

**Tubular Design Guide 25:
Fully welded—Simple planar connections**

by

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and

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**Tubular Design Guide 25:
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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
List of Figures	iv		
List of Tables	v		
Preface	vi		
About the Authors	vii		
Acknowledgements	viii		
1 CONCEPT OF DESIGN GUIDES	1-1		
1.1 Background	1-1		
1.2 Included connections	1-2		
2 TECHNICAL BASIS	2-1		
2.1 Technical background	2-1		
2.1.1 Technical basis	2-1		
2.1.2 Validity limits	2-1		
2.1.3 Design capacity factors	2-4		
2.2 Properties of connection elements	2-5		
2.2.1 General	2-5		
2.2.2 Component material yield stress	2-5		
2.2.3 SSHS material properties	2-6		
2.2.4 Design yield stress for Australian produced SSHS	2-7		
2.2.5 Design capacity of welds	2-7		
2.2.6 Design capacity of bolts	2-8		
2.3 References for Sections 1 and 2	2-9		
3 MITRED KNEE	3-1		
3.1 Description of connection	3-1		
3.2 Typical detailing of connection	3-2		
3.3 Detailing considerations	3-3		
3.4 Background information	3-4		
3.4.1 Recent research	3-4		
3.4.2 Relevant international codes and specifications	3-5		
3.5 Compliance with AS 4100 requirements	3-6		
3.6 Basis of design model	3-7		
3.7 Calculation of design actions	3-8		
3.8 Recommended design model—Connection notation	3-9		
3.9 Recommended design model—Limits of validity	3-10		
3.10 Recommended design model—Summary of design checks	3-12		
3.11 Recommended design model—General	3-13		
3.11.1 DESIGN CHECK NO. 1—Detailing requirements	3-13		
3.11.2 DESIGN CHECK NO. 2—Validity limits and minimum design actions	3-14		
3.11.3 DESIGN CHECK NO. 3—Design capacity for combined moment and axial load	3-15		
3.11.4 DESIGN CHECK NO. 4—Design capacity for shear	3-18		
3.11.5 DESIGN CHECK NO. 5—Design capacity of welds to SSHS member	3-20		
3.12 Design example	3-24		
3.13 Design capacity tables	3-28		
3.14 References	3-39		
4 T, Y AND X CONNECTIONS	4-1		
4.1 Description of connection	4-1		
4.2 Typical detailing of connection	4-2		
4.3 Detailing considerations	4-3		
4.4 Background information	4-4		
4.4.1 Recent research	4-4		
4.4.2 Relevant international codes and specifications	4-5		
4.5 Compliance with AS 4100 requirements	4-7		
4.6 Basis of design model	4-8		
4.7 Calculation of design actions	4-10		
4.8 Recommended design model—Connection notation	4-11		
4.9 Recommended design model—Limits of validity	4-12		
4.10 Recommended design model—Summary of design checks	4-14		
4.11 Recommended design model—General	4-15		
4.11.1 DESIGN CHECK NO. 1—Detailing requirements	4-15		
4.11.2 DESIGN CHECK NO. 2—Validity limits and minimum design actions	4-16		
4.11.3 DESIGN CHECK NO. 3—Design capacity due to chord face plastification	4-17		
4.11.4 DESIGN CHECK NO. 4—Design capacity due to chord side wall failure	4-19		
4.11.5 DESIGN CHECK NO. 5—Design capacity due to chord punching shear	4-22		
4.11.6 DESIGN CHECK NO. 6—Design capacity due to local yielding of brace member	4-24		
4.11.7 DESIGN CHECK NO. 7—Design capacity of weld to SSHS member	4-26		
4.11.8 DESIGN CHECK NO. 8—Design capacity due to chord shear	4-28		
4.11.9 DESIGN CHECK NO. 9—Design capacity due to chord face plastification	4-29		



	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
4.11.10 DESIGN CHECK NO. 10— Design capacity due to chord side wall failure	4-31	4.11.14 DESIGN CHECK NO. 14— Combined axial load and moment interaction	4-40
4.11.11 DESIGN CHECK NO. 11— Design capacity due to chord punching shear	4-34	4.12 Design example	4-41
4.11.12 DESIGN CHECK NO. 12— Design capacity due to local yielding of brace member	4-35	4.13 Design capacity tables	4-47
4.11.13 DESIGN CHECK NO. 13— Design capacity of weld to SSHS member	4-37	4.14 References	4-55
		5 NOTATION AND ABBREVIATIONS	5-1
		APPENDICES	
		A—Limcon design example output	6-1
		B—ASI Design Guide 25 Comment form	7-1

LIST OF FIGURES

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Figure 1.1 Connections included in this Design Guide	1-2	Figure 3.6 Force resolution for weld design of mitred knee	3-22
Figure 2.1 Definition of element width for RHS flanges	2-3	Figure 3.7 Definition of weld dimensions for CHS member	3-23
Figure 3.1 Typical fully welded mitred knee connection configurations	3-1	Figure 3.8 Design example configuration	3-24
Figure 3.2 Typical detailing of fully welded mitred knee connection	3-2	Figure 4.1 Typical T, Y and X connection configurations	4-1
Figure 3.3 Design action effects— Mitred knee connection	3-8	Figure 4.2 Typical detailing of T and Y connections	4-2
Figure 3.4 Notation for welded mitred knee design model	3-9	Figure 4.3 Design actions at the connection	4-10
Figure 3.5 For RHS subject to major and minor axis bending in 90 ⁰ unstiffened mitred knee connections	3-17	Figure 4.4 Notation for Y, T and X Connections	4-11
		Figure 4.5 Definition of weld dimensions for CHS member	4-39
		Figure 4.6 Design example configuration	4-41



