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IRISH STANDARD

I.S. EN 1998-1:2005

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**EUROCODE 8: DESIGN OF STRUCTURES  
FOR EARTHQUAKE RESISTANCE - PART 1:  
GENERAL RULES, SEISMIC ACTIONS AND  
RULES FOR BUILDINGS**

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## **Eurocodes National Foreword.**

This Irish Standard is the official English language version of EN 1998-1:2004, prepared by Technical Committee CEN TC 250 "Structural Eurocodes". This document supersedes ENV 1998-1-1:1994, ENV 1998-1-2:1994, ENV 1998-1-3:1995.

This standard forms part of a package of 58 Eurocodes, which covers the basis of structural design, actions (loadings), the main structural materials, geotechnical design and design provisions for earthquakes. The European Commission document – Guidance Paper L – Application and Use of Eurocodes provides guidance on the elaboration, implementation and use of Eurocodes.

Where a normative part of this EN allows for a choice to be made at the national level the range and possible choices are given in the normative text and a Note will qualify it as a Nationally Determined Parameter (NDP).

To enable EN 1998-1:2004 to be used in Ireland the Nationally Determined Parameters will be published in a National Annex after public consultation has taken place.

Until the National Annex is available, publication of this European Standard is solely for educational/training purposes and this standard should not be used in project design until the relevant National Annex is available.

**Note: For Use of this European Standard after Publication of the Irish National Annex.**

**I.S. EN 1998-1:2004 may now be used in Ireland. The Nationally Determined Parameters, which have been prepared by the NSAI National Eurocode Advisory Committee, are included as an informative annex to the standard.**

**The National Annex to I.S. EN 1998-1:2004 is also available as a separate publication as recommended in Guidance Paper L.**

In Line with international standards practice the decimal point is shown as a comma (,) throughout this document.
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English version

## Eurocode 8: Design of structures for earthquake resistance - Part 1: General rules, seismic actions and rules for buildings

Eurocode 8: Calcul des structures pour leur résistance aux  
séismes - Partie 1: Règles générales, actions sismiques et  
règles pour les bâtiments

Eurocode 8: Auslegung von Bauwerken gegen Erdbeben -  
Teil 1: Grundlagen, Erdbebeneinwirkungen und Regeln für  
Hochbauten

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 April 2004.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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## Foreword

This European Standard EN 1998-1, Eurocode 8: Design of structures for earthquake resistance: General rules, seismic actions and rules for buildings, has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 250 "Structural Eurocodes", the secretariat of which is held by BSI. CEN/TC 250 is responsible for all Structural Eurocodes.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a National Standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2005, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at latest by March 2010.

This document supersedes ENV 1998-1-1:1994, ENV 1998-1-2:1994 and ENV 1998-1-3:1995.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the National Standard Organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

## Background of the Eurocode programme

In 1975, the Commission of the European Community decided on an action programme in the field of construction, based on article 95 of the Treaty. The objective of the programme was the elimination of technical obstacles to trade and the harmonisation of technical specifications.

Within this action programme, the Commission took the initiative to establish a set of harmonised technical rules for the design of construction works which, in a first stage, would serve as an alternative to the national rules in force in the Member States and, ultimately, would replace them.

For fifteen years, the Commission, with the help of a Steering Committee with Representatives of Member States, conducted the development of the Eurocodes programme, which led to the first generation of European codes in the 1980's.

In 1989, the Commission and the Member States of the EU and EFTA decided, on the basis of an agreement<sup>1</sup> between the Commission and CEN, to transfer the preparation and the publication of the Eurocodes to CEN through a series of Mandates, in order to provide them with a future status of European Standard (EN). This links *de facto* the Eurocodes with the provisions of all the Council's Directives and/or Commission's Decisions dealing with European standards (e.g. the Council Directive 89/106/EEC on construction products - CPD - and Council Directives 93/37/EEC, 92/50/EEC and 89/440/EEC on public works and services and equivalent EFTA Directives initiated in pursuit of setting up the internal market).

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<sup>1</sup> Agreement between the Commission of the European Communities and the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) concerning the work on EUROCODES for the design of building and civil engineering works (BC/CEN/03/89).



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