic effect of applying both the consequence factor to the geotechnical resistance and importance factors to various load combinations simultaneously is currently unknown.

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List of Symbols

The following symbols are used in this paper:

A = footing area

B = footing width

c = cohesion

\hat{c} = characteristic cohesion

D = effective soil property averaging domain centered under footing = $W \times W$

\hat{F}_i = i^{th} characteristic load effect

\hat{F}_{ui} = i^{th} characteristic load effect at ULS

\hat{F}_D = characteristic dead load, kN/m

\hat{F}_L = characteristic live load, kN/m

F_s = Factor of Safety

I_i = structure importance factor corresponding to the i^{th} load effect

k_D = dead load bias factor = μ_D / \hat{F}_D

k_L = extreme lifetime live load bias factor = μ_L / \hat{F}_L

k_R = resistance bias factor = μ_R / \hat{R}_u

\hat{N}_c = characteristic bearing capacity factor

\hat{N}_f = factored characteristic bearing capacity factor

p_f = probability of bearing capacity failure

p_m = maximum acceptable probability of bearing capacity failure

Q = characteristic soil property averaging domain $\Delta x \times H$

r = distance between soil sample and footing center, m

$R_{D/L}$ = ratio of mean dead load to mean extreme lifetime live load

\hat{R} = characteristic geotechnical resistance based on characteristic soil properties

\hat{R}_u = characteristic ultimate geotechnical resistance based on characteristic soil properties at ULS

v_c = coefficient of variation of cohesion

v_D = coefficient of variation of dead load

v_L = coefficient of variation of maximum lifetime live load

v_R = coefficient of variation of resistance

W = side dimension of effective averaging domain D

z_ε = standard normal point with exceedance probability ε

α_T = total load factor

α_i = load factor corresponding to the i^{th} load effect

α_{ui} = load factor corresponding to the i^{th} load effect at ULS

α_L = live load factor

α_D = dead load factor

β = reliability index

β_{ann} = annual reliability index

η_i = load combination factor corresponding to the i^{th} load effect

ϕ = friction angle

$\hat{\phi}$ = characteristic friction angle

φ_c = partial safety factor applied to the cohesion component of shear strength; also resistance factor for concrete

φ_s = resistance factor for steel

φ_g = geotechnical resistance factor

φ_{gu} = ultimate geotechnical resistance factor

φ_{gs} = serviceability geotechnical resistance factor

φ_ϕ = partial safety factor applied to $\tan(\phi)$

μ_D = mean dead load, kN

μ_F = mean total load

μ_L = mean maximum lifetime live load, kN

μ_R = mean resistance, kN

ε = exceedance probability

θ = correlation length of a random field

Ψ = consequence factor

Φ = standard normal cumulative distribution function

ω_L = ratio of z_ε to reliability index, β

Figure Captions:

Figure 1. Three geotechnical systems having resistance R under load F can have precisely the same mean factor of safety and yet very different failure probabilities, $P[F > R]$.

Figure 2. Floating partial safety factor, relative to the default, applied to geotechnical resistance (numbers are for illustration only).

Figure 3. Bearing failure of a shallow foundation on a spatially variable soil.

Figure 4. Locations of footing and sample used in the calibration of bearing capacity resistance factors.

Figure 5. Resistance factors required to achieve acceptable failure probability, α , when soil is sample under the footing ($r = 0$ m) in (a), at a distance of $r = 4.5$ m in (b), and at a distance of $r = 9$ m in (c).

Figure 6. Failure probability versus consequence factor for $\theta = 6$ m, $r = 4.5$ m, and $\phi_{gu} = 0.5$.

Figure 7. Consequence factor versus correlation length for $r = 4.5$ m and $\phi_{gu} = 0.5$ at high consequence level ($p_m = 1/10,000$) in (a), where $\Psi = 0.9$ is proposed, and at low consequence level ($p_m = 1/1000$) in (b), where $\Psi = 1.15$ is proposed.

