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## A Differentiated Design of Fire Exposed Steel Structures

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A DIFFERENTIATED DESIGN OF FIRE EXPOSED  
STEEL STRUCTURES

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SVEN ERIK MAGNUSSON - OVE PETERSSON - JÖRGEN THOR

A DIFFERENTIATED DESIGN OF FIRE EXPOSED STEEL STRUCTURES

Presented at 1st International ECCS-Symposium "Fire Safety in Building  
with Steel" held on 18th and 19th October 1974 in the Hague

## A DIFFERENTIATED DESIGN OF FIRE EXPOSED STEEL STRUCTURES

By Sven Erik Magnusson<sup>a</sup>, Ove Pettersson<sup>a</sup>, and Jörgen Thor<sup>b</sup>

### 1. Introduction

At present, a clear trend can be seen of a development of the building codes and regulations in many countries towards an increased extent of functionally based requirements and performance criteria. As concerns the design of buildings with respect to fire exposure, an essential step in the direction of such a development was taken in the Swedish Standard Specifications of 1967 [1] by introducing different alternatives of structural fire engineering design, leading to a different degree of accuracy and a different amount of engineering design work. This differentiated view of fire engineering design will be underlined further in the new edition of the standard specifications, planned to come into force during 1975.

The alternative design methods are connected to different basic characteristics of the process of fire development.

One alternative is related to the internationally prevalent standard heating curve for the gastemperature of the fire compartment combined with a subsequent cooling period, specified by a linear rate of temperature decrease which depends on the time of fire duration according to [2].

A second, more differentiated alternative is characterized by a gas-temperature-time curve of the complete process of fire development which varies with the fire load density  $q$ , the ventilation characteristics of the fire compartment, and the thermal properties of the structures, enclosing the fire compartment. This basis of design is exemplified in Fig. 1a which shows the gastemperature-time curves  $\vartheta_t$ - $t$  of a certain type of fire compartment, as concerns the thermal

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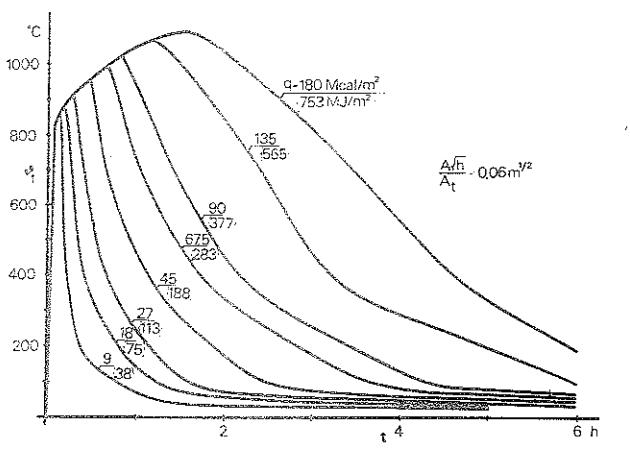
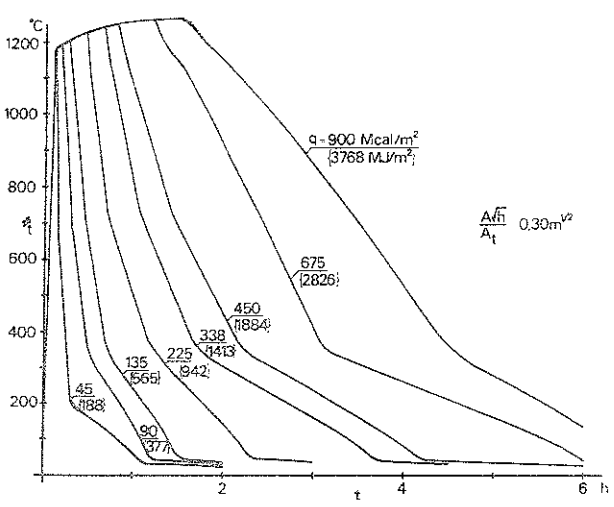
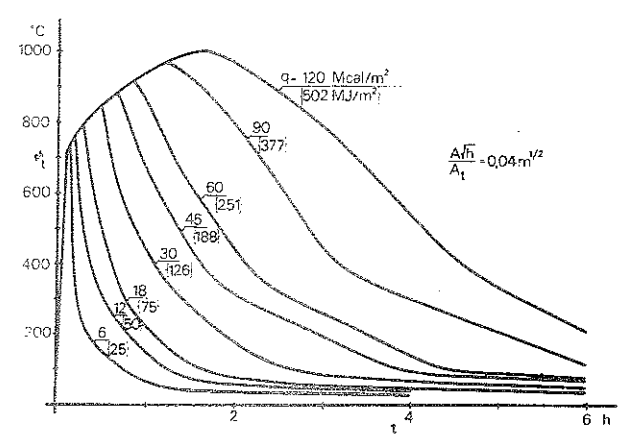
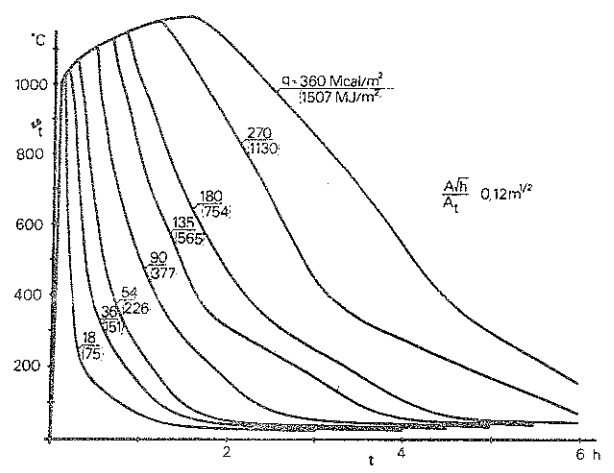
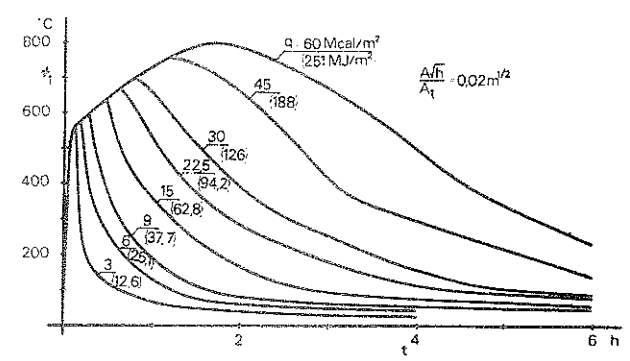
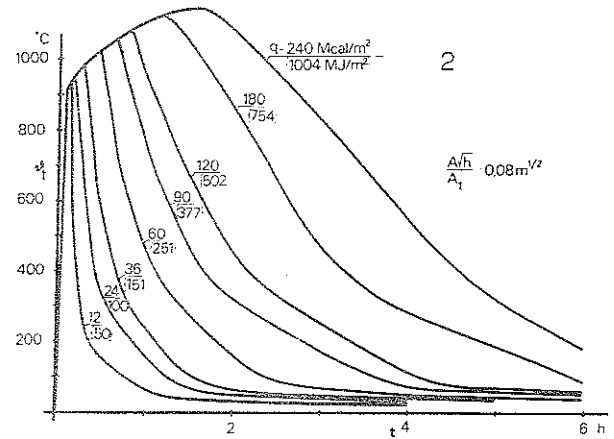
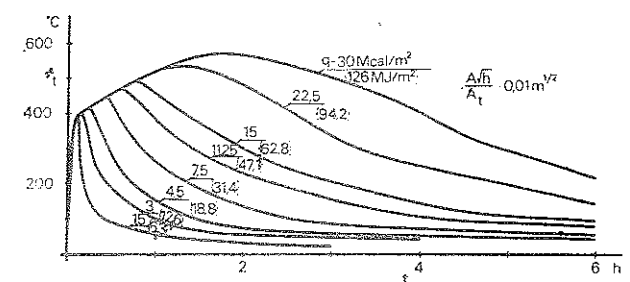


Figure 1a. Gastemperature-time curves  $t_t - t$  of the complete process of fire development for different values of the fire load density  $q$  and the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ . Fire compartment, type A, characterized by surrounding structures made of a material with a thermal conductivity  $\lambda = 0.81 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{°C}^{-1}$  and a heat capacity  $\rho c_p = 1.67 \text{ MJ} \cdot \text{m}^{-3} \cdot \text{°C}^{-1}$

properties of the surrounding structures. The ventilation characteristics of the fire compartment are specified by the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , where

$A_t$  = the total area of the interior surfaces bounding the compartment ( $m^2$ ),

$A$  = the total area of the window and door openings ( $m^2$ ), and

$h$  = the mean value of the heights of window and door openings (m) weighed with respect to each individual opening area.

This second alternative is permitted for use when the fire load is mainly of the wood fuel type.

As a third alternative, the Swedish Standard Specifications permit a structural fire engineering design on the basis of a gastemperature-time curve, calculated for each individual case from the heat and mass balance equations (Fig. 1b) - or determined in some other way - with regard taken to the combustion characteristics of the fire load, the ventilation characteristics of the fire compartment, and the thermal properties of the surrounding structures of the fire compartment.

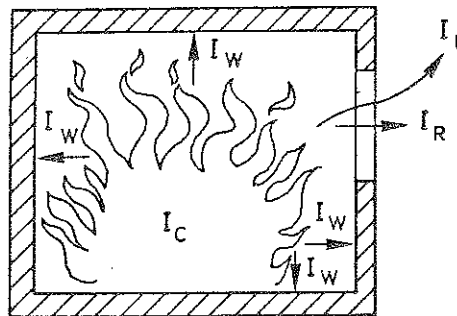


Figure 1b. Energy balance equation  $I_C = I_L + I_W + I_R$  of a fire compartment.  $I_C$  is the heat release per unit time from the combustion of the fuel, and  $I_L$ ,  $I_W$ , and  $I_R$  the quantities of energy removed per unit time by change of hot gases against cold air, by heat transfer to the surrounding structures, and by radiation through the openings of the compartment, respectively

In the subsequent sections, the main steps of a differentiated design of fire exposed steel structures are presented and discussed in a summary way, related to the second and third design alternative according to the Swedish Standard Specifications. Parallely, examples are given of diagrams and tables from a comprehensive design

basis, now available in Sweden [3], [4] and intended to facilitate a practical application of a differentiated fire engineering design of different types of steel structures.

## 2. Principles of a Differentiated Fire Engineering Design

For load-bearing structures or structural members, a differentiated design can be characterized according to Fig. 2a [5] - [8].

The basis is constituted by the characteristics of a fully developed compartment fire. Decisive entrance quantities then are

the combustion properties of the fire load,  
the size and geometry of the fire compartment,  
the ventilation characteristics of the fire compartment, and  
the thermal properties of the structures enclosing the fire compartment.

Jointly, these quantities are determining the rate of burning, the rate of heat release, and the gastemperature-time curve of the fire compartment during the complete process of fire development.

Together with

the structural data of the proposed structure,  
the thermal properties of the structural materials, and  
the coefficients of heat transfer for the various surfaces of the structure

the gastemperature-time curve of the fire compartment gives the requisite information for a determination of the temperature-time fields of the fire exposed structure or structural members.

With

the mechanical properties of the structural materials, and  
the load characteristics

as further entrance quantities, then a determination can be carried through of restraint forces and moments, thermal stresses, and the

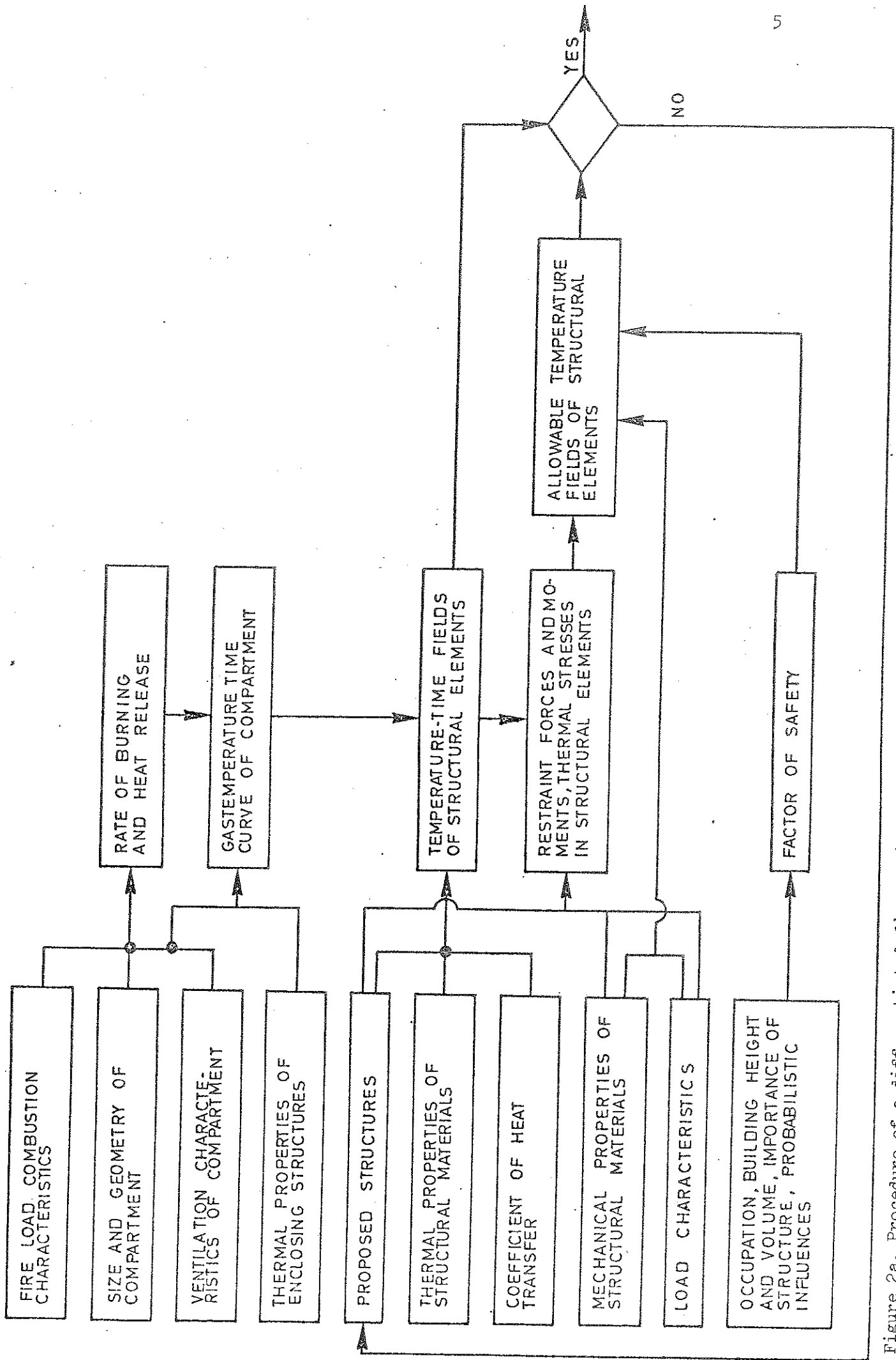


Figure 2a. Procedure of a differentiated fire engineering design of load-bearing structures or structural members



temperature fields which can be allowed with respect to the required function to be fulfilled by the structure or structural members. This determination then must be done with regard taken to a reasonably chosen level of the risk of failure introducing a factor of safety which depends on

the occupation, building height and volume, importance of structure, probabilistic influences etc.

