Shearfix Punching Shear Reinforcement for the Construction Industry

March 2021
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Shearfix Punching Shear Reinforcement

Reinforcing Concrete Slabs at Column Heads

Slab loads induce shear stresses into the slab section around columns. If these stresses exceed the concrete shear capacity, and where additional reinforcement is not provided, the column would ‘punch’ through the slab. This punching shear is similarly induced in the footing on which the column bears.

Although punching shear can be relieved by localised thickening of the concrete with downstand beams and enlarged column heads, the construction of flat slabs offers many advantages. A consistent head space can reduce the overall height of a building and provide significant time and material savings.

Used within a slab to provide additional reinforcement around columns, Ancon Shearfix is the ideal solution to the design and construction problems associated with punching shear. The system consists of double-headed studs welded to flat rails, positioned around the column head or base. The shear load from the slab is transferred through the studs into the column.

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Shearfix Punching Shear Reinforcement

- Establishing, trusted name in concrete reinforcement
- Free AS3600 design program & technical support
- In-house, traceable batch testing
- BIM Objects available
- Full material traceability
Shearfix Punching Shear Reinforcement

Ancon Shearfix
Used within a slab to provide additional reinforcement around columns, Ancon Shearfix is the ideal solution to the design and construction problems associated with punching shear.

The system consists of double-headed studs welded to flat rails, positioned around the column head or base. The shear load from the slab is transferred through the studs into the column.

Shearfix is suitable for all column shapes and is easy to install either ‘top down’ or ‘bottom up’, depending on user preference.

Comparison with Shear Links
Ancon Shearfix offers many advantages over loose shear links. Links can be time-consuming to both design and install. An Ancon Shearfix system is easily detailed with our Punching Shear Reinforcement Design Program (see pages 8-9). This program generates a layout drawing for inclusion in the building plans and, rather than being installed individually, these studs are supplied to site welded to rails at the appropriate spacing.

When comparing links with studs, research has shown that any additional material costs incurred when purchasing a prefabricated stud system, such as Ancon Shearfix, are generally far outweighed by the savings from a significantly reduced fixing time; these systems being up to ten times quicker to install (source: British Cement Association: Prefabricated punching shear reinforcement for reinforced concrete flat slabs. BCA, Camberley, 2001).
System Components
The Ancon Shearfix system comprises double-headed studs welded to flat rails. It is manufactured to suit the specific requirements of each application. The quantity of each component, the dimensions and spacings, and the layout pattern around the column are determined by calculation. Free software is available to determine the optimum system design.

Ancon Shearfix Studs
Studs are manufactured in four diameters (12, 16, 20 and 24mm) from Grade 500N reinforcing bar. The heads are hot forged to three times the diameter of the bar. Studs are manufactured in custom heights to suit the slab thickness. The minimum stud height depends on the stud diameter. The following table lists the minimum stud heights as well as the respective minimum slab thickness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stud Diameter</th>
<th>Min Stud Height</th>
<th>Min Slab Thickness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12mm</td>
<td>95mm</td>
<td>140mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16mm</td>
<td>95mm</td>
<td>140mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20mm</td>
<td>135mm</td>
<td>180mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24mm</td>
<td>375mm</td>
<td>410mm</td>
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</table>

Note: minimum slab thickness on 20mm concrete cover

Ancon Shearfix Rails
The studs are welded to the rail at the centres determined by the Ancon software or a design calculation. The rail performs no structural function but ensures stud alignment and positioning within the slab.

Project Management
Please contact us if you would like help in creating an Ancon Shearfix schedule and a programme for delivery to suit progress on site. If advised at the time of ordering, pallets can be packed in priority order e.g by pour number.

Please call us on 1300 304 320 or contact orders.au@leviat.com with your Ancon Shearfix enquiry.