Table 6: Table of design factors used for geotechnical design as specified in various codes of practice to calculate Global factor of safety using

$$F_s = \left(\frac{k_R}{\phi_{gu}} \right) \left(\frac{\alpha_L}{k_L} + \frac{\alpha_D R_{D/L}}{k_D} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 + R_{D/L}} \right)$$

where k_R is the resistance bias factor, ϕ_{gu} is a geotechnical resistance factor, α_L and α_D are the live and dead load factors, k_L and k_D are the live and dead bias factors, and $R_{D/L}$ is the dead to live load ratio. The Global Factor of Safety is calculated using the following values:

Source	$R_{D/L}$	k_L	k_D	k_R
NBCC (2010)	3.0	0.9	1.05	1.1
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	0.9	1.05	1.1
CFEM (1992)	3.0	0.9	1.05	1.1
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	0.9	1.05	1.1
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	0.95	1.05	1.1
Eurocode DA 2	3.0	0.7	1.05	1.33
Denmark	3.0	0.7	1.05	1.33
AS 5100.2 Load factors AS 5100.3 Resistance factor (2004)	3.0	0.7	1.05	1.33

Shallow Foundations

1. Bearing Resistance

Source	$R_{D/L}$	α_L	α_D	α_T	ϕ_{gu}	F_s
NBCC (2010)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	0.5	2.88
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	1.7	1.2	1.33	0.5	2.92
CFEM (1992)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	1. Cohesion (foundations) 0.5 2. Cohesion (stability, earth pressure) 0.65	2.88 2.22
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	2.86	1.3	1.72	1. Sand a. Semi-empirical procedure using SPT data 0.45 b. Semi-empirical procedure using CPT data 0.55 c. Rational method - using ϕ_r estimated from SPT	4.21 3.45

					<p>data 0.35</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using ϕ_r estimated from CPT data 0.45 <p>5.42</p> <p>4.21</p> <p>2. Clay</p> <p>a. Semi-empirical procedure using CPT 0.50</p> <p>3.79</p> <p>b. Rational method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using shear strength measured in lab tests 0.60 - using shear strength measured in field vane tests 0.60 <p>3.16</p> <p>3.16</p> <p>c. using shear strength estimated from CPT data 0.50</p> <p>3.79</p> <p>3. Rock</p> <p>Semi-empirical procedure (Carter and Kulhawy) 0.60</p> <p>3.16</p>	
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	<p>1. Theoretical method (Munfakh et al., 2001), in clay 0.50</p> <p>2.98</p> <p>2. Theoretical method (Munfakh et al., 2001), in sand, using CPT 0.50</p> <p>2.98</p> <p>3. Theoretical method (Munfakh et al., 2001), in sand, using SPT 0.45</p> <p>3.31</p> <p>4. Semi-empirical methods (Meyerhof, 1957), all soils 0.45</p> <p>3.31</p> <p>5. Footings on rock 0.45</p> <p>3.31</p> <p>6. Plate Load Test 0.55</p> <p>2.71</p>	
Eurocode DA 2 A1 (load factors) + M1 (material factor = 1.0) + R2 (resistance factor)	3.0	1.5	1.35	1.50	1.0/1.4 = 0.71	2.81
Denmark	3.0	1.3	1.0	1.18	<p>1. Cohesion for bearing capacity of footings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal 1.0/1.8 = 0.56 • High 1.0/2.0 = 0.5 <p>2.80</p> <p>3.14</p> <p>2. Cohesion for stability and earth pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal 1.0/1.5 = 0.67 • High 1.0/1.65 = 0.61 <p>2.34</p> <p>2.57</p>	

