

THE GROUND FACTOR IN THE NEW ITALIAN BUILDING CODE

BY FRANCESCO PENTA*

ABSTRACT

The new 1962 Italian Building Code provides for engineering work to be included within its scope. The submission of a geological report is now required for new building sites and provision is made for localities to be divided into two "categories of ground" with respect to the degree of seismicity (for which as yet no definite criteria is laid down) and also with respect to geological conditions. With regard to the latter, Article 5 prohibits buildings on the edge, or at the foot of precipices subject in any way to land-slides, and Article 11 requires the bearing frame to be built into a bottom frame embedded in natural ground. Article 12 calls for a uniform seismic co-efficient of 10% gravity in the case of the first category of ground, and 7% gravity in the case of the second category. This article permits the use of bricks or blocks having the same resistance in shear or compression as that of "solid elements". Articles 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are more general. Certain regulations are given for repairs and strengthening. The author points out that there is no pronouncement on the "dynamic principle" of structural calculations or on the application of tests on models. The paper consists of nine pages without diagrams.

* Director of the Centro di Studio per la Geologia Tecnica del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche c/o the Istituto di Geologia Applicata della Facolta di Ingegneria (dell 'Universita') Rome, (S. Pietro in Vincoli).