A direct comparison between the actual temperature fields and the allowable ones decides whether the structure or the structural members investigated can fulfil their function or not at a fire exposure.

### 3. Structural Fire Safety

In a fire engineering design of a load-bearing structure, it is to be proved that the load-bearing capacity does not decrease below a prescribed load, multiplied by a required factor of safety, during neither the heating period nor the subsequent cooling period of the process of fire development. Summarily, the connected problem of structural safety then can be principally described in the following way.

The load-bearing structure is acted upon by a loading which, for instance, can be a combination of the dead load and a live load. This loading is characterized by a probabilistic variation which can be described by a frequency curve, comprising all those load levels  $L$  which will occur for the actual building or the actual structural member during its lifetime (Fig. 3a). At ordinary room temperature, the load-bearing structure or structural member has a load-bearing capacity  $B$  with a probabilistic variation, determined by the distribution properties of the actual structural materials and the accuracy of the actual production and described by a frequency curve. A fire exposure will give rise to a decrease of the load-bearing capacity. At a given fire compartment this decrease depends on the fire load density  $q$ , which for a given type of building or locality has a probabilistic variation with a corresponding frequency curve. Jointly,

the frequency curves of the load-bearing capacity at ordinary room temperature and the fire load density constitute the basis for a determination of the frequency curve of the least load-bearing capacity at a fire exposure. In such a determination, that change in the variation of relevant structural material properties must be included, which will be caused by the heating due to the fire exposure. Further, that uncertainty must be taken into account, which at a given practical application characterizes a theoretical determination of the process of fire development, and the connected temperature-time fields and load-bearing capacity of the fire exposed structure or structural member.

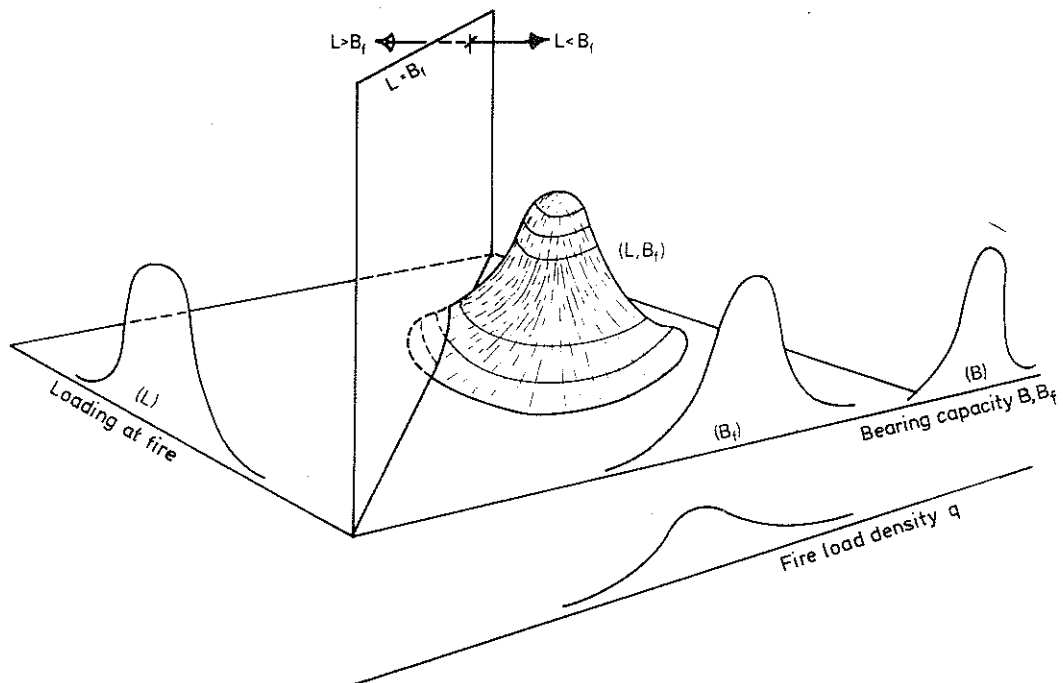


Figure 3a. Summary survey of the structural safety problem at a differentiated fire engineering design of load-bearing structures

If the frequency curve of the loading  $L$  and the frequency curve of the reduced load-bearing capacity of the fire exposed structure  $B_f$  are independent, the corresponding probability of failure at chosen levels of  $L$  and  $B_f$  can be calculated via a frequency function  $(L, B_f)$ , given by a direct multiplication of the two frequency curves of  $L$  and  $B_f$ . In a presentation according to Fig. 3a, this frequency function  $(L, B_f)$  describes a surface above the horizontal  $L-B_f$  base plane. By a vertical plane  $L = B_f$  through the origin, the volume between this

surface and  $L-B_f$  base plane is divided into two parts. The volume within the range  $L > B_f$  then gives the corresponding probability of failure, valid for a fire development not disturbed by any fire-fighting activities.

This probability of failure is connected to a probability = 1 for a fire outbreak leading to flashover within the actual fire compartment. As a consequence, the calculated probability of failure must be corrected by a multiplication by the probability of a fire giving flashover in the compartment for the actual structure or structural member. For this latter probability, [9] gives the following representative values:

0.3 for industrial buildings,  
0.04 for office buildings, and  
0.02 for residential buildings

at a lifetime of the building of 50 years. The referred values are valid for a complete building and not for a single compartment of the building. Further essential reductions of the probability of failure in fire will be caused by, for instance, an installation of detection, alarm and automatic extinguishing systems with a probabilistic variation of operation security.

A computerized procedure for an analysis of the failure probability in fire of a load-bearing structure according to the principles described above, is presented in [10]. The procedure, which is based on the Monte-Carlo method, is connected to a differentiated structural fire engineering design according to the principles outlined above. At present, the procedure can be applied in practice only in special cases. A more general application in a structural fire engineering design is for the time being rendered impossible as a consequence of insufficient knowledge concerning several of the variables entering into the procedure. In spite of these circumstances, the procedure ought to be successfully applied already, for instance, for a determination of such information which can facilitate an elaboration of prescriptions in building codes and regulations concerning reasonable levels of loading and fire load for a structural fire en-

gineering design of load-bearing structures or structural members.

On the basis of a summary survey of the structural firesafety problem, temporary regulations now have been worked out and authorized in Sweden concerning loading values to be applied in a fire engineering design for different types of fire compartments. The loading values are connected to a load factor system and have been differentiated with respect to whether a complete evacuation of the occupants certainly can be anticipated or not - cf Table 3a.

#### 4. Fire Load and Process of Fire Development in a Compartment

##### 4.1. Fire Load

In most countries, the fire load (fire load density)  $q_c$ , constituting a measure of the total quantity of combustible materials in a compartment, is defined according to the relation

$$q_c = \frac{1}{A_f} \sum m_v H_v \quad (\text{Mcal} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}) \quad \{\text{MJ} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}\} \quad (4.1a)$$

where  $A_f$  = the floor area ( $\text{m}^2$ ),  $m_v$  = the total weight (kg), and  $H_v$  = the effective heat value ( $\text{Mcal} \cdot \text{kg}^{-2}$ )  $\{\text{MJ} \cdot \text{kg}^{-2}\}$  for each individual material  $v$ . In some countries the fire load density  $q_c$  is given alternatively as the equivalent amount of wood per unit floor area  $A_f$ .

In the current Swedish building codes and regulations the fire load density  $q$  of a compartment is defined according to the modified formula

$$q = \frac{1}{A_t} \sum m_v H_v \quad (\text{Mcal} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}) \quad \{\text{MJ} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}\} \quad (4.1b)$$

where  $A_t$  = the total area of the surfaces bounding the compartment ( $\text{m}^2$ ). Such a definition is more natural with respect to an application to the heat and mass balance equations of the fire compartment and primarily of that reason, this latter definition now is generally used in Sweden.

With reference to the definitions according to Eqs. (4.1a) and (4.1b), internationally a large number of probabilistic studies have been carried through of the fire load density in dwellings, offices, administration buildings, schools, stores, and hospitals. A fragmentary exemplifying of results is referred in Table 4.1a, giving a summary of the average and standard deviation of the fire load density  $q$  from recent Swedish investigations. In the table also is shown the appurtenant design fire load, corresponding to the 80 percent level of the distribution curve and authorized in Sweden as a temporary regulation.

Ordinarily, the combustion will not be complete for all fire load components at a compartment fire. This can be taken into account by determining the fire load density  $q$  from the modified formula

$$q = \frac{1}{A_t} \sum \mu_v m_v H_v \quad (\text{Mcal} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}) \quad \{\text{MJ} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}\} \quad (4.1c)$$

in which  $\mu_v$  denotes a fraction between 0 and 1, giving the real degree of combustion for each individual component  $v$  of the fire load. The coefficient  $\mu_v$  then is a function of the type of the fuel, the geometrical properties of the fuel and the position of the fuel in the fire compartment, among other things. For some types of fire load components, the coefficient  $\mu_v$  will be dependent on the time of fire duration and on the gastemperature-time characteristics of the fire compartment.

An example of a representation of fire load statistics in conformity with the idea of Eq. (4.1c) is given in Fig. 4.1a [11], which refers some distribution curves, representative to dwellings in the suburbs and the central parts of Stockholm. In the figure the fire load density is specified on one hand by a minimum value, which only includes the highly inflammable components, and on the other hand by a maximum value, corresponding to all combustible material in the compartment, excluding floor covering.

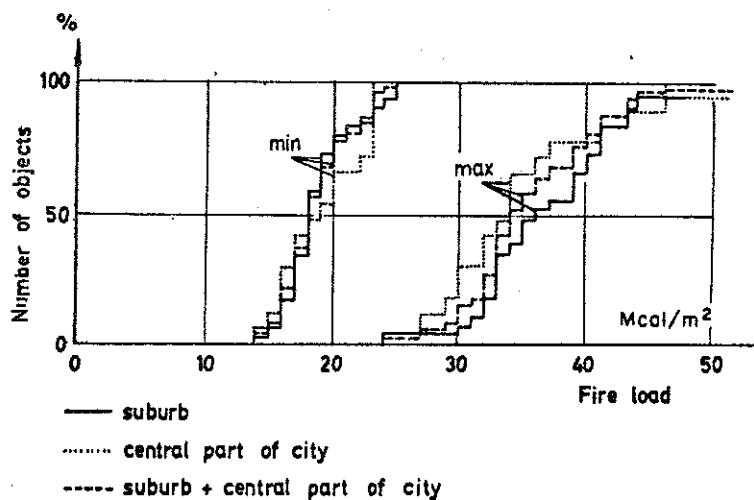


Figure 4.1a. Distribution curves for the fire load density  $q$ , defined according to Eq. (4.1b), representative to dwellings in the suburbs and the central parts of Stockholm

#### 4.2. Characteristics of Compartment Fires

Simplified, fully developed compartment fires can be divided into two types of behaviour [12], [13] - ventilation controlled and fuel bed controlled. Ordinarily, the determination of the behaviour then is related to the average burning rate  $R$  for the active part of the fire, given as the weight loss per unit time. On the basis of results of full and model scale compartment burning tests, available from numerous reports, a plot according to Fig. 4.2a was presented in [14] of the burning rate  $R$  in the form of  $R/A_s$  versus  $\phi/A_s$ .  $A_s$  is the initial free surface area of the fire load and  $\phi$  a ventilation parameter, defined by the relation

$$\phi = \rho_a \sqrt{g} A \sqrt{h} \quad (4.2a)$$

$\rho_a$  is the density of air and  $g$  the acceleration due to gravity. The results are based on tests with fire loads of wooden crib type.

The data, given in Fig. 4.2a, are characterized by a considerable scatter, indicating also other essential influences than those taken into account. In spite of this, two different regimes are recognizable, viz. the ventilation controlled regime, marked by an inclined line, and the fuel bed controlled regime, marked by a horizontal line. For the first type, the combustion during the flame phase is

controlled by the ventilation of the compartment with the burning rate  $R$  approximately proportional to the air supply through the openings of the compartment and not in any decisive way dependent on the characteristics of the fuel. For the second type, the combustion during the flame phase is controlled mainly by the fuel bed with the burning rate  $R$  determined by the amount, porosity, and particle shape of the fuel and largely independent of the air supply through the openings.

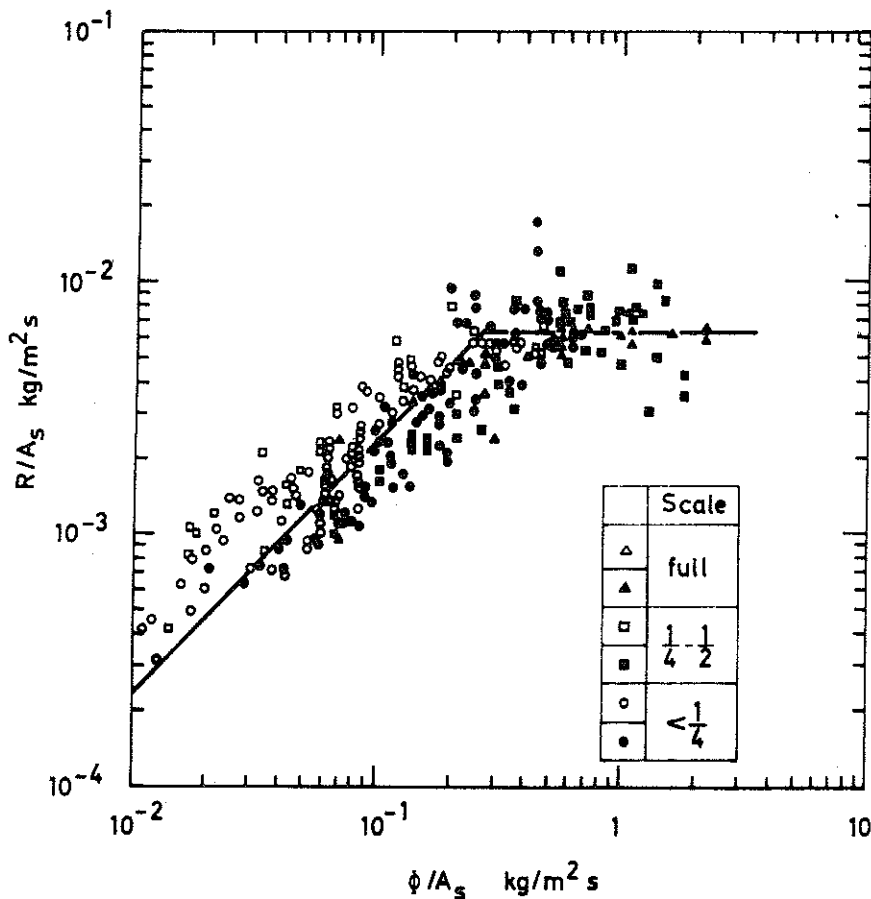


Figure 4.2a. The ratio  $R/A_s$  between the average burning rate  $R$  and the initial free surface area of the fire load  $A_s$  versus the ratio  $\phi/A_s$  where  $\phi$  is a ventilation parameter according to Eq. (4.2a). Fire loads of wooden crib type

For a theoretical determination of, for instance, the gastemperature-time curve of a fully developed compartment fire over heat and mass balance equations - cf [4] and [15] to [18] - a differentiated knowledge on the heat release per unit time from the combustion of the fuel  $I_C$  is of essentially higher interest than information on the burning rate  $R$ . For not well-defined fuels - for instance, fire loads of wooden type - an experimental determination of the time-variation of  $I_C$  during a complete fire process is connected to great technical difficulties and, as a consequence, for the time being direct test data are lacking on this quantity for real fire situations.

