Reinforced Elastomeric Bearings (EN-1337-3)

Elastomeric Bearings Overview
A bearing provides the connection between a structure and its support, and should make the following possible through elastic deformation:
- transmission of normal forces
- horizontal movements
- rotation of the structure in any direction
- transmission of horizontal forces

Reinforced Elastomeric Bearings are primarily made from a special blend of synthetic rubber, reinforced laterally with steel plates. These elements are fused together through vulcanisation to form a composite bearing pad. This strong lamination of layers is resistant to tension, compression and shear forces while the bearing is loaded.
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The bearings elastomeric properties allow for a certain amount of movement by twisting and deformation. Compared to other types of bearings, Reinforced Elastomeric bearings have some excellent advantages, such as:

- Significant protection from thermal expansion of structural elements
- Can withstand a wide array of movements
- Low initial cost
- Low maintenance