Building Information Modelling (BIM)

Product Identification
Each rail of studs carries the following identification:
Ancon Shearfix Code, Stud Diameter x Stud Height, Number of Studs @ Stud Centres, Rail Length

E.g. Ancon SF12 x 235, 3 @ 160 c/c, 564 long
All dimensions are in millimetres.
This easy-to-use program allows the optimum system design to be determined and generates a printable calculation sheet, a DXF file and a parts list of the specified layout. Solutions can be created for a wide range of column sizes, shapes and locations including corner and edge columns with and without offset.

The following combinations of column shape and location are permissible in the Ancon Shearfix Design Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column shape</th>
<th>Column location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rectangular</td>
<td>Internal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circular</td>
<td>Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Re-entrant corner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program allows analysis to AS3600 (Lim and Rangan) and BS EN 1992 (Eurocode 2). Where there are openings close to the column, a section of the slab will be ineffective and perimeters will need to be reduced; the Ancon design program allows these reductions to be applied to each perimeter.

The program requires the following information and is requested in a logical sequence as the user works through the ‘input’ tabs:

- Column shape (circular and rectangular)
- Column dimensions
- Column location (internal, edge, corner or re-entrant corner)
- Dimension to concrete edge (for offset corner and edge columns)
- Slab thickness
- Concrete grade
- Stress through pre-compression
- Reinforcement size and spacing
- Slab reinforcement and cover
- Size and location of slab openings
- Shear load
- Applied moments

This free program can be downloaded from www.ancon.com.au.

### Latest Features of the Ancon Shearfix Design Program

#### Project Management

The Ancon Shearfix Design Program contains a calculation management tool, allowing multiple column locations to be designed within a single project file. The calculations can be arranged in a system of sub-directories to ease project management. When exporting design information, any number of column locations can be included in a bulk export as a PDF calculation report, a DXF file or a PDF parts list.

#### Slab Openings

Any number of rectangular and circular slab openings can be applied to a design calculation and the software arranges the design solution to suit.

#### Interactive 2D Graphic Display

A clear 2D graphic automatically updates as data is entered, illustrating the column and opening dimensions, and the locations of openings relative to the column. Each dimension can be edited via the 2D graphic or via the main input window. Furthermore, it is possible to ‘grab and drop’ the openings via the 2D graphic.

### Slab Reinforcement

Where structures contain a layer of tensile slab reinforcement in each direction, the software will automatically calculate the effective slab depth.

The calculation method used in the design program (Lim and Rangan) is shown on page 11.
Circular Column Design Example

Screen shot of a circular column, offset from a re-entrant corner

The DXF file generated

3D view in software

Rectangular Column Design Example

Screen shot of a rectangular internal column

The DXF file generated

3D view in software

Shearfix:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shearfix Stud Diameter</th>
<th>first Stud Location</th>
<th>Stud Yield Capacity</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Design solution:

System reference for specification and ordering:

11 No. Ancon SF12 x 155, 4 @ 105 c/c, 479 long

Total number of main rails = 11

Stud bar diameter = 12 mm

Main rail length = 479 mm

Number of studs per main rail = 4

Stud spacing = 105 mm

Stud height = 155 mm

Total number of studs = 11 x 4 = 44

Proofs:

At the internal critical shear perimeter:

General:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>length of the critical shear perimeter</th>
<th>dimension of the critical shear perimeter</th>
<th>Eccentricity between the centre of column and the centre of beam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

20

25

244

280

122

160

122

235

Total number of main rails = 12

Stud bar diameter = 12 mm

Main rail length = 564 mm

Number of studs per main rail = 3

Stud spacing = 160 mm

Stud height = 235 mm

Total number of studs = 12 x 3 = 36

Proofs:

At the internal critical shear perimeter:
Design Information
The analysis follows the specifications in the standard AS3600: 2018 clause 9.3, but the major part of the design is based on the research presented by F K Lim and B V Rangan. Please note that AS3600: 2018 does not have a specific clause on shear stud design, therefore the software is based on the research paper. Leviat recommends the shear stud design is verified against an alternate standard such as BS EN 1992 (Eurocode 2), which is also available in the software.

