



Code of practice for

**Safety precautions in the construction
of large diameter boreholes for piling
and other purposes**

(Formerly CP 2011)

Code de bonne pratique pour les mesures de sécurité pour la réalisation de
forages de grand diamètre pour pieux et autres usages

Richtlinie für Sicherheitsvorkehrungen für den Bau von Großbohrlöchern
für Pfahlkonstruktionen und andere Zwecke

British Standards Institution

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This code of practice represents a standard of good practice but compliance with it does not confer immunity from statutory and legal requirements and bye-laws.

Foreword

This code of practice was originally published under the number CP 2011, in 1969; in accordance with BSI policy whereby codes of practice are now published in the general series of British Standards, this revision is published as BS 5573.

In the past decade the use of large diameter boreholes, particularly for cast-in-situ piling work, has increased very materially. Men descend these boreholes, either for purposes of inspection or for additional hand work such as cleaning out or extending the under-reamed bases of the piles. Much of this work has been done without accident; nevertheless, it is clear that there are risks involved, the results of which could be serious unless reasonable precautions are observed.

Considerable reliance is necessarily placed on the experience of supervisors and on the commonsense of the men engaged in this work since it is clearly extremely difficult in a code of practice of this type to provide for every potentially dangerous circumstance which may ever arise.

The Construction (General Provisions) Regulations, 1961, include many regulations which apply to large diameter boreholes as well as to ordinary trench excavations. Attention is drawn in particular to Regulation 13 which requires that all excavations be fenced or covered to prevent persons falling in, to Regulation 14 in relation to the stacking of materials near to the edge of any excavation, to Regulation 21 in regard to the ventilation of excavations and to Regulation 22 in regard to the use of internal combustion engines.

Attention is also drawn to the following regulations and acts

- (a) The Construction (Working Places) Regulations, 1966,

- (b) The Construction (Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1966.

- (c) The Construction (Lifting Operations) Regulations, 1961.

- (d) The Electricity (Factories Act) Special Regulations, 1908 and 1944.

- (e) The Factories Act, 1961.

- (f) The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974.

It is incumbent on users of this code to ensure that, at the time of usage, they are referring to the latest editions of the statutory regulations mentioned above and elsewhere in this code.

Those engaged on this work need to keep these regulations, or subsequent amendments, in mind at all times. If the regulations are complied with, the possibility of an accident will be reduced but certain other precautions are also necessary in the case of large diameter boreholes. It is one of the purposes of this code to draw attention to them.

Feedback information from engineers, contractors and site personnel has indicated that the main provisions of the first edition of this code, based largely on South African documentation, have been reasonably effective both as regards comprehension and practical application by those responsible for such operations on site. Additionally, by drawing attention to many of the potential hazards, the likelihood of accidents occurring has been correspondingly reduced. This second edition, therefore, contains no radical revisions, but many clauses have been clarified, amended or expanded to take account of experience gained in five years of use, further legislative requirements, new or revised related standards and codes, and advances in borehole technology leading to larger and, in particular, deeper shafts.