LIST OF TABLES

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Table 2.1 Rationalised validity limits for SSHS plate fitments	2-2	Table 3.13.2 Moment capacity of mitred knee connection CHS – Grade 350	3-30
Table 2.2 Section slenderness limits to AS 4100 and Eurocode 3	2-3	Table 3.13.3 Moment capacity of mitred knee connection SHS – Grade 350	3-31
Table 2.3 Section slenderness limits to Eurocode 3 for design grades (f_y) 250, 350 and 450 MPa	2-4	Table 3.13.4 Moment capacity of mitred knee connection SHS – Grade 450	3-33
Table 2.4 Minimum plate material properties to AS/NZS 3678	2-5	Table 3.13.5 Moment capacity of mitred knee connection RHS – Grade 350	3-35
Table 2.5 Strength of flat bars to AS/NZS 3679.1 Grade 300	2-6	Table 3.13.6 Moment capacity of mitred knee connection RHS – Grade 450	3-37
Table 2.6 Minimum SSHS material properties to AS/NZS 1163	2-6	Table 4.1 Rationalised validity limits for T, Y and X connections	4-12
Table 2.7 Design yield stress for SSHS related failure modes for SSHS to AS/NZS 1163	2-7	Table 4.2 Maximum d_i/t_i ratios for CHS in compression	4-13
Table 2.8 Strength limit state design capacities of equal leg fillet welds per unit length Category SP, $\phi = 0.8$, $k_r = 1.0$, material thickness ≥ 3 mm	2-8	Table 4.13.1 Design capacity of T connection CHS – Grade 250	4-47
Table 2.9 Strength limit state high strength structural bolts 8.8/S, 8.8/TB, 8.8/TF bolting categories ($f_{ur} = 830$ MPa)	2-8	Table 4.13.2 (Part 1 of 2) Design capacity of T connection CHS – Grade 350	4-48
Table 3.1 Rationalised validity limits for welded mitred knee connection	3-10	Table 4.13.2 (Part 2 of 2) Design capacity of T connection CHS – Grade 350	4-49
Table 3.13.1 Moment capacity of mitred knee connection CHS – Grade 250	3-29	Table 4.13.3 (Part 1 of 2) Design capacity of T connection SHS – Grade 350	4-50
		Table 4.13.3 (Part 2 of 2) Design capacity of T connection SHS – Grade 350	4-51
		Table 4.13.4 (Part 1 of 2) Design capacity of T connection SHS – Grade 450	4-52
		Table 4.13.4 (Part 2 of 2) Design capacity of T connection SHS – Grade 450	4-53



PREFACE

This new series of connection publications by the Australian Steel Institute (ASI) covering design capacity tables, theory and design of individual structural steel hollow section ('tubular') member connections will be known as the Structural Steel Tubular Connections Series: 1st edition 2013 ('Tubular Connection Series'). The Tubular Connection Series details the method of design and provides design capacity tables and detailing parameters for a range of tubular connections commonly used in Australia. Connections have a major engineering and economic importance in steel structures influencing design, detailing, fabrication and erection costs. Standardisation of design approach integrated with industry detailing is the key to minimum costs at each stage. The Tubular Connection Series is written in the same format as and extends the range of the existing 'Structural Steel Connection Series Parts 1 and 2' published by ASI commencing 2007. Each book in the new Tubular Connection Series is numbered as a continuation from the existing series and hence this current book is referred to as 'Tubular Design Guide 25' (TDG25). The Tubular Connection Series replaces and enhances an AISC publication released in 1996 and titled 'Design of structural steel hollow section connections' (often referred to as the 'Blue Book'). With significant international research undertaken in the interim period and new and refined design models available, together with improvements in the performance of Australian produced structural steel hollow sections (SSHS), the time was appropriate to revise and update the Blue Book.

Tubular Design Guide 25 on fully welded simple planar connections covers connections of single brace members into chord members where there is no or limited interaction with adjacent brace members. The format and intent of the technical components of TDG25 is to provide sufficient technical basis to allow TDG25 to be a self-standing document, but at the same time, where substantive background technical basis is required, the reader may refer back to both Tubular Design Guide 20 (TDG20) and Handbook 1 of the existing Structural Steel Connection Series.

This has been achieved through extensive local and international literature reviews using ASI's close association with like organisations and searching the wealth of material contained in the ASI Library (the largest steel design library in the Southern Hemisphere). This process consolidated industry best practice, references and research papers. TDG25, in conjunction with TDG20 and Handbook 1, formulates the design models and procedures for the assessment of fully welded connections between a single SSHS brace member and an SSHS chord member.

Following on from the existing Structural Steel Connection Series, the new Tubular Connection Series format, with separate design guides for individual connection types or groupings related to similar functions, is intended to facilitate addition to, or revision of, connection model theory using relevant new local or international research. Connection models developed follow a stylised page format with a numbered DESIGN CHECK procedure to simplify connection design capacity assessment. Combined with a worked example and accompanying design capacity tables, each connection model provides a self-standing solution for the design engineer.

Engineering Systems has worked closely with the ASI to further develop their existing Limcon software as the companion program for this new Tubular Connection Series. The latest version of Limcon (V3.6) fully implements the new connection design models and was employed in checking the design tables. The Limcon output for one or more of the worked examples is included in an appendix to each design guide for each connection design type. The program is an efficient tool covering the full range of structural connections, including those beyond the scope of the design capacity tables provided in the Tubular Connection Series.

The existing Structural Steel Connection Series included comment/feedback forms. In the current series, these are replaced by a recently developed web based eForum facility. Every publication, seminar and talk that ASI sponsors has or will have a corresponding thread on the ASI eForum. Users are encouraged to log into the eForum and provide feedback on this current series. The eForum is located off our website at <http://steel.org.au/forum/>

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