Approximately, the time curve of the rate of heat release  $I_C$  can be determined over a heat and mass balance analysis, based on the experimentally received gastemperature-time curve for compartment fires with accurately specified test conditions. Very extensive analyses of this type have been carried out in a systematic way by MAGNUSSON - THELANDERSSON [17], [18], and NILSSON [19] for fire loads of wooden crib type. As a result of these investigations, the prerequisites now exist of a differentiated theoretical determination of, for instance, the gastemperature characteristics of the complete process of a compartment fire for this type of fire load with an accuracy, which is sufficient for ordinary practical purposes. Regard then can be taken to whether a compartment fire is ventilation controlled or fuel bed controlled.

Going over from fuel of wooden crib to more realistic fire loads of furniture, it can be stated, that the results of wooden crib fires can be transferred with satisfactory accuracy for ventilation controlled fires. The main reason for this is that the burning rate and the rate of heat release are not dependent in any decisive extent on the amount, porosity and particle shape of the fuel for this type of fires. For fuel bed controlled fires, however, these fire load influences can be of great importance, which introduces considerable difficulties in transferring test data of wooden crib fires to real fire loads in practice for this type of fire. At present, the only way to consider the specific, favourable characteristics of a fuel bed controlled fire in a practical fire engineering design seems to be to calibrate at first the real furniture fire load in full scale tests,



leading to, for instance, an equivalent porosity factor and an equivalent stick thickness [19]. Such systematic calibration tests for real fire loads in frequent types of fire compartments have high degree of priority.

Waiting for the results of such calibration tests, the present state of knowledge forces, as a provisional basis for a differentiated structural fire engineering design, a systematic determination of gastemperature-time curves for the complete process of compartment fires under the general assumption of ventilation control. The total energy condition of fire exposure

$$\int_0^{\infty} I_C dt = M \quad (4.2b)$$

then always must be fulfilled, where M is the total energy content of the fire load (Mcal) {MJ}. For fuel bed controlled fires, the assumption of ventilation control together with the fulfilment of Eq. (4.2b), leads to a structural fire engineering design which will be on the safe side in practically every case, giving an overestimation of the maximum gastemperature level and a simultaneous, partly balancing underestimation of the fire duration. For the minimum load-bearing capacity or the fire resistance time of fire exposed structures or structural elements, the gastemperature-time curves determined in this way ordinarily give reasonably correct results, which has been verified in [4], [7], and [10].

An extensive basis of design, comprising differentiated gastemperature-time curves of the type mentioned for the complete process of fully developed compartment fires, is presented in [4] and [17]. Influences are the fire load density  $q$ , the opening factor of the fire compartment  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , and the thermal characteristics of the surrounding structures. This design basis is exemplified in Fig. 1a, valid for a compartment with surrounding structures made of a material with a thermal conductivity  $\lambda = 0.81 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{C}^{-1}$  and a heat capacity  $\rho c_p = 1.67 \text{ MJ}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}\cdot\text{C}^{-1}$  (fire compartment, type A). Approximately, compartments with other thermal properties of the surrounding structures can be transferred to the fire compartment, type A, via fictitious values of the fire load density  $q_f$  and the opening factor  $(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_f$  according

to Table 4.2a.

The gastemperature-time characteristics, as presented in Fig. 1a and Table 4.2a, constitute a provisional, detailed basis of a differentiated fire engineering design of load-bearing structures and partitions. The chosen technique of transferring between fire compartments of different thermal properties via fictitious values of the fire load density and the opening factor has the great advantage that the computation of design diagrams and tables can be limited to the fire exposure characteristics of one type of fire compartment, viz. type A.

#### 4.3. Opening Factor $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$

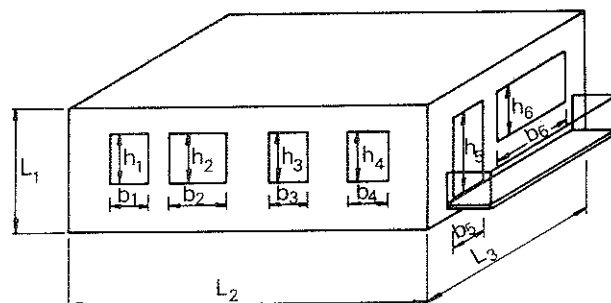
As found above, the opening factor of a fire compartment is a fundamental concept in calculating the gastemperature-time curve of the process of fire development.

For a compartment with only vertical openings, the opening factor is defined by the quantity  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , where - cf. Fig. 4.3a

$A$  = the total area of the window and door openings ( $m^2$ ),

$h$  = the mean value of the heights of window and door openings (m), weighed with respect to each individual opening area, and

$A_t$  = the total interior area of the surfaces bounding the compartment, opening areas included ( $m^2$ ).



$$A = A_1 + A_2 + \dots + A_6 = b_1 h_1 + b_2 h_2 + \dots + b_6 h_6$$

$$h = \frac{1}{A} [A_1 h_1 + A_2 h_2 + \dots + A_6 h_6]$$

$$A_t = 2 [L_1 L_2 + L_1 L_3 + L_2 L_3]$$

OPENING FACTOR
$\frac{A\sqrt{h}}{A_t}$

Figure 4.3a. Definitions of the total opening area  $A$ , the weighed mean value of the opening height  $h$ , the total interior area of the surrounding structures  $A_t$ , and the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$  of a fire compartment

If a fire compartment also comprises horizontal openings, an equivalent opening factor  $(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_e$  can be determined by the formula [17]

$$(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_e = f_k (A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_v \tag{4.3a}$$

where  $(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_v$  is the opening factor, corresponding to the vertical openings of the compartment, calculated according to Fig. 4.3a, and  $f_k$  a dimensionless multiplier, given by the alignment chart in Fig. 4.3b. For the notations used in this chart, then see Fig. 4.3c.

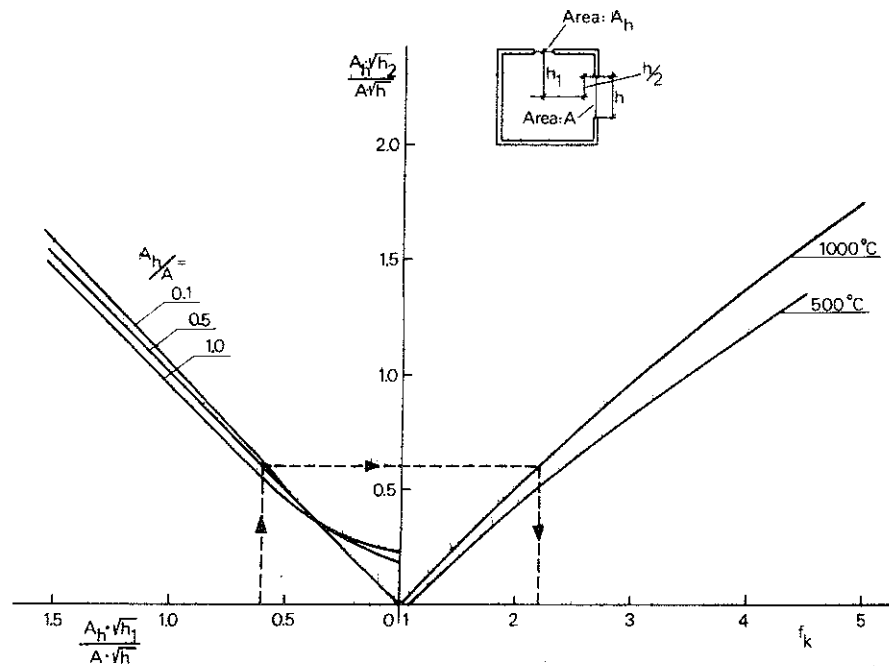


Figure 4.3b. Alignment chart for a determination of the equivalent opening factor  $(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_e$  of a fire compartment with vertical as well as horizontal openings. For notations, see Fig. 4.3c

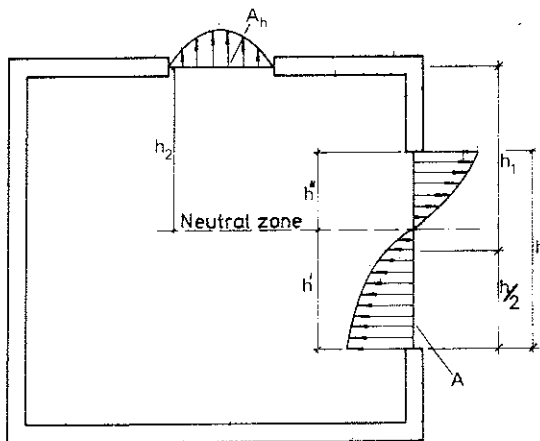


Figure 4.3c. Gas flow mechanism for a fire compartment with vertical and horizontal openings

A determination of the equivalent opening factor over Eq. (4.3a) and Fig. 4.3b presupposes that the gas flow through the horizontal openings of the roof is not predominant. This can be examined via the quotient  $A_n \sqrt{h_2} / A \sqrt{h}$ , which has an upper limit at which the applied gas flow model ceases to be valid. This upper limit is given by the values

$$\frac{A_n \sqrt{h_2}}{A \sqrt{h}} = \begin{cases} 1.76 & \text{at } \vartheta_t = 1000^\circ\text{C} \\ 1.37 & \text{at } \vartheta_t = 500^\circ\text{C} \end{cases} \quad (4.3b)$$

At these limit values, the neutral zone coincides with the upper edge of the vertical opening and tests have indicated the validity of the model up to these upper limits [20].

#### 5. Steel Temperature $\vartheta_s$ of Fire-Exposed, Uninsulated Steel Structures

For a fire exposed, uninsulated steel structure, the energy balance equation directly gives the following formula for a determination of the steel temperature-time curve  $\vartheta_s - t$  - Fig. 5a

$$\Delta \vartheta_s = \frac{\alpha}{\rho_s c_{ps}} \cdot \frac{F_s}{V_s} (\vartheta_t - \vartheta_s) \Delta t \quad (^\circ\text{C}) \quad (5a)$$

where

$\Delta \vartheta_s$  = the change of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  during the time step  $\Delta t$ ,

$\alpha$  = the coefficient of heat transfer at the fire exposed surface of the structure,

$\rho_s$  = the density of the steel material,

$c_{ps}$  = the specific heat of the steel material,

$F_s$  = the fire exposed surface of the steel structure per unit length,

$V_s$  = the volume of the steel structure per unit length, and

$\vartheta_t$  = the gastemperature within the fire compartment.

Eq. (5a) presupposes that the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  is uniformly distributed over the cross section of the structure at any time  $t$  and that the heat transfer is one-dimensional.

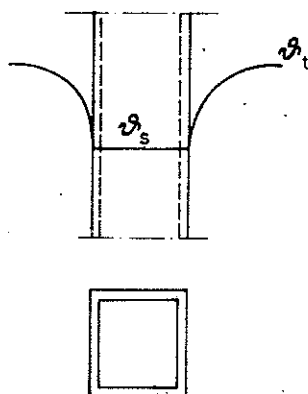


Figure 5a. Fire exposed, uninsulated steel structure.  $\vartheta_t$  = gastemperature within the fire compartment,  $\vartheta_s$  = steel temperature

The coefficient of heat transfer  $\alpha$  can be calculated from the approximate formula

$$\alpha = 23 + \frac{5.77 \epsilon_r}{\vartheta_t - \vartheta_s} \left[ \left( \frac{\vartheta_t + 273}{100} \right)^4 - \left( \frac{\vartheta_s + 273}{100} \right)^4 \right] \quad (\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{C}^{-1}) \quad (5b)$$

giving an accuracy which is sufficient for ordinary practical purposes.  $\epsilon_r$  then is the resultant emissivity, in the case of radiation between two parallel, infinite surfaces given by the equation

$$\epsilon_r = \frac{1}{1/\epsilon_t + 1/\epsilon_s - 1} \quad (5c)$$

where

$\epsilon_t$  = the emissivity of flames, and

$\epsilon_s$  = the emissivity of the fire exposed steel surface.

For practical applications, the resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$  can be chosen according to the following table, giving values which generally are on the safe side.

1. Column, fire exposed on all sides	$\epsilon_r = 0.7$
2. Column, outside a facade	0.3
3. Floor structure, composed of steel beams with a reinforced concrete slab, supported on the lower flange of the beams	0.5
4. Steel beams with a floor slab, supported on the upper flange of the beams	
4a. Beams of I cross section with width/height $\geq 0.5$	0.5
4b. Beams of I cross section with width/height $< 0.5$	0.7
4c. Beams of box cross section and trusses	0.7

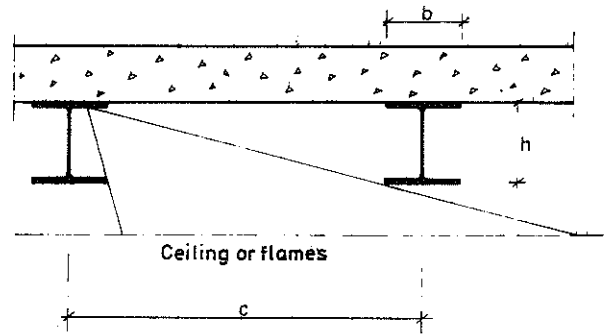
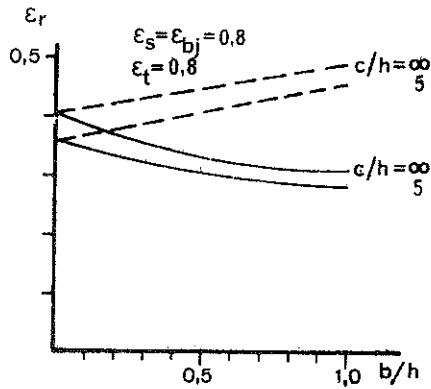
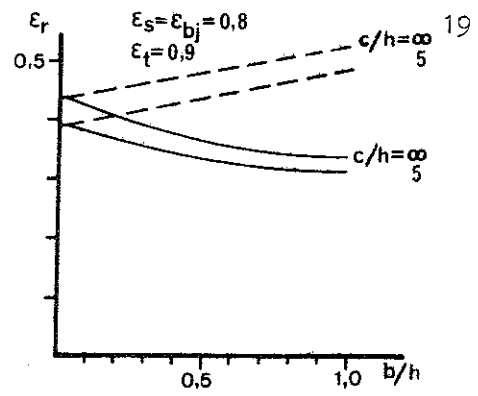
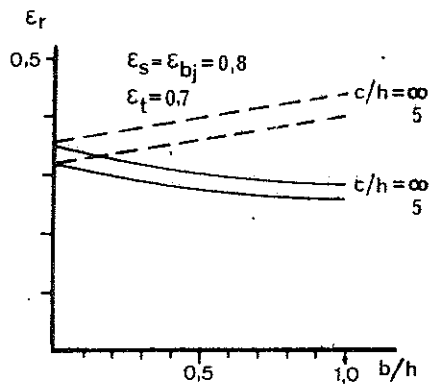