AS 5100.2 Load factors AS5100.3 Resistance factor (2004)	3.0	6.10 Load factors [I could not find anywhere that the provisions of 6.10 are defined to be live loads, but they clearly are.] gamma_LL= load factor for live load = 1.5 for heavy load platform load = 1.6 for design railway traffic loads = 2.0 for service live loads (eg on service platforms) = 1.8 for all other bridge loads[DEFAULT]	The following load factors are defined in this Code (parenthesize values are to be used where the load increases safety): 5.2 Dead load of structure gamma_g = dead load factor = 1.1 (0.9) for steel construction = 1.2 (0.85) for concrete construction[DEFAULT] [IGNORE] 5.3 Superimposed dead load gamma_gs= load factor for superimposed dead load (eg surfacing material) = 2.0 (0.7) for permanent superimposed dead loads = 2.0 (0.0) for removable superimposed dead loads = 1.4 (0.8) for permanent controlled loads = 1.4 (0.0) for removable controlled loads	1.50	1. Analysis using geotechnical parameters based on appropriate advanced in situ tests 0.50-0.65 2. Analysis using geotechnical parameters from appropriate advanced laboratory tests 0.45-0.60 3. Analysis using CPT tests 0.40-0.50 4. Analysis using SPT tests 0.35-0.40	3.07-3.99 3.33-4.43 3.99-4.99 4.99-5.70
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2. Passive Resistance

Source	$R_{D/L}$	α_L	α_D	α_T	ϕ_{gu}	F_s
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	1.7	1.2	1.33	0.5	2.92
CFEM (1992)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	0.5	2.88
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	0.5	2.98
Eurocode DA 2 A1 (load factors) + M1 (material factor = 1.0) + R2 (resistance factor)	3.0	1.5	1.35	1.50	1.0/1.4 = 0.71	2.81
AS 5100.2 Load factors AS5100.3 Resistance factor (2004)	3.0	6.10 Load factors [I could not find anywhere that the provisions of 6.10 are defined to be live loads, but they clearly are.] gamma_LL= load factor for live load = 1.5 for heavy load platform load = 1.6 for design railway traffic loads = 2.0 for service live loads (eg on service platforms) https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cgj-pubs	The following load factors are defined in this Code (parenthesize values are to be used where the load increases safety): 5.2 Dead load of structure gamma_g = dead load factor = 1.1 (0.9) for steel construction = 1.2 (0.85) for concrete construction[DEFAULT] [IGNORE] 5.3 Superimposed dead load gamma_gs= load factor for superimposed dead load (eg surfacing material)	1.50	1. Analysis using geotechnical parameters based on appropriate advanced in situ tests 0.50-0.65 2. Analysis using geotechnical parameters from appropriate advanced laboratory tests 0.45-0.60 3. Analysis using CPT tests 0.40-0.50	3.07-3.99 3.33-4.43 3.99-4.99

		= 1.8 for all other bridge loads[DEFAULT]	= 2.0 (0.7) for permanent superimposed dead loads = 2.0 (0.0) for removable superimposed dead loads = 1.4 (0.8) for permanent controlled loads = 1.4 (0.0) for removable controlled loads		4. Analysis using SPT tests 0.35-0.40	4.99-5.70
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3. Horizontal Resistance (Sliding)

Source	R _{D/L}	α _L	α _D	α _T	φ _{gu}	F _s
NBCC (2005)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	based on cohesion/adhesion(tan theta = 0)	0.6 2.40
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	1.7	1.2	1.33		0.8 1.83
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	2.85	1.3	1.72	1. Precast concrete placed on sand a. using φ _r estimated from SPT data 0.90 b. using φ _r estimated from CPT data 0.90 2. Concrete cast in place on sand a. using φ _r estimated from SPT data 0.80 b. using φ _r estimated from CPT data 0.80 3. Clay (where shear strength is less than 0.5 times normal pressure) a. using shear strength measured in lab tests 0.85 b. using shear strength measured in field tests 0.85 c. using shear strength estimated from CPT data 0.80 4. Clay (where the strength is greater than 0.5 times normal pressure) 0.85	2.10 2.10 2.37 2.37 2.23 2.23 2.37 2.23
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	1. Precast concrete placed on sand 0.90 2. Cast-in-Place Concrete on sand 0.80 3. Cast-in-Place or precast Concrete on Clay 0.85 4. Soil on soil 0.90 5. Passive earth pressure component of sliding resistance 0.50	1.65 1.86 1.75 1.65 2.98
Eurocode DA 2 A1 (load factors) + M1 (material factor = 1.0) + R2 (resistance factor)	3.0	1.5	1.35	1.50	1.0/1.1=0.91	2.19