The shear capacity of the slab is checked against the design shear forces at the critical shear perimeter (refer to AS3600: 2018 for further details on determining the critical shear perimeter) and if required Shearfix studs are designed to increase the shear capacity of the slab.

The first stud is positioned between 0.35d – 0.5d from the column face. The stud spacing is a minimum of 75% of the slab thickness, 70% of the stud height and 500mm.

The software checks the punching shear resistance with two studs per rail first and continues adding more studs until the shear resistance of the slab exceeds the applied punching shear load.

The last control perimeter for the verification is located at a distance d/2 beyond the outermost shear stud of each rail.

The spacing between individual rails is limited to a minimum of the slab thickness and 600mm.

Effect of Slab Penetrations
Where there are openings in the slab within 2.5b₀ (b₀ = width of an opening) from the critical shear perimeter (AS3600: 2018 CI.9.3.1.2), a section of the slab will be ineffective and the critical shear perimeter will need to be reduced. The design program allows reductions to be applied to the critical shear perimeter as appropriate.
Calculation Method

The design of Ancon Shearfix follows the general specifications set out in Clause 9.3 of AS3600: 2018, but the major part of the design is based on the research presented by F K Lim and B V Rangan from the School of Engineering at Curtin University of Technology in Perth. The design calculations check the shear stresses imposed on the critical shear perimeter surrounding the column, with Ancon Shearfix stud reinforcement provided as required.

Design Actions
When checking the shear capacity of the slab, the design shear force $V^*$ and design transfer moments from the slab into the support $M_{col,x}$ and $M_{col,y}$ must be taken into account. These values need to be calculated and inserted into the software.

Critical Shear Perimeter
The first critical shear perimeter $u_0$ is the boundary of the effective area of a support or concentrated loads located at a distance of $d/2$, ($d = $ effective depth of the slab).

For rectangular columns:

$$u_0 = 2x + 2y + 4d$$

Where there are critical openings within $2.5b_0$ from the critical perimeter, the projected width of the opening will be ineffective and will reduce the length of the critical perimeter.

Calculation of Shear Stress
The shear capacity of the slab is determined in accordance with Clause 9.3.3 for the case where there are no transfer moments ($M^*$ is zero), or Clause 9.3.4 for the case where there are transfer moments ($M^*$ is not zero).

For the case where $M^*$ is zero

$$V_{u0} = ud_0(f_{cv} + 0.3\sigma_p)$$

Where –

- $V_{u0} = $ shear capacity of the slab
- $\sigma_p = $ average pre-stress in concrete
- $f_{cv} = $ concrete shear strength

$$f_{cv} = 0.17(1 + \frac{2}{f'_c}) \sqrt{f_c} se0.34\sqrt{f_c}$$

Where

- $f'_c = $ concrete strength
- $\beta_h = $ the ratio of the effective loaded area $= X/Y$ ($X \geq Y$)

For the case where $M^*$ is not zero –

$$V = V_{u0}[1.0 + uM_v(8V* a d)]$$

Where

- $a = $ width of the critical shear perimeter parallel in the direction of $M^*_v$.

If $V > \psi V_{u} \text{ or } \psi V_{u0}$ then Ancon Shearfix studs are required.

To determine the shear capacity of the slab with Ancon Shearfix studs, the following modified Lim and Rangan equations are used:

$$V_{u} = V_{u0}(0.75 + k)$$

OR

$$V_{u} = \left(\frac{V_{u0}}{0.75 + k} \cdot M^*_v, f^*_v, \text{ or } \text{ad} \right)$$

(The lesser result of the two equations)

Where

- $k = \frac{1}{V_{u0}} A_c f_y d / a \geq 0.25$

$A_c = $ cross sectional area of a row of studs
$\sigma_p = $ yield strength of the stud (500 MPa)
$a = $ width of the critical shear perimeter perpendicular to the direction $M^*_{v}$

To determine the rail length, continue adding studs until the shear stress along the critical shear perimeter located at $d/2$ from the outermost stud is less than the concrete shear capacity.