Figure 5b. Resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$  for steel beams with a floor slab, supported on the upper flange of the beams. Flames completely below the steel beams.  
 $\epsilon_{bj}$  = emissivity of the slab,  $\epsilon_s$  = emissivity of the steel beams,  $\epsilon_t$  = emissivity of the flames.  
 — I cross section, - - - box cross section

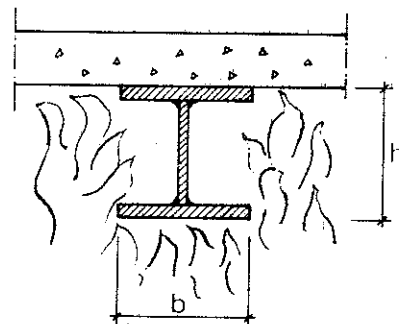
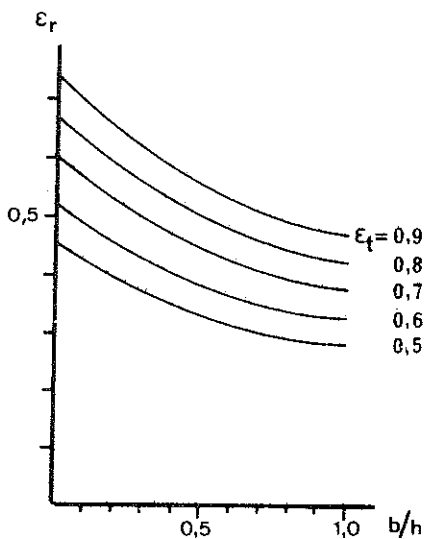
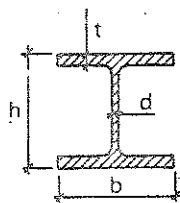
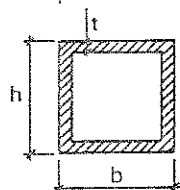


Figure 5c. Resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$  for steel beams of I cross section with a floor slab, supported on the upper flange of the beams. Flames reaching the slab.  
 $\epsilon_t$  = emissivity of the flames

Column within a fire compartment

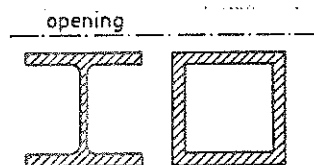


$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} = \frac{2h + 4b - 2d}{\text{cross section area}}$$



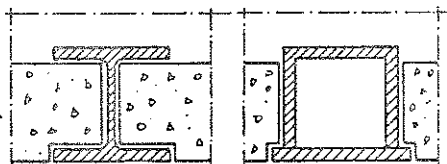
$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} = \frac{2h + 2b}{\text{cross section area}}$$

Column, immediately outside a window opening



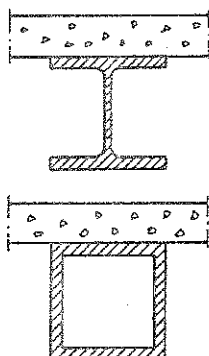
$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} = \frac{2h + b}{\text{cross section area}}$$

Floor structure, composed of steel beams with a concrete slab, supported on the lower flange of the beams



$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} = \frac{b}{bt} = \frac{1}{t}$$

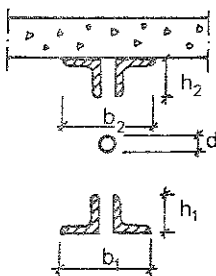
Beams with a floor slab, supported on the upper flange of the beams



$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} = \frac{2h + 3b - 2d}{\text{cross section area}}$$

$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} = \frac{2h + b}{\text{cross section area}}$$

Floor slab beams of truss type ( $F_s/V_s$  is determined for each part of the truss)



$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} \text{ (lower flange)} = \frac{2b_1 + 2h_1}{\text{cross section area of lower flange}}$$

$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} \text{ (upper flange)} = \frac{b_2 + 2h_2}{\text{cross section area of upper flange}}$$

$$\frac{F_s}{V_s} \text{ (diagonal)} = \frac{4}{d}$$

Figure 5d.  $F_s/V_s$  for different types of fire exposed, uninsulated steel structures

More accurate values of the resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$  can be determined for the application alternative 4 - steel beams with a floor slab, supported on the upper flange of the beams - from the diagrams of Fig. 5b and c, applicable to floor structures with the flames completely below the steel beams and reaching the slab, respectively [21]. For the emissivity of the flames  $\epsilon_t$ , the value 0.85 is to be inserted, if not any other value can be proved to be more correct.

At a given gastemperature-time curve of the fire compartment  $\vartheta_t$ -t, the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  can be directly calculated from Eqs. (5a) to (5c) with regard taken to the temperature dependence of the specific heat of the steel and of the coefficient of heat transfer. A systematization of such computations then can result in a design basis of the type, shown in Table 5a and giving the maximum value of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_{s \max}$  during a complete process of fire development for varying values of the fire load density  $q$ , the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , the structural parameter  $F_s/V_s$ , and the resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$ . The values of the table are connected to gastemperature characteristics according to Fig. 1a, fire compartment type A.

Some guide-lines for the determination of the structural parameter  $F_s/V_s$  are summarized in Fig. 5d for different types of application.

#### 6. Steel Temperature $\vartheta_s$ of Fire Exposed Insulated Steel Structures

For a fire exposed, insulated steel structure, a simplified energy balance equation gives the following relation for a direct determination of the steel temperature-time curve  $\vartheta_s$ -t - Fig. 6a

$$\Delta\vartheta_s = \frac{A_i}{(1/\alpha + d_i/\lambda_i)\rho_s c_{ps} V_s} (\vartheta_t - \vartheta_s)\Delta t \quad (^\circ\text{C}) \quad (6a)$$

where

$\Delta\vartheta_s$  = the change of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  during the time step  $\Delta t$ ,

$\alpha$  = the coefficient of heat transfer at the fire exposed surface of the insulation,



- $d_i$  = the thickness of the insulation,  
 $\lambda_i$  = the thermal conductivity of the insulating material,  
 $\rho_s$  = the density of the steel material,  
 $c_{ps}$  = the specific heat of the steel material,  
 $A_i$  = the interior jacket surface area of the insulation per unit length,  
 $V_s$  = the volume of the steel structure per unit length, and  
 $\vartheta_t$  = the gastemperature within the fire compartment.

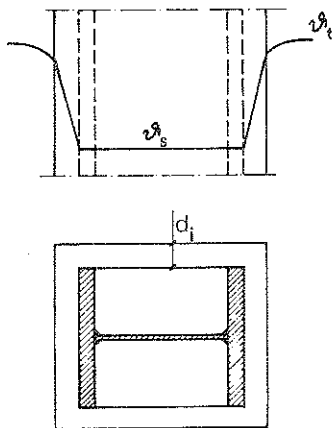


Figure 6a. Fire exposed, insulated steel structure.  $\vartheta_t$  = gastemperature within the fire compartment,  $\vartheta_s$  = steel temperature

Eq. (6a) presupposes that the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  is uniformly distributed over the cross section of the structure at any time  $t$ , that the temperature gradient is linear and the heating contribution negligible for the insulation, and that the heat transfer is one-dimensional.

A somewhat more accurate formula for a numerical calculation of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  can be achieved by taking into account the energy corresponding to the heating of the insulation in an approximate way. By that means, the following expression can be deduced [22]

$$\Delta \vartheta_s = \frac{(\vartheta_t - \vartheta_s) \Delta t}{\frac{V_s}{A_i} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{d_i}{\lambda_i} \right) \rho_s c_{ps} \left( 1 + \frac{d_i \rho_i c_{pi} A_i}{2 \rho_s c_{ps} V_s} \right)} \quad (6b)$$

$$\frac{2 \rho_s c_{ps} V_s}{d_i \rho_i c_{pi} A_i} + 1$$

where not previously defined quantities are

$\rho_i$  = the density of the insulating material, and  
 $c_{pi}$  = the specific heat of the insulating material.

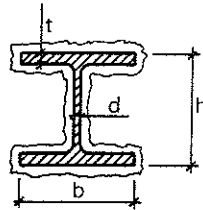
At a given gastemperature-time curve of the fire compartment  $\vartheta_t$ -t, the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  can be directly determined from Eqs. (5b), (5c), and (6a) or (6b). Ordinarily, then the term  $1/\alpha$  can be neglected at the side of the term  $d_i/\lambda_i$ , indicating that variations of the resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$  are of minor importance at fire exposed, insulated steel structures.

Computations, originating from Eq. (6a) or (6b), enable a construction of systematized diagrams and tables, facilitating a differentiated, structural fire engineering design in practice. An example of such a design basis is presented in Table 6a, giving the maximum value of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_{max}$  according to Eq. (6a) during a complete process of fire development for varying values of the fire load density  $q$ , the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , the structural parameter  $A_1/V_s$ , and the insulation parameter  $d_i/\lambda_i$ . The values of the table are connected to gastemperature characteristics according to Fig. 1a, fire compartment type A.

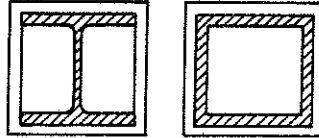
The values of Table 6a were calculated on the assumption of a constant thermal conductivity of the insulating material  $\lambda_i$ . As a rule, however,  $\lambda_i$  varies with the temperature in an extent which cannot be neglected in a fire engineering design. This can be considered by applying Table 6a with a value of  $\lambda_i$  corresponding to an average value for the whole process of fire development. Calculations, systematically carried through, then are verifying that this average value of  $\lambda_i$  approximately coincides with the value, determined for an insulation temperature equal to the maximum steel temperature  $\vartheta_{max}$ .

For a specific insulating material, systematized design diagrams and tables can be computed very accurately with regard taken to the temperature dependence of the thermal properties of the steel material as well as the insulating material. The influence of an initial moisture content and of a disintegration of the insulating material then can be taken into consideration, too. Practically, such a determination can be carried through over a numerical data processing by means of computers on the basis of heat balance equations, dedu-

Column in a fire compartment

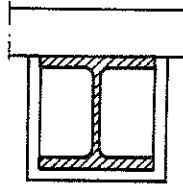


$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} = \frac{2h + 4b - 2d}{\text{steel cross section area}}$$



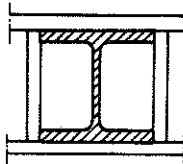
$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} = \frac{2h + 2b}{\text{steel cross section area}}$$

Column against a wall with a sufficient fire resistance



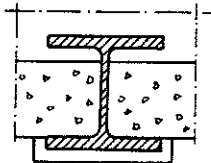
$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} = \frac{2h + b}{\text{steel cross section area}}$$

Column within a wall with a sufficient fire resistance



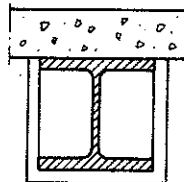
$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} = \frac{b}{bt} = \frac{1}{t}$$

Floor structure, composed of steel beams with a concrete slab, supported on the lower flange of the beams



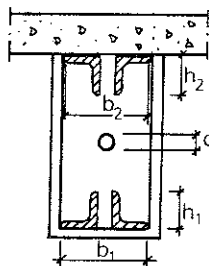
$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} = \frac{b}{bt} = \frac{1}{t}$$

Beams with a floor slab, supported on the upper flange of the beams



$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} = \frac{2h + b}{\text{steel cross section area}}$$

Floor slab beams of truss type ( $A_i/V_s$  is determined for each part of the truss)



$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} \text{ (lower flange)} = \frac{2b_1 + 2h_1}{\text{cross section area of lower flange}}$$

$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} \text{ (upper flange)} = \frac{b_2 + 2h_2}{\text{cross section area of upper flange}}$$

$$\frac{A_i}{V_s} \text{ (diagonal)} = \frac{4}{d}$$

Figure 6b.  $A_i/V_s$  for different types of fire exposed, insulated steel structures

ced for the structure divided into finite elements. A great number of design diagrams and tables, calculated according to such an accurate procedure, are presented in [3], and [4]. Table 6b constitutes an example from this, giving the maximum steel temperature  $\psi_{\max}^h$  during a complete process of fire development for a fire exposed steel structure, insulated with mineral wool of density  $\rho_i = 150 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ , at varying fire load density  $q$ , opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , quotient  $A_i/V_s$ , and thickness  $d_i$  of the insulation. The gastemperature-time curves according to Fig. 1a, fire compartment type A, are the basic characteristics of the fire exposure.

The determination of the structural parameter  $A_i/V_s$  is exemplified in Fig. 6b for some different types of fire exposed, insulated steel structures.

#### 7. Steel Temperature $\psi_s^h$ of a Fire Exposed Steel Beam Construction, Insulated with a Ceiling

A determination of the steel temperature-time curve  $\psi_s^h-t$  for a steel beam construction according to Fig. 7a - composed of a reinforced concrete slab, load-bearing steel beams, and an insulating ceiling - is essentially more complicated than the corresponding determination for steel structures with an enclosing insulation. In the latter case, the gastemperature of the fire compartment  $\psi_t^h$  is entering directly into the energy balance equation of the problem, cf. Eqs. (5a), (6a), and (6b). For a steel beam construction with an insulating ceiling, the surface temperature of the upper side of the ceiling and of the underneath side of the slab must be determined in a first step for enabling a calculation of the steel temperature  $\psi_s^h$  in a second step.

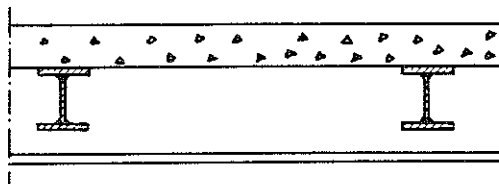


Figure 7a. Floor structure, composed of a reinforced concrete slab, load-bearing steel beams, and an insulating ceiling

A model for a determination of the temperature-time fields of a structure according to Fig. 7a, exposed to a fire from below, has been developed in [4]. The model is characterized by a division of the slab into a number of finite elements and a formulation of the energy balance equations of these elements and of the ceiling for a calculation of the time curves of the surface temperatures  $\vartheta_{y2}^h$  and  $\vartheta_{y3}^h$  - cf. Fig. 7b. In this first step of calculation, the heat capacity of the steel beams, the air space, and the ceiling is neglected. In the second step, the energy balance equations are formulated for the steel beams with regard to convection and to radiation from the upper side of the ceiling and the underneath side of the slab. The resultant emissivity  $\epsilon_r$ , required for this formulation, then can be determined from Fig. 5b. The computational procedure is giving the steel temperature-time curve  $\vartheta_s^h-t$  as the final result.

