TG32 – Public Perception of Safety and Risks in Civil Engineering

Risk Assessment and Risk Communication in Civil Engineering

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Summary
The design of buildings and civil engineering structures involves a consideration of safety, life time performance and environmental aspects. The risks may be related to structural collapse, collisions, explosions and fires in buildings and in tunnels, flooding, accidents at industrial or nuclear plants etc. In this fundamental area of decision making about safety, engineers have to communicate with their clients and the general public or, usually, with politicians on their behalf. The communication between engineers and between engineers and authorities, clients or the general public is generally difficult. Subjective perception of failure and overreaction prevent a rational solution.

This report deals with the various aspects of safety engineering. Both risk evaluation and the decision making process are treated. The fundamental question answered is: “How much safety does society really need and what is it prepared to pay for that level or for a higher level?”.

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**Application**
This report deals with the various aspects of safety engineering. Both risk evaluation and the decision making process are treated.

**Target Group**
The Publication is of special interest to safety engineers, will also provide valuable information to building and civil engineers or other parties involved in integral decision making in the design process.

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