The Ancon Shearfix Design Program automatically determines the diameter, spacing and number of studs required.

Detailing

The following detailing is used by the software to arrange the Ancon Shearfix rails around the column:

- The position of the first stud from the column face is predefined as $0.5d$ but a value between $0.35d - 0.5d$ can be chosen by the user ($d =$ effective depth of slab).
- The distance between the studs within one rail is a minimum of 75% of the slab thickness, 70% of the stud height and 500mm.
- There is always a minimum of 2 rails per column side.
- The distance between individual rails is limited to a minimum of the slab thickness and 600mm.

Please contact the Leviat technical team on 1300 304 320 or email technical.au@leviat.com should you have any questions about the calculation method or the software.
Installation Procedure

Ancon Shearfix is quick and simple to install. It can be fitted either ‘top down’ (after all other reinforcement) or ‘bottom up’ (prior to other reinforcement).

The same rail overhang is used at both rail ends. The overhang is equal to the spacing between the column face and the first stud, therefore install the rail end in line with the column face.

‘Top down’ Fixing

- Fix all main reinforcement in position
- Place Shearfix rails around the column to the layout detailed on job drawings by passing the studs through the reinforcement grid and resting the carrier rails on the top layer of reinforcement
- Tie rails with wire to main reinforcement and pour concrete

‘Bottom up’ Fixing

- Clip rails to spacers in order to maintain cover
- Place rail and spacer units around the column to the layout detailed on job drawings
- Fix main reinforcement in position and pour concrete

Typical Arrangements

Shearfix is suitable for all column shapes and locations. Some typical arrangements are shown here.
Other Ancon Products

Reinforcing Bar Couplers
The use of reinforcing bar couplers can provide significant advantages over lapped joints. Design and construction of the concrete can be simplified and the amount of reinforcement required can be reduced. The Ancon range includes BT parallel threaded couplers and MBT mechanically bolted couplers.

Reinforcement Continuity Systems
Reinforcement Continuity Systems are an increasingly popular means of maintaining continuity of reinforcement at construction joints in concrete. The Ancon Keybox system eliminates the need to drill shuttering and can simplify formwork design, thereby accelerating the construction process. It is available in both standard units and special configurations. Ancon KSN Anchors eliminate the need for on-site bar straightening and are available to accept reinforcement of 12mm, 16mm and 20mm diameter. The system is also available with a re-useable rebate former.

Shear Load Connectors
Ancon DSD and ESD Shear Load Connectors are used to transfer shear across expansion and contraction joints in concrete. They are more effective at transferring load and allowing movement to take place than standard dowels, and can be used to eliminate double columns at structural movement joints in buildings. A ‘Lockable’ dowel is also available for temporary movement joints in post-tensioned concrete frames.

Masonry Support Systems and Fixings
Leviat manufactures support systems for masonry cladding on concrete and steel framed buildings. A wide range of channels and bolts are available to fix these systems to the structural frame. Cast-in channels and expansion bolts are used for fixing to the edges of concrete floors and beams.

Tension Systems
Tie bars are increasingly being used in structures and buildings as an architectural as well as a structural element. Ancon Tension Systems comprise a range of components which can be supplied in carbon steel or stainless steel in a variety of sizes and finishes. A variety of assemblies can be created from simple tie bars to complex bracing systems involving several bars joined at one point.

Special Fabrications
Leviat is an ASSDA accredited specialist fabricator and has a wealth of experience in working with a variety of material grades. High integrity steel components are supplied to a wide range of industries including Civil Engineering, Building, Infrastructure, Water Treatment, Nuclear and Mining.
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