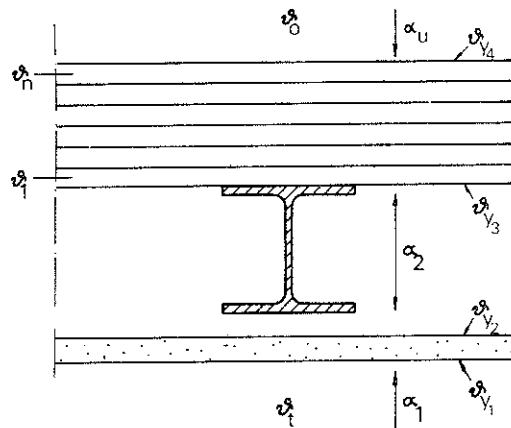


Figure 7b. Model for a determination of the temperature-time fields of a steel beam structure according to Fig. 7a, fire exposed from below

By applying this computational model in a systematic way, a design basis can be determined, facilitating a calculation of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s^h$ . Such a design basis is exemplified in Table 7a, giving directly the maximum steel temperature  $\vartheta_{\max}^h$  during a complete process of fire development for varying values of the fire load density  $q$ , the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ , the structural parameter  $F_s/V_s$ , and the insulation parameter  $d_i/\lambda_i$ .  $F_s/V_s$  is defined according to Fig. 5d. The values within parantheses in the table, denote the corresponding maximum temperature at the centre level of the ceiling.

The values of the table are connected to gastemperature-time characteristics according to Fig. 1a, fire compartment type A.

It is to be stressed, that the design values put together in Table 7a can be applied only to a steel beam construction according to Fig. 7a with the slab made of reinforced concrete. For other slab materials, the corresponding steel temperature-time curve at a fire exposure can be quite different. This is illustrated by Fig. 7c, giving a comparison between the steel temperature-time curves  $\vartheta_s-t$ , computed for the two alternatives with the slab of reinforced concrete and of lightweight concrete, density  $500 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ , respectively. The curves refer to a fire exposure according to the standard fire resistance test.

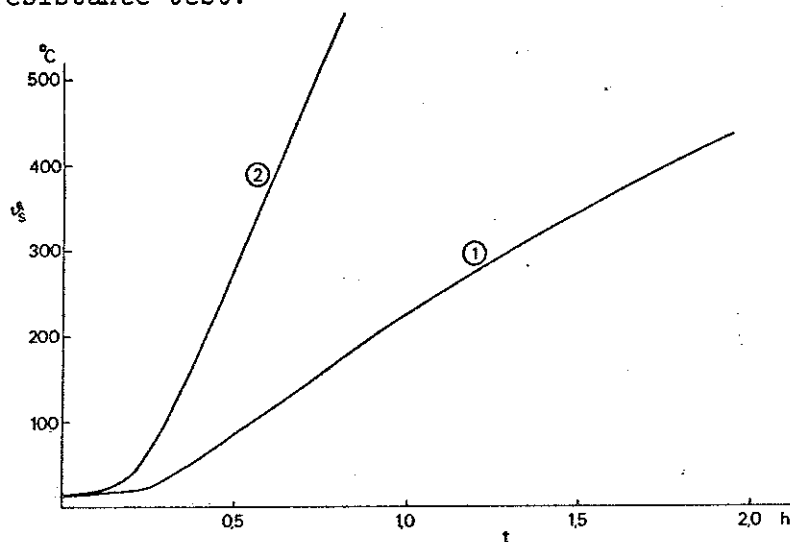


Figure 7c. Calculated time curves of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s-t$  for a steel beam construction according to Fig. 7a, fire exposed from below in conformity with the characteristics of the standard fire resistance test. Steel beams of IPE 330. Ceiling of mineral wool, density  $150 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$ , thickness 25 mm. Slab of reinforced concrete (curve ①) or lightweight concrete of density  $500 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$  (curve ②)

For several types of ceiling insulated steel beam constructions, the fire resistance of the ceiling and its fastening devices will be the decisive design component instead of the steel beam temperature. For instance, the ceiling can get a serious crack formation or fall down, partially or completely, after a comparatively short fire exposure. Under such conditions, the maximum steel temperature cannot be estimated solely on the basis of the thickness  $d_i$  and the thermal conductivity  $\lambda_i$  of the ceiling. If results are

available from standard fire resistance tests, then the differentiated design problem can be solved in the following way in the cases described.

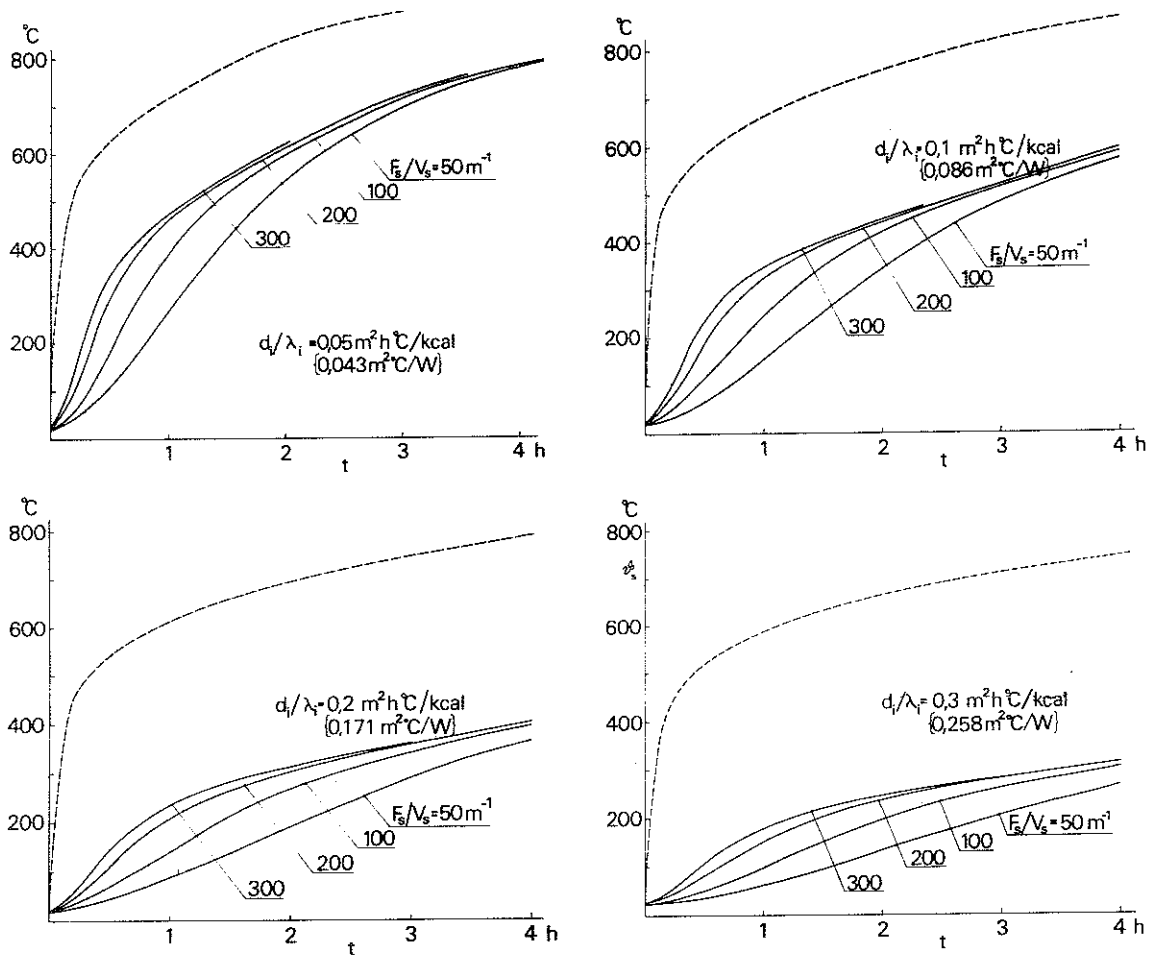


Figure 7d. Calculated time curves of the steel temperature for a steel beam construction according to Fig. 7a at varying  $F_s/V_s$  ( $m^{-1}$ ) and  $d_i/\lambda_i$  ( $m^2 \cdot h \cdot ^\circ C \cdot kcal^{-1}$ ). Fire exposure from below according to the standard fire resistance test. The dash-line curves are giving the corresponding temperature at the centre level of the ceiling

For the actual quotient  $F_s/V_s$ , the steel beam temperature-time curve from the fire resistance test is compared with the corresponding time curves in Fig. 7d, which have been computed for really a fire exposure with a furnace temperature-time curve according to the standard fire resistance test. The comparison leads to a fictitious value of the insulation parameter  $d_i/\lambda_i - (d_i/\lambda_i)_{\text{fict}}$  - determined from the condition that the agreement between the steel beam temperature-time curves from the test and of Fig. 7d shall be as good as possible. In the fire resistance test also can be determined the critical temperature of the ceiling with respect to its fire resistance or the intactness of its fastening devices. If such measurements have not been made, the critical temperature alternatively can be found from the dash-line curves in Fig. 7d for the actual values of  $F_s/V_s$  and  $(d_i/\lambda_i)_{\text{fict}}$  by inserting the time of damage of the ceiling obtained in the test.

After the determination of the fictitious  $d_i/\lambda_i$ -value and the critical temperature of a ceiling, the differentiated fire engineering design can be carried out by the application of Table 7a. Parallely, then the maximum temperature at the centre level of the ceiling according to the table is to be controlled against the critical temperature of the ceiling.

## 8. Load-Bearing Capacity of Fire Exposed Steel Structures

### 8.1. Fire Exposed Steel Structure in Bending, Tension or Compression at Negligible Risk of Buckling

A determination of the load-bearing capacity of a fire exposed steel structure in bending, tension or compression at a negligible risk of an instability failure can be carried through according to the limit state theory with the yield stress replaced by the 0.2 % proof stress. However, such a determination has certain drawbacks, since the stress-strain curves of steel are very softly rounded at elevated temperatures, giving as a consequence that the stress can often be raised considerably above the 0.2 % proof stress without the strains becoming critical. Furthermore, an estimation of the load-bearing capacity on the basis of the 0.2 % proof stress makes it difficult to take into account the creep strain of the material which begins to



be noticeable for ordinary structural steels at temperatures in excess of about  $450^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Both these influences - the softly rounded shapes of the stress-strain curves, and the creep strain - can be taken into consideration, if the load-bearing capacity is estimated on the basis of the deformations. A model has therefore been deduced for an accurate calculation of the deformation process of fire exposed steel beams [23].

In applying the model, the process of fire development is divided into a number of finite time steps and the central deflection of the beam in the beginning of each time interval is determined for the actual temperature during this interval on the basis of the stress-strain curves of the material. These curves then have been obtained in tensile tests at elevated temperatures, performed at such high rates of loading that the influence of the creep strain may be considered negligible. The effect of creep at elevated temperatures is taken into account by a separate calculation, starting from the creep equation according to DORN [24], and HARMATHY [25].

Some twenty fire tests have been performed on loaded steel beams in order to verify the calculation model. The results are exemplified in Fig. 8.1a, showing a comparison between during a fire test recorded (full-line curve) and calculated (dash-line curve) central deflections  $y_1$  of a simply supported beam, under two symmetrically applied point loads, as a function of the time  $t$ . The temperature-time curve  $\vartheta_s-t$  for the top and bottom flange at the mid-section are shown by the lower and upper chain line, respectively. The satisfactory agreement, generally obtained between calculated and recorded deflection curves, confirms the usability of the model for theoretical determinations of the deflections of fire exposed, isostatic and hyperstatic, steel beams.

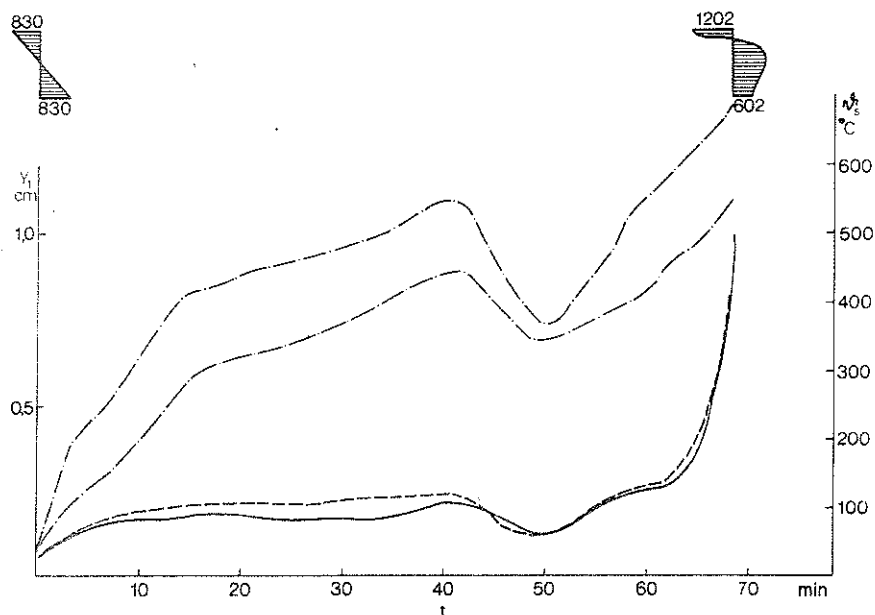


Figure 8.1a. Recorded (—) and calculated (-----) time curves of the central deflection  $y_1$  of a fire exposed, simply supported steel beam under two symmetrically applied point loads. The temperature-time curve  $t_s-t$  for the top and bottom flange at the mid-section are shown by the lower and upper chain line, respectively. The insets show the calculated stress distribution at the beginning and end of the test. The curves are representative to a slow process of fire development

Principally, the load-bearing capacity of a fire exposed beam can be considered exhausted when its rate of deflection is infinitely high. However, such a failure criterion is impossible to use in a practical design based on real fire characteristics, especially if the influence of creep at elevated temperatures is to be taken into account which means that the deflection of the beam continues to increase during its cooling down period. From a practical point of view, it is necessary to use a failure criterion connected to a finite deflection or a finite rate of deflection. Experimental and theoretical investigations then have confirmed that the deflection criterion according to ROBERTSON and RYAN [26] is suitable to be applied to fire exposed steel beams. For a fire exposed beam, loaded by a constant bending moment along its entire length, this deflection failure criterion is equivalent to a strain of 0.5 % at the bottom of the beam. For a simply supported beam under a uniformly distributed load, the corresponding strain at the bottom of the midspan cross section is 0.8 to 1.0 %, and for a simply supported beam under a central point load 1.5 to 1.9 % [23]. The range of variation of the referred strain values then reflects the influence of varying maximum temperature and rate of heating.

