



Frequently Asked Questions

Back-Up Bars for Slab-on-Ground Applications

Answers from the PTI DC-10 Slab-on-Ground Committee

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Q Are anchorage back-up bars required for post-tensioned slab-on-ground construction using ½-in. diameter or smaller seven-wire, 270 ksi strand tendons?

A In common slabs-on-ground applications the answer is NO, unless they are required by governing building code or the licensed design professional.

BACKGROUND

This opinion by the PTI DC-10 Slab-on-Ground Committee is based on the acceptable performance of millions of slab-on-ground applications that have been constructed in the past 40+ years where back-up bars have not been used. A paper, “Back-Up Bars for Residential Slab-on-Ground Foundations”, by Gregory P. Chacos, PTI Journal, V5, No. 1, July 2007, supports this opinion.

ACI 318 *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete* does not govern the design and construction of post-tensioned slab-on-ground foundations (see R1.1.7 of ACI 318-08). Thus, the back-up bar requirements specified in ACI 318 do not apply to post-tensioned slab-on-ground applications.



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