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AS 5100.2 Load factors AS5100.3 Resistance factor (2004)	3.0	6.10 Load factors [I could not find anywhere that the provisions of 6.10 are defined to be live loads, but they clearly are.] gamma_LL= load factor for live load = 1.5 for heavy load platform load = 1.6 for design railway traffic loads = 2.0 for service live loads (eg on service platforms) = 1.8 for all other bridge loads[DEFAULT]	The following load factors are defined in this Code (parenthesize values are to be used where the load increases safety): 5.2 Dead load of structure gamma_g = dead load factor = 1.1 (0.9) for steel construction = 1.2 (0.85) for concrete construction[DEFAULT] [IGNORE] 5.3 Superimposed dead load gamma_gs= load factor for superimposed dead load (eg surfacing material) = 2.0 (0.7) for permanent superimposed dead loads = 2.0 (0.0) for removable superimposed dead loads = 1.4 (0.8) for permanent controlled loads = 1.4 (0.0) for removable controlled loads	1.50	1. Analysis using geotechnical parameters based on appropriate advanced in situ tests 0.50-0.65 2. Analysis using geotechnical parameters from appropriate advanced laboratory tests 0.45-0.60 3. Analysis using CPT tests 0.40-0.50 4. Analysis using SPT tests 0.35-0.40	3.07-3.99 3.33-4.43 3.99-4.99 4.99-5.70
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Deep Foundations (Axially Loaded Piles and Drilled Shafts)

1. Resistance to axial load

Source	$R_{D/L}$	α_L	α_D	α_T	ϕ_{gu}	F_s
NBCC (2005)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	1. semi-empirical analysis using laboratory and in-situ test data 0.4 2. analysis using static loading test results 0.6 3. analysis using dynamic monitoring results 0.5	3.60 2.40 2.88
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	1.7	1.2	1.33	1. Static Analysis a. Compression 0.4 b. Tension 0.3 2. Static Test a. Compression 0.6 b. Tension 0.4 3. Dynamic Analysis Compression 0.4 4. Dynamic Test Compression (field measurement and analysis) 0.5	3.60 4.80 2.40 3.60 3.60 2.88
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	2.85	1.3	1.72	Piles 1. Skin Friction a. Alpha-method 0.7 b. Beta-method 0.5	2.70 3.78

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Lambda-method 0.55 3.44 2. End bearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clay (Skempton, 1951) 0.70 2.70 b. Sand (Kulhawy, 1983) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Phi-f from CPT 0.45 4.21 ii. Phi-f from SPT 0.35 5.41 c. Rock (Canadian Geotech. Society 1985) 0.5 3.78 3. Skin Friction and end bearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SPT-method 0.45 4.21 b. CPT-method 0.55 3.44 c. Load test 0.80 2.37 d. Pile driving analyzer 0.70 2.70 Single drilled shafts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Side resistance in clay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alpha-method (Reese & O'Neill) 0.65 2.91 2. Base resistance in clay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total Stress (Reese & O'Neill) 0.55 3.44 3. Side resistance in sand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Touma & Reese b. Meyerhof c. Quiros & Reese d. Reese & Wright e. Reese & O'Neill 4. Base resistance in sand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Touma & Reese b. Meyerhof c. Quiros & Reese d. Reese & Wright e. Reese & O'Neill 5. Side resistance in rock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Carter & Kulhawy 0.55 3.44 b. Horvah and Kenney 0.65 2.91 6. Base resistance in rock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Canadian Geotechnical Society 0.50 3.78 b. Pressuremeter Method(Canadian Geotechnical Society) 0.50 3.78 7. Side resistance and end bearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Load test 0.80 2.37
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominal Resistance of Single Pile in Axial Compression – Dynamic Analysis and Static Load Test Method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Driving criteria established by static load test(s); quality control by dynamic testing and/or calibrated