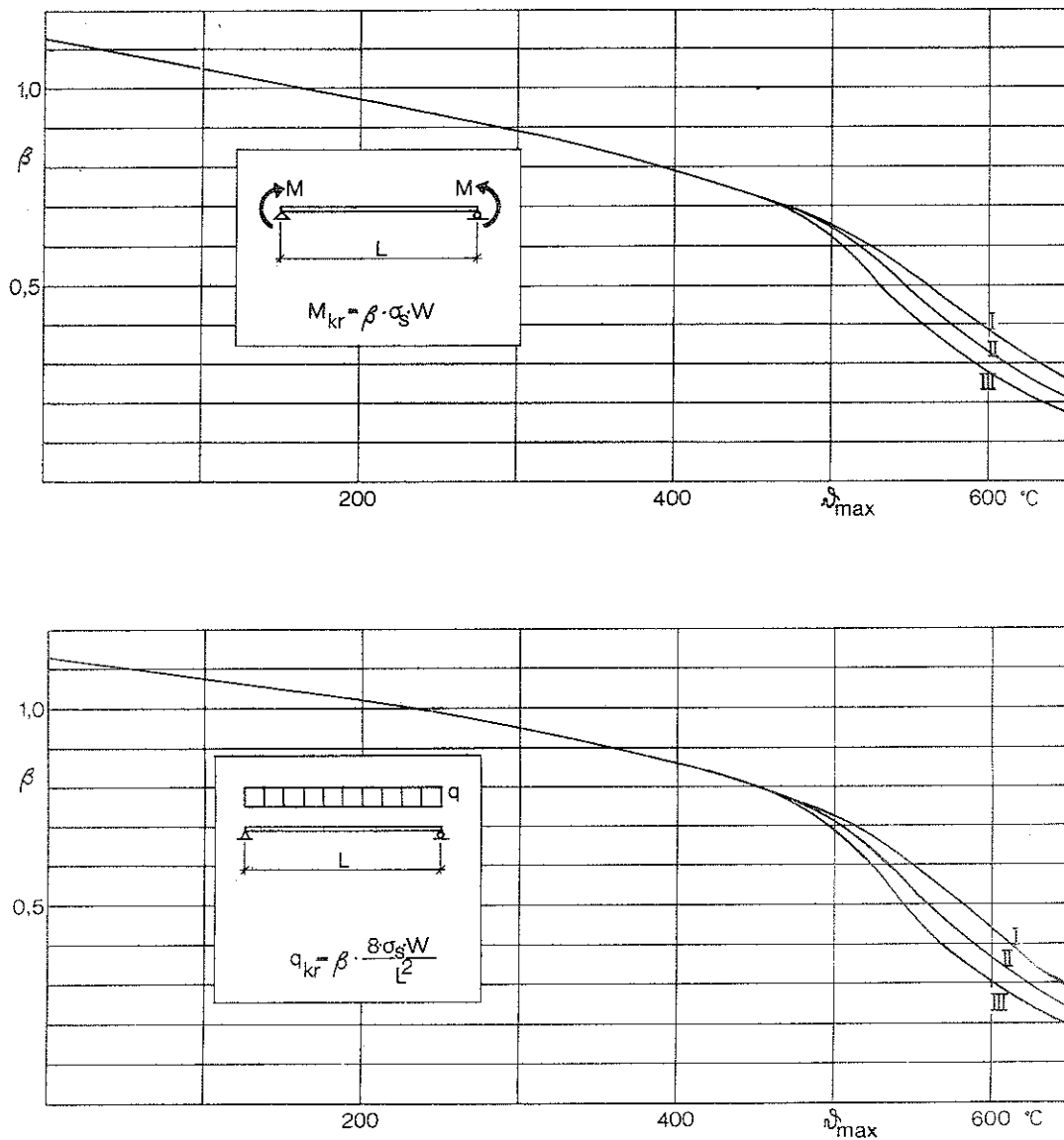


Figure 8.1b. Diagrams for a determination of the load-bearing capacity ( $M_{kr}$ ,  $q_{kr}$ ) for two different types of loading at a simply supported steel beam of constant I cross section. The curves I, II and III correspond to different rates of heating and subsequent cooling according to the definitions in the text.  $\sigma_s$  is the yield point stress at ordinary room temperature and  $W$  the elastic modulus of the cross section

By a systematized approach according to the principles, outlined above, design diagrams have been computed for a direct determination of the load-bearing capacity (critical loads) of fire exposed steel beams for different loading and support conditions at varying values of the maximum steel temperature  $t_{\max}^h$ . The diagrams are exemplified in Fig. 8.1b for two different types of loading at a simply supported beam of constant I cross section. The diagrams are differentiated with respect to the rates of heating and subsequent cooling above

a steel temperature of about  $450^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which means that the influence of creep at elevated temperatures is included. The curves I, II and III correspond to a rate of heating of 100, 20 and  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  per minute, respectively, and a rate of cooling which is  $1/3$  of the rate of heating.

The rate of heating can be roughly estimated with the help of Fig. 8.1c which gives the average rate of heating of the beam  $a$  as a function of the fire load density  $q$  for different values of the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$  and the maximum steel temperature  $\psi_{\text{max}}^h$ .

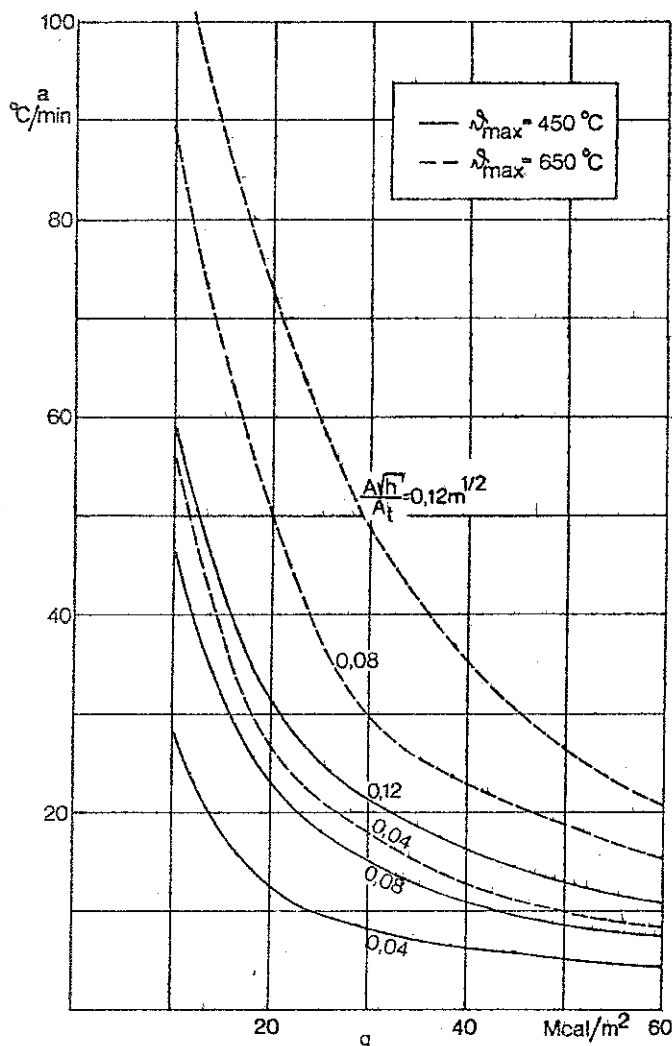


Figure 8.1c. Average rate of heating  $a$  of a fire exposed, uninsulated or insulated, steel beam as a function of the fire load density  $q$  for different values of the opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$  and the maximum steel temperature  $\psi_{\text{max}}^h$

## 8.2. Buckling Load of Fire Exposed Steel Columns

As concerns structural design methods with respect to buckling of axially compressed steel columns at ordinary room temperature, the

present state on the whole can be characterized by two main groups of methods.

For the methods of the first main group, the following fundamental way of tackling the problem then is representative. In a first step, the buckling load  $\bar{N}_k$  is determined for the idealized case of a centrally compressed, initially straight column with the real stress-strain curve of the material taken into account. In the second step, the corresponding permissible compressive load  $\bar{N}_{k,perm}$  is calculated by dividing the buckling load  $\bar{N}_k$  with a safety factor  $s$ . For an adaptation to real practical conditions, this safety factor must include the influences of practically representative imperfections of the column and of unintentional eccentricities of the load. This leads to a safety factor which varies with the slenderness ratio of the column.

In the methods of the second main group, the buckling load  $N_k$  is determined directly on the assumption of a column with an imperfection and a compressive load with an unintentional eccentricity which are representative for practical conditions. For this case, the maximum compressive stress  $\sigma_{max}$  of the column is calculated with the influence of additional deflections taken into account. As critical with regard to the load-bearing capacity, that compressive load  $N_k$  is defined for which  $\sigma_{max}$  reaches a decisive value, ordinarily the yield point stress  $\sigma_s$  or the 0.2 % proof stress  $\sigma_{0.2}$ . The permissible compressive load  $N_{k,perm}$  then is given by dividing the buckling load  $N_k$  by a safety factor  $s_0$  which is independent of the slenderness ratio of the column.

For a theoretical determination of the buckling load or the critical temperature with respect to buckling of a fire exposed steel column, an attachment to the second group of methods comes natural. This is especially obvious for a theoretical analysis of a column with a partial restraint to longitudinal expansion during the fire.

For a fire exposed column without any restraint to longitudinal expansion, the buckling compressive stress

$$\sigma_k = \frac{N_k}{A} \quad (8.2a)$$

can be determined from the formula

$$\sigma_k^2 - \sigma_k \left[ \sigma_{0.2} + \pi^2 E \left( 4.8 \cdot 10^{-5} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \right) \right] = -\sigma_{0.2} \frac{\pi^2 E}{\lambda^2} \quad (8.2b)$$

The formula presupposes a material, for which the stress-strain relation can be approximated in a satisfactory way by a stress-strain diagram for a perfectly elastic-plastic material. In the relation, the total amount of the initial deflection of the column and the unintentional load eccentricity is taken into consideration by assuming only an initial deflection with the same mathematical form as the ideal buckling deflection and with a maximum value  $f$  of [27]

$$f = 4.8 \cdot 10^{-5} \frac{(\beta L)^2}{d} \quad (8.2c)$$

In Eqs. (8.2a) to (8.2c)

$A$  = the cross section of the column,

$E$  = the modulus of elasticity in the corresponding, perfectly elastic-plastic stress-strain diagram for actual steel temperature  $t_s^A$ ,

$\sigma_{0.2}$  = the 0.2 % proof stress for actual steel temperature  $t_s^A$ ,

$L$  = the length of the column,

$\beta L$  = the equivalent buckling length of the column, referred to the EULER buckling case with hinged ends of the column,

$\beta$  = a dimensionless coefficient, which depends on the end conditions and the variation along the column of the cross section and of the axial load, and which directly can be taken from ordinary manuals in a large number of cases,

$d$  = the distance from the gravity centre axis to the edge of that cross section of the column with maximum compressive stress,

$\lambda$  = the equivalent slenderness ratio of the column, defined by the formula

$$\lambda = \frac{\beta L}{i} \quad (8.2d)$$

$i$  = the radius of gyration of the cross section with regard to bending of the column in the plane of buckling.

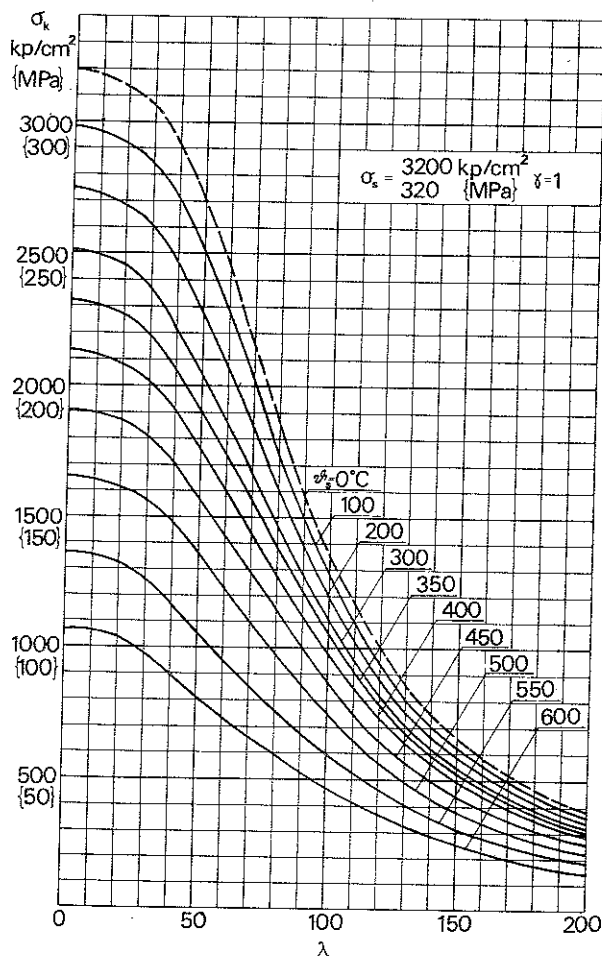
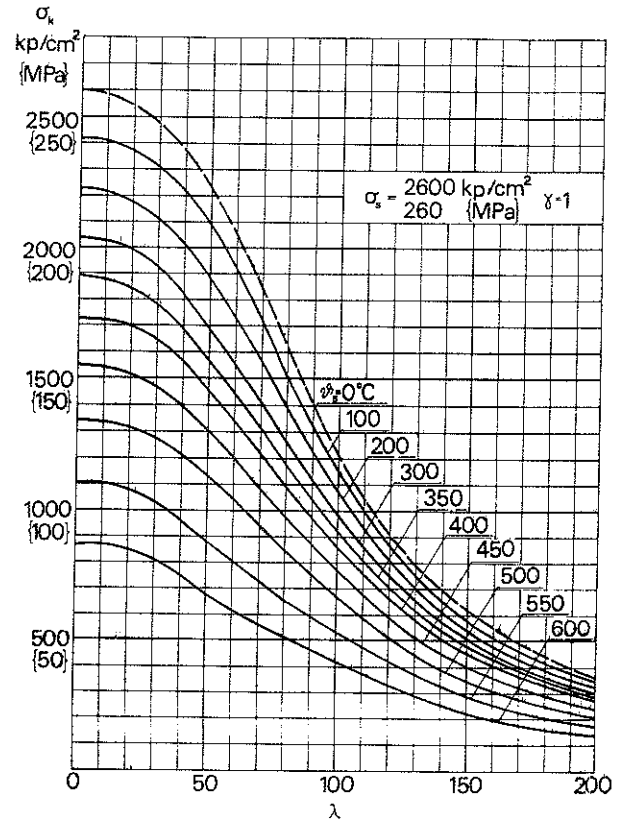
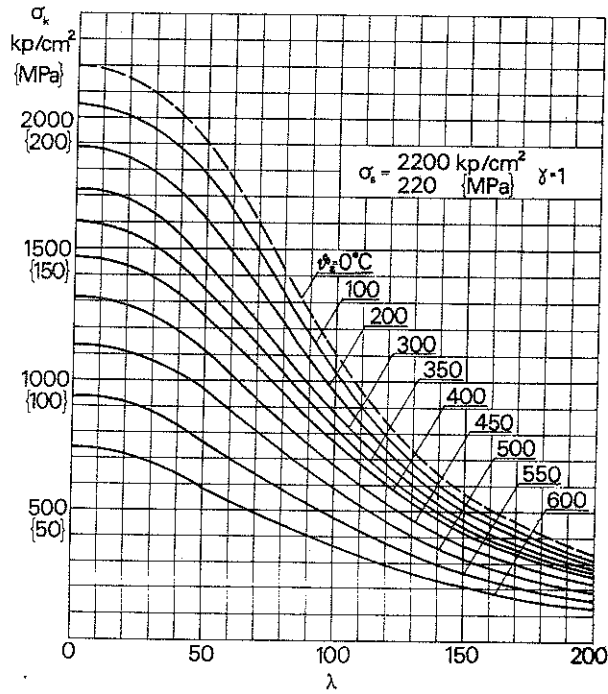


Figure 8.2a. Variation with the steel temperature  $\phi_s$  of the relationship between the buckling stress  $\sigma_k$  and the equivalent slenderness ratio  $\lambda$  for fire exposed, axially compressed steel columns, free to expand longitudinally and made of steel with a yield point stress at ordinary room temperature  $\sigma_s = 2\,200, 2\,600$  and  $3\,200 \text{ kp/cm}^2$ , respectively

After an approximation of the real stress-strain curves for different steel temperatures  $\vartheta_s$  by corresponding stress-strain diagrams of a perfectly elastic-plastic material, the buckling compressive stress  $\sigma_k$  can be determined for a fire exposed steel column without any longitudinal restraint by solving Eq. (8.2b) [3], [22]. As a consequence of the softly rounded form of the stress-strain curves of steel at elevated temperatures, functionally better based values of the buckling compressive stress  $\sigma_k$  are obtained if the initial modulus of elasticity  $E$  and the 0.2 % proof stress  $\sigma_{0.2}$  are replaced by the secant modulus and the 0.5 % proof stress  $\sigma_{0.5}$  at the evaluation of Eq. (8.2b). Design diagrams, calculated in this way are exemplified in Fig. 8.2a for axially compressed columns made of steel having a yield point stress at ordinary room temperature  $\sigma_s = 2\ 200, 2\ 600$  and  $3\ 200\ \text{kp/cm}^2$ , respectively. For steel qualities with intermediate  $\sigma_s$ -values, the design diagrams can be applied over a linear interpolation. The buckling stress  $\sigma_k$  is given as a function of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  and of the equivalent slenderness ratio of the column  $\lambda$ .

The diagrams are based on a temperature and stress level dependence for the secant modulus  $E$  and the 0.5 % proof stress  $\sigma_{0.5}$  according to Fig. 8.2b. These material quantities then have been received in tension tests at a very slow loading rate which implies that a considerable effect of short-time creep has been included.

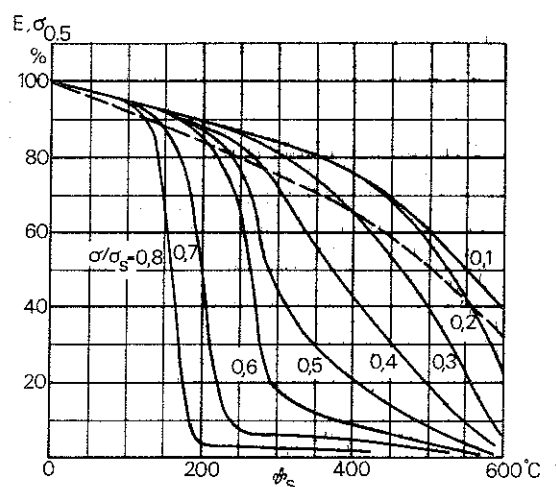


Figure 8.2b. Secant modulus  $E$  as a function of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  at varying stress level  $\sigma/\sigma_s$  where  $\sigma_s$  is the yield point stress at ordinary room temperature (full-line curves). 0.5 % proof stress  $\sigma_{0.5}$  as a function of the steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  (dash-line curve)



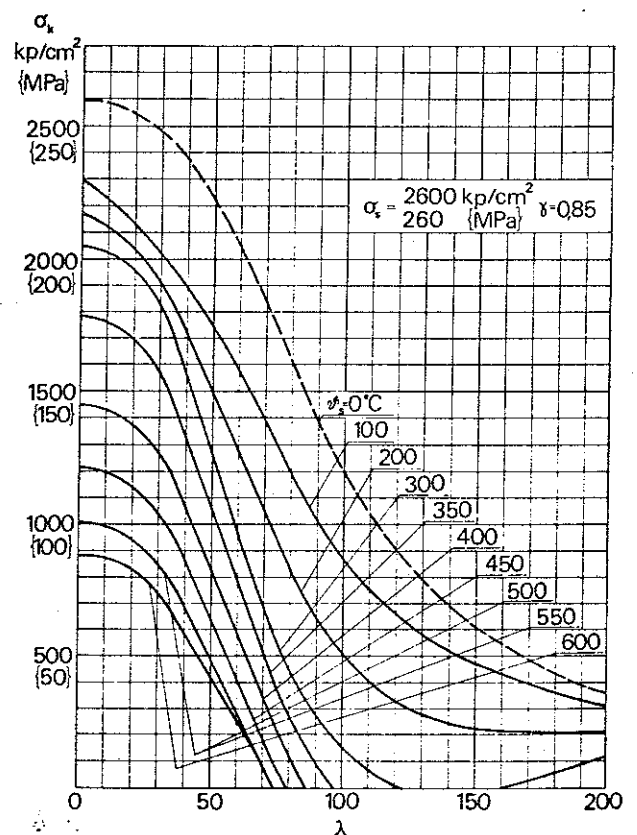
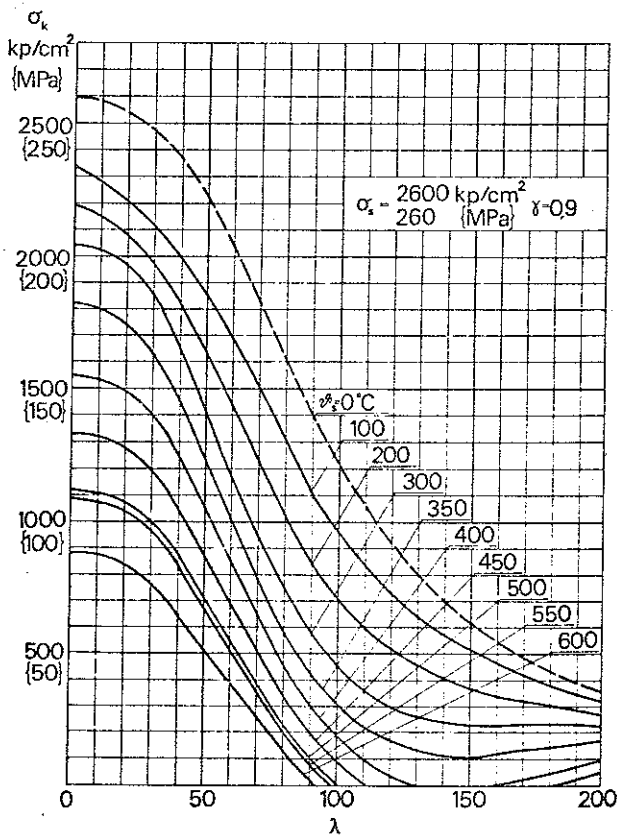
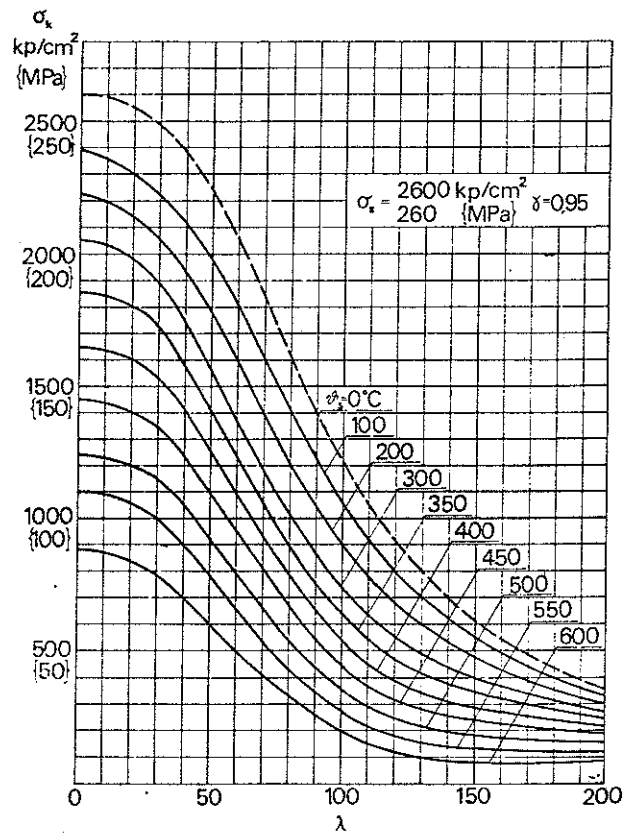
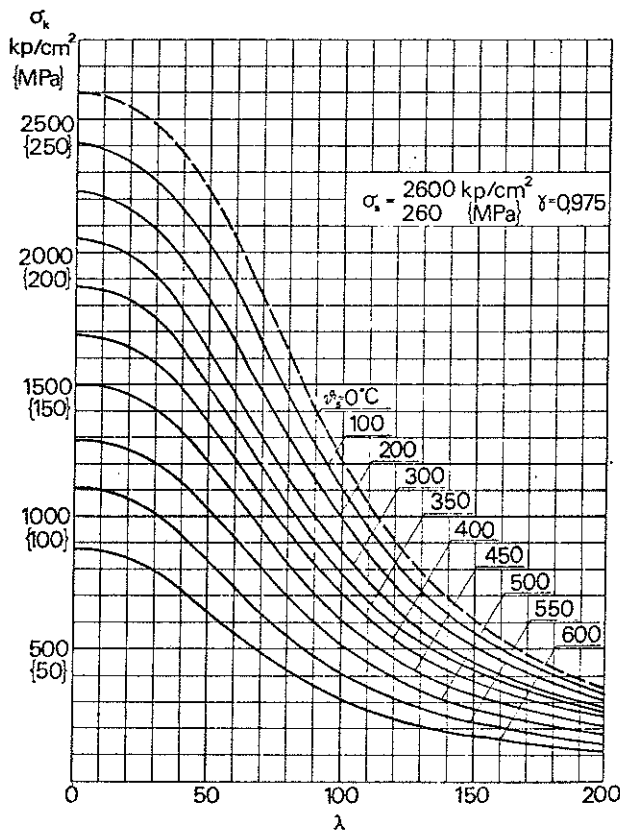


Figure 8.2c. Variation with the steel temperature  $\varphi_s$  of the relationship between the buckling stress  $\sigma_k$  and the equivalent slender ratio  $\lambda$  for fire exposed, axially compressed steel columns, partially restrained to longitudinal expansion and made of steel with a yield point stress at ordinary room temperature  $\sigma_s = 2600 \text{ kp/cm}^2$ .

With the actual, equivalent slenderness ratio of the column  $\lambda$  and the actual design load in connection with a fire exposure,  $\sigma_a = \sigma_k$ , as entrance quantities, the diagrams in Fig. 8.2a directly give the critical steel temperature  $\vartheta_{s,cr}$ . As a design criterion, it is to be proved that this critical steel temperature  $\vartheta_{s,cr}$  at least is as much as the maximum value of the actual steel temperature  $\vartheta_{max}$  during the fire exposure. This maximum steel temperature  $\vartheta_{max}$  then directly can be taken from the Tables 5a, 6a and 6b.

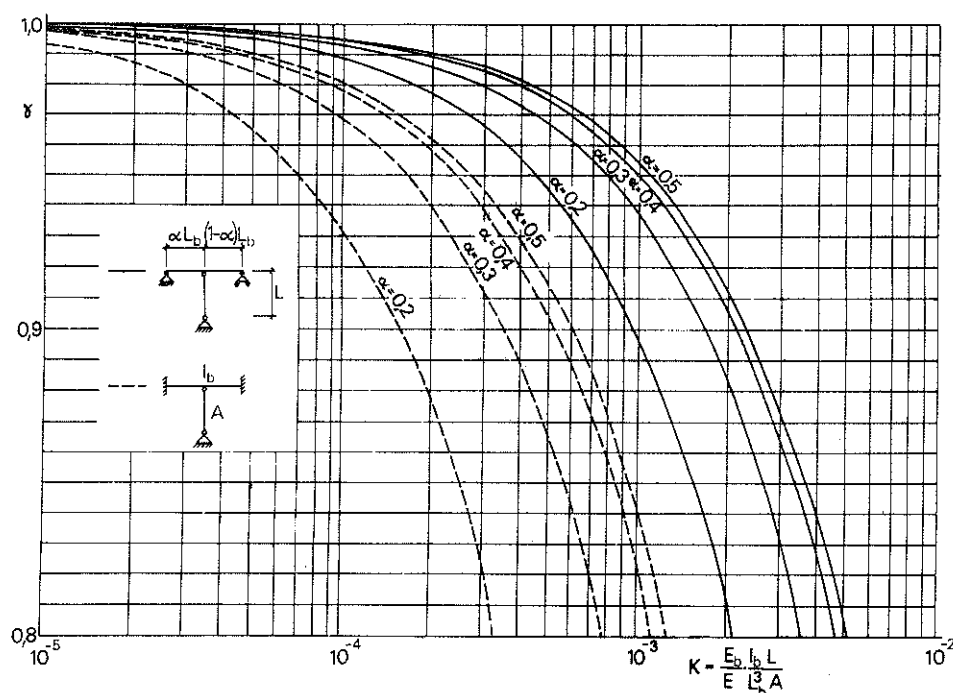


Figure 8.2d. The coefficient  $\gamma$ , defining the degree of axial restraint for a fire exposed column, exemplified for a simply supported or a built in beam as the adjoining structure. In the dimensionless parameter  $K$ ,  $E_b$  is the modulus of elasticity of the beam for actual steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$ ,  $E$  the secant modulus of the column for actual steel temperature  $\vartheta_s$  and actual stress level  $\sigma/\sigma_s$  (Fig. 8.2b, additional stress from the axial restraint included),  $L_b$  the total length of the beam,  $L$  the column length,  $I_b$  the moment of inertia of the beam and  $A$  the cross section of the column

The design curves in Fig. 8.2a are valid under the presumption that the column is unrestrained with respect to longitudinal expansion during the fire. A complementary illustration of the influence on the buckling stress  $\sigma_k$  of a partial restraint to longitudinal expansion is given in Fig. 8.2c [28], valid for a fire exposed column of steel having a yield point stress at ordinary room temperature

$\sigma_s = 2\ 600\ \text{kp/cm}^2$ . The different diagrams then refer to varying degree of axial restraint, characterized by a dimensionless coefficient  $\gamma$ , giving the quotient between the possible longitudinal expansion and the completely unrestrained elongation of the fire exposed column. Accordingly,  $\gamma = 1$  corresponds to no longitudinal restraint at all, and  $\gamma = 0$  to a full restraint to axial expansion of the column. For  $\gamma \neq 1$  the  $\sigma_k$ - $\lambda$  relationship varies with the quotient  $i/d$ , and the curves reproduced are for  $i/d = 0.5$ .

The coefficient of longitudinal restraint  $\gamma$  is determined by the quotient between the stiffness of the column and the stiffness of the adjoining structures in connection with the fire exposure. An example of a design diagram, facilitating a determination of the restraint coefficient  $\gamma$  is shown in Fig. 8.2d.

#### Summary

A differentiated procedure is presented for a fire engineering design of load-bearing steel structures. The procedure is a direct design method based on gastemperature-time characteristics of the process of fire development which depend on the fire load, the ventilation of the fire compartment and the thermal properties of the structures enclosing the fire compartment.