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				<p>wave equation, or minimum driving resistance combined with minimum delivered hammer energy from the load test(s). For the last case, the hammer used for the test pile(s) shall be used for the production piles. (See Table 10.5.5.2.3-2) 0.55-0.90</p> <p>b. Driving criteria established by dynamic test with signal matching at beginning of redrive conditions only of at least one production pile per pier, but no less than the number of tests per site provided in Table 3 Quality control of remaining piles by calibrated wave equation and/or dynamic testing 0.65</p> <p>c. Wave equation analysis, without pile dynamic measurements or load test, at end of drive conditions only 0.40</p> <p>d. FHWA-modified Gates dynamic pile formula (End of Drive condition only) 0.40</p> <p>e. Engineering News Record dynamic pile formula(End of Drive condition only) 0.10</p> <p>2. Nominal Resistance of Single Pile in Axial Compression – Static Analysis Methods</p> <p>a. Skin Friction and End Bearing: Clay and Mixed Soils</p> <p>i. Alpha-method (Tomlinson, 1987; Skempton, 1951) 0.35</p> <p>ii. Beta-method (Esrig & Kriby, 1979; Skempton, 1951) 0.25</p> <p>iii. Lambda-method (Vijayvergiya & Focht, 1972; Skempton, 1951) 0.40</p> <p>b. Skin Friction and End Bearing: Sand</p> <p>i. Nordlund/Thurman Method (Hanningan et al., 2005) 0.45</p> <p>ii. SPT-method (Myerhof) 0.30</p> <p>iii. CPT-method (Schmertmann) 0.5</p> <p>iv. End bearing in rock (Canadian Geotech Society 1985) 0.45</p>	<p>1.65-2.71</p> <p>2.29</p> <p>3.72</p> <p>3.72</p> <p>14.89</p> <p></p> <p>4.25</p> <p>5.95</p> <p>3.72</p> <p>3.31</p> <p>4.96</p> <p>2.98</p> <p>3.31</p>
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					Single-Drilled Shafts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Side resistance in clay <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Alpha-method 0.45 3.31 b. Tip resistance in Clay <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Total Stress 0.40 3.72 c. Side resistance in sand <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Beta-method 0.55 2.71 d. Tip resistance in sand <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. O'Neill and Reese 1999 0.50 2.98 e. Side resistance in IGMs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. O'Neill and Reese 1999 0.60 2.48 f. Tip resistance in IGMs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. O'Neill and Reese 1999 0.55 2.71 g. Side resistance in rock <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Horvath and Kenney 1979, O'Neill and Reese 1999 0.55 2.71 h. Side resistance in rock <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Carter and Kulhawy 1988 0.50 2.98 i. Tip resistance in rock <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Canadian Geotechnical Society 1985, Pressuremeter method, O'Neill and Reese 1999 0.5 2.98
Eurocode DA 2 A1 (load factors) + M1 (material factor = 1.0) + R2 (resistance factor)	3.0	1.5	1.35	1.50	Driven Piles Base, Shaft(compression), and Total/combined(compression) 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91 Bored Piles <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Base 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91 2. Shaft(compression) 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91 3. Total/combined(compression) 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91 Continuous flight auger piles <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Base 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91 2. Shaft(compression) 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91 3. Total/combined(compression) 1.0/1.1=0.91 2.91
Denmark	3.0	1.3	1.0	1.18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Without test loading <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Normal 1.0/2.0=0.5 3.14 b. High 1.0/2.2 = 0.46 3.41 2. With test loading <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Normal 1.0/1.6=0.63 2.49 b. High 1.0/1.75=0.57 2.75 3. For piles and anchors actually subjected to test loading