For the practical application of the design procedure, a manual has been worked out comprising a comprehensive design basis in the form of diagrams and tables which directly are giving the maximum steel temperature for a differentiated complete process of fire development and the corresponding load-bearing capacity. The design basis is fragmentarily exemplified in this paper, primarily for giving a rough impression of the character of the manual and the differentiated design procedure. The practical use of the manual has been approved by the National Board of Urban Planning in Sweden.

The differentiated design procedure presented is to be seen as an attempt to build up a logical system for a structural fire engineering design, based on functional requirements. Fundamentally, such a sys-

tem is in agreement with the present development of building codes and regulations. It is well devoted to stimulate the architects and the structural engineers to solve the fire engineering problems in a qualified way over a design procedure which is equivalent to the design procedure, conventionally applied with respect to, for instance, static loading. The presented design system is not homogeneous, as regards the present basis of knowledge for the different design steps, which could be put forward as a criticism of the system. However, such a remark is not essential. Instead, this fact ought to be used as an important information on how to systematize a future research for enabling a successive improvement of the system.

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Table 3a. Loading values to be applied in a differentiated structural fire engineering design

It is to be proved that the load-bearing structure or structural member does not collapse during the complete process of fire development for the most unfavourable combination of

- (1) the dead load,
- (2) the snow load, multiplied by the load factor 1.2, and
- (3) the live load, multiplied by the load factor 1.4.

The dead load is determined conventionally. For the snow load, values are to be applied for the permanent and movable parts corresponding to 80 percent of the values according to the current standard specifications. For the live load, the following values are to be applied.

Type of fire compartment	Permanent loading part	Movable loading part
	$\text{kp}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ { $\text{kN}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ }	$\text{kp}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ { $\text{kN}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ }
<u>(a) Complete evacuation of occupants not certainly anticipated</u>		
Dwellings, hotels, and hospitals	35 {0.35}	70 {0.70}
Offices, and schools	35 {0.35}	100 {1.00}
Stores, and assembly-rooms (excluding rooms with compact disposed loading)	35 {0.35}	250 {2.50}
<u>(b) Complete evacuation of occupants certainly anticipated</u>		
Dwellings, hotels and hospitals	35 {0.35}	35 {0.35}
Offices, and schools	35 {0.35}	55 {0.55}
Stores, and assembly-rooms (excluding rooms with compact disposed loading)	35 {0.35}	70 {0.70}



Table 4.1a. Fire load characteristics according to recent Swedish investigations - fire load density  $q$  defined according to Eq (4.1b)

Type of fire compartment	Average		Standard deviation		Design value	
	Mcal·m <sup>-2</sup>	{MJ·m <sup>-2</sup> }	Mcal·m <sup>-2</sup>	{MJ·m <sup>-2</sup> }	Mcal·m <sup>-2</sup>	{MJ·m <sup>-2</sup> }
1 Dwellings <sup>1)</sup>						
1a Two rooms and a kitchen	35.8	{150}	5.9	{24.7}	40.0	{168}
1b Three rooms and a kitchen	33.1	{139}	4.8	{20.1}	35.5	{149}
2 Offices <sup>2)</sup>						
2a Technical offices	29.7	{124}	7.5	{31.4}	34.5	{145}
2b Administrative offices	24.3	{102}	7.7	{32.2}	31.5	{132}
2c All offices, investigated	27.3	{114}	9.4	{39.4}	33.0	{138}
3 Schools <sup>2)</sup>						
3a Schools - junior level	20.1	{84.2}	3.4	{14.2}	23.5	{98.4}
3b Schools - middle level	23.1	{96.7}	4.9	{20.5}	28.0	{117}
3c Schools - senior level	14.6	{61.1}	4.4	{18.4}	17.0	{71.2}
3d All schools, investigated	19.2	{80.4}	5.6	{23.4}	23.0	{96.3}
4 Hospitals	27.6	{116}	8.6	{36.0}	35.0	{147}
5 Hotels <sup>2)</sup>	16.0	{67.0}	4.6	{19.3}	19.5	{81.6}

1) Floor covering excluded

2) Only moveable fire load components included

Table 4.2a. Coefficient  $K_f$  for transforming a real fire load density  $q$  and a real opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$  of a fire compartment to a fictitious fire load density  $q_f$ , and a fictitious opening factor  $(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_f$ , corresponding to a fire compartment, type A

$$q_f = K_f q$$

$$(A\sqrt{h}/A_t)_f = K_f A\sqrt{h}/A_t$$

Type of fire compartment	Opening factor $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$ m <sup>1/2</sup>					
	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.12
Type A	1	1	1	1	1	1
Type B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
Type C	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5
Type D	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.50	1.55	1.65
Type E	1.65	1.50	1.35	1.50	1.75	2.00
Type F <sup>1)</sup>	1.00-	1.00-	0.80-	0.70-	0.70-	0.70-
	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Type G	1.50	1.45	1.35	1.25	1.15	1.05

1) The lowest value of  $K_f$  applies to a fire load density  $q \geq 120$  Mcal·m<sup>-2</sup>, the highest value to a fire load density  $q \leq 15$  Mcal·m<sup>-2</sup>. For intermediate fire load densities, linear interpolation gives sufficient accuracy.

The different types of fire compartment are defined as follows

Fire compartment, type B: Bounding structures of concrete.

Fire compartment, type C: Bounding structures of lightweight concrete (density  $\rho = 500$  kg·m<sup>-3</sup>).

Fire compartment, type D: 50 % of the bounding structures of concrete, and 50 % of lightweight concrete (density  $\rho = 500$  kg·m<sup>-3</sup>).

Fire compartment, type E: Bounding structures with the following percentage of bounding surface area:

50 % lightweight concrete (density  $\rho = 500$  kg·m<sup>-3</sup>),

33 % concrete,

17 % of from the interior to the exterior: plasterboard panel (density  $\rho = 790$  kg·m<sup>-3</sup>), 13 mm in thickness - diabase wool (density  $\rho =$

$= 50$  kg·m<sup>-3</sup>), 10 cm in thickness - brickwork (density  $\rho = 1800$  kg·m<sup>-3</sup>),

20 cm in thickness.

Table 4.2a cont.

Fire compartment, type F: 80 % of the bounding structures of sheet steel, and 20 % of concrete. The compartment corresponds to a storage space with a sheet steel roof, sheet steel walls, and a concrete floor.

Fire compartment, type G: Bounding structures with the following percentage of bounding surface area:

20 % concrete,

80 % of from the interior to the exterior: double plasterboard panel (density  $\rho = 790 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ ), 2 x 13 mm in thickness - air space, 10 cm in thickness - double plasterboard panel (density  $\rho = 790 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ ), 2 x 13 mm in thickness.

For fire compartments, not directly represented in the table, the coefficient  $K_F$  can either be determined by a linear interpolation between applicable types of fire compartment in the table or be chosen in such a way as to give results on the safe side. For fire compartments with surrounding structures of both concrete and lightweight concrete, then different values can be obtained of the coefficient  $K_F$ , depending on the choice between the fire compartment types B, C, and D at the interpolation. This is due to the fact that the relationships, determining  $K_F$ , are non-linear. However, the  $K_F$ -values of the table are such that a linear interpolation always gives results on the safe side, irrespective of the alternative of interpolation chosen. In order to avoid an unnecessarily large overestimation of  $K_F$ , that alternative of interpolation is recommended which gives the lowest value of  $K_F$ .





q	$\frac{A\sqrt{h}}{A_t}$	$\frac{A_i}{V_s}$	$\vartheta_{\max}$				q	$\frac{A\sqrt{h}}{A_t}$	$\frac{A_i}{V_s}$	$\vartheta_{\max}$				q	$\frac{A\sqrt{h}}{A_t}$	$\frac{A_i}{V_s}$	$\vartheta_{\max}$						
			$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$				$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$				$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$	$d_j/\lambda_j$
50 {210}	0,02	25	480	355	250	200	60 {250}	0,02	25	550	420	295	235	75 {315}	0,04	25	525	395	270	205			
		50	605	490	375	300			50	665	540	400	320			75	735	625	490	400			
		75	665	570	450	380			75	715	640	515	435			100	790	680	550	455			
		100	700	620	510	435			125	760	705	610	540			150	-	710	600	505			
		125	720	650	550	475			150	770	725	640	575			200	-	800	695	605			
		150	730	675	585	510			200	780	750	690	625			25	400	280	185	140			
60 {250}	0,04	25	350	255	170	135	90 {380}	0,04	25	405	300	200	150	120 {500}	0,06	25	400	280	185	140			
		50	500	385	270	210			50	565	415	285	225			50	510	365	250	190			
		75	600	460	340	265			75	650	515	380	310			75	615	455	320	250			
		100	655	525	395	315			100	715	580	440	360			100	740	585	425	345			
		125	705	575	435	355			125	755	640	490	405			125	790	640	480	390			
		150	740	615	475	395			150	790	675	530	440			150	-	685	525	430			
75 {315}	0,06	25	300	210	135	105	120 {500}	0,06	25	345	240	155	120	150 {600}	0,08	25	350	240	160	120			
		50	445	320	215	170			50	500	360	240	195			50	510	365	250	190			
		75	540	400	275	220			75	600	450	315	250			75	615	455	320	250			
		100	610	465	330	260			100	670	515	375	300			100	700	530	375	300			
		125	665	515	375	300			125	725	570	415	340			125	750	585	425	340			
		150	710	560	410	330			150	765	615	460	375			150	800	640	470	385			
90 {380}	0,08	25	260	180	115	90	120 {500}	0,08	25	300	200	135	100	150 {600}	0,12	25	320	220	140	105			
		50	350	255	170	135			50	450	315	210	160			50	470	330	220	175			
		75	440	320	215	170			75	550	400	275	210			75	590	425	285	225			
		100	555	410	290	225			100	615	460	325	255			100	670	515	375	300			
		125	615	460	325	255			125	680	515	365	290			125	725	560	400	330			
		150	665	505	355	295			150	725	560	400	330			150	800	640	475	390			

Table 6a. Maximum steel temperature  $\vartheta_{\max}$  for a fire exposed, insulated steel structure at varying fire load density  $q$  ( $\text{Mcal}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ ), opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$  ( $\text{m}^{1/2}$ ), quotient  $A_i/V_s$  ( $\text{m}^{-1}$ ), and quotient  $d_i/\lambda_i$  ( $\text{m}^2\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{h}\cdot\text{kcal}^{-1}$ ). Fire compartment type A



q	$\frac{A\sqrt{h}}{A_t}$	$\frac{F_s}{V_s}$	Maximum steel temperature $\vartheta_{max}$ and ( ) maximum ceiling temperature				q	$\frac{A\sqrt{h}}{A_t}$	$\frac{F_s}{V_s}$	Maximum steel temperature $\vartheta_{max}$ and ( ) maximum ceiling temperature											
			$(d_i/\lambda_i)$ fict							$(d_i/\lambda_i)$ fict											
			0,05	0,10	0,20	0,30				0,05	0,10	0,20	0,30								
15 {63}	0,02	50	130	90	65	50	60 {250}	0,02	50	435	315	200	160								
		100	180	(470)	130	(440)			90	(410)	70	(390)	450	(615)	340	(570)	240	(530)	185	(500)	
		200	230		170				115		90		455		350		250		200		
		300	260		190				130		100		455		350		250		200		
	0,04	50	100	70	45	40	60 {250}	0,04	50	340	225	145	110								
		100	150	(565)	100	(530)			65	(500)	50	(475)	400	(680)	285	(630)	185	(590)	140	(560)	
		200	200		140				90		70		435		320		220		165		
		300	240		170				110		80		445		330		230		180		
	0,08	50	65	50	35	25	60 {250}	0,08	50	250	160	100	75								
		100	95	(675)	70	(630)			65	(590)	40	(570)	340	(750)	225	(700)	130	(650)	100	(625)	
		200	150		100				65		50		415		285		185		135		
		300	190		125				90		60		445		315		210		155		
0,12	50	40	35	30	25	60 {250}	0,12	50	190	120	75	60									
	100	60	(735)	45	(690)			40	(650)	30	(620)	285	(780)	185	(725)	110	(680)	80	(660)		
	200	120		70				50		40		375		250		155		110			
	300	155		100				60		45		420		290		185		130			
25 {105}	0,02	50	200	140	95	75	90 {380}	0,04	50	475	330	205	150								
		100	260	(510)	185	(470)			125	(435)	100	(420)	510	(740)	370	(680)	250	(630)	190	(600)	
		200	300		225				155		120		515		385		270		210		
		300	320		245				170		130		515		385		270		215		
	0,04	50	160	110	75	55	90 {380}	0,08	50	345	225	130	100								
		100	230	(600)	150	(565)			100	(530)	75	(515)	430	(790)	290	(730)	180	(675)	130	(650)	
		200	290		205				135		100		480		340		225		170		
		300	325		235				155		115		495		360		250		190		
	0,08	50	115	75	50	40	120 {500}	0,04	50	560	400	260	200								
		100	160	(680)	110	(635)			70	(595)	55	(570)	570	(780)	420	(715)	290	(660)	220	(630)	
		200	240		160				100		75		575		425		300		230		
		300	285		195				120		90		575		425		300		230		
0,12	50	80	60	40	30	120 {500}	0,08	50	425	280	160	120									
	100	130	(740)	80	(690)			60	(650)	45	(620)	495	(810)	345	(750)	210	(695)	160	(670)		
	200	190		125				80		60		520		375		250		195			
	300	235		160				100		75		525		385		260		205			
40 {168}	0,02	50	300	220	145	110	40 {168}	0,02	50	300	220	145	110								
		100	360	260	175	135			40 {168}	0,04	50	240	160	105	80						
		200	380	(560)	290	(520)					200	(480)	160	(460)	315	(645)	220	(600)	140	100	(535)
		300	385		295						210		165		375		270		180		135
	300	390		290		195		150				390		290		195		150			
	0,08	50	170	110	70	55	40 {168}	0,08	50	170	110	70	55								
		100	245	(715)	160	(665)			100	(625)	75	(600)	245	(715)	220	(665)	140	(625)	105	(600)	
		200	335		220				140		105		335		220		140		105		
		300	380		260				165		120		380		260		165		120		
	0,12	50	130	85	55	45	40 {168}	0,12	50	130	85	55	45								
		100	200	(750)	130	(700)			85	(660)	60	(630)	200	(750)	190	(700)	115	(660)	85	(630)	
		200	290		190				115		85		290		190		115		85		
300		340		225		145				100		340		225		145		100			

Table 7a. Maximum steel temperature  $\vartheta_{max}$  for a steel beam construction according to Fig. 7a, fire exposed from below, at varying fire load density  $q$  ( $\text{Mcal} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ ), opening factor  $A\sqrt{h}/A_t$  ( $\text{m}^{1/2}$ ), quotient  $F_s/V_s$  ( $\text{m}^{-1}$ ), and quotient  $d_i/\lambda_i$  ( $\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{C} \cdot \text{h} \cdot \text{kcal}^{-1}$ ). The corresponding maximum temperature of the ceiling is given in a parenthesis. Slab of reinforced concrete. Fire compartment type A