					a. Normal 1.0/1.4=0.71 b. High 1.0/1.55=0.65	2.21 2.41
AS 5100.2 Load factors AS5100.3 Resistance factor (2004)	3.0	6.10 Load factors [I could not find anywhere that the provisions of 6.10 are defined to be live loads, but they clearly are.] gamma_LL= load factor for live load = 1.5 for heavy load platform load = 1.6 for design railway traffic loads = 2.0 for service live loads (eg on service platforms) = 1.8 for all other bridge loads[DEFAULT]	The following load factors are defined in this Code (parenthesize values are to be used where the load increases safety): 5.2 Dead load of structure gamma_g = dead load factor = 1.1 (0.9) for steel construction = 1.2 (0.85) for concrete construction[DEFAULT] [IGNORE] 5.3 Superimposed dead load gamma_gs= load factor for superimposed dead load (eg surfacing material) = 2.0 (0.7) for permanent superimposed dead loads = 2.0 (0.0) for removable superimposed dead loads = 1.4 (0.8) for permanent controlled loads = 1.4 (0.0) for removable controlled loads	1.50	1. static load testing to failure 0.70-0.90 2. static proof load testing 0.70-0.90 3. dynamic load testing supported by signal matching 0.65-0.85 4. dynamic load testing not supported by signal matching 0.50-0.70 5. static analysis using CPT data 0.45-0.65 6. static analysis using SPT data in cohesionless soils 0.40-0.55 7. static analysis using laboratory data in cohesionless soils 0.45-0.55 8. dynamic analysis using wave equation method 0.45-0.55 9. dynamic analysis using driving equation for piles in rock 0.50-0.65 10. dynamic analysis using driving equation for piles in sand 0.45-0.55 11. measurement during installation of proprietary displacement piles, using well-established in-house equation. 0.50-0.65	2.22-2.85 2.22-2.85 2.35-3.07 2.85-3.99 3.07-4.43 3.63-4.99 3.63-4.43 3.63-4.43 3.07-3.99 3.63-4.43 3.07-3.99

2. Horizontal load resistance

Source	R _{D/L}	α _L	α _D	α _T	Φ _{gu}	F _s
NBCC (2005)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	0.5	2.88
CHBDC (2006)	3.0	1.7	1.2	1.33	0.5	2.92
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	Piles - All soils and rock 1.0 Shafts - All materials 1.0	1.49 1.49

3. Block Failure (Group Resistance to axial load)

Source	R _{D/L}	α _L	α _D	α _T	Φ _{gu}	F _s
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	2.85	1.3	1.72	Piles - Clay 0.65 Shafts - Clay 0.65	2.91 2.91
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	Piles - Clay 0.60 Shafts - Clay 0.55	2.48 2.71

4. Uplift capacity

Source	$R_{D/L}$	α_L	α_D	α_T	ϕ_{gu}	F_s
NBCC (2005)	3.0	1.5	1.25	1.31	1. uplift resistance by semi-empirical analysis 0.3 2. uplift resistance using loading test results 0.4	4.80 3.60
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	2.85	1.3	1.72	Piles and Shafts 1. Alpha-method 0.60 2. Beta-method 0.40 3. Lambda-method 0.45 4. SPT-method 0.35 5. CPT-method 0.45 6. Load Test 0.80	3.15 4.73 4.21 5.41 4.21 2.37
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	Piles 1. Nordlund Method 0.35 2. Alpha-method 0.25 3. Beta-method 0.20 4. Lambda-method 0.30 5. SPT-method 0.25 6. CPT-method 0.40 7. Load test 0.60 Shafts 1. Clay - Alpha-method 0.35 2. Sand - Beta-method 0.45 3. Rock - Horvath and Kenney 1979, Carter and Kulhawy 1988 0.40	4.25 5.95 7.44 4.96 5.95 3.72 2.48 4.25 3.31 3.72
Eurocode DA 2 A1 (load factors) + M1 (material factor = 1.0) + R2 (resistance factor)	3.0	1.5	1.35	1.50	Driven Piles, Bored Piles, and Continuous flight auger piles 1.0/1.15 = 0.87	2.29

5. Group uplift capacity

Source	$R_{D/L}$	α_L	α_D	α_T	ϕ_{gu}	F_s
AASHTO (2002)	3.0	2.85	1.3	1.72	Piles - Sand and Clay 0.55 Shafts - Sand and clay 0.50	3.44 3.78
AASHTO (2007 and 2012)	3.0	1.75	1.25	1.35	Piles - Sand and Clay 0.50 Shafts - Sand and Clay 0.45	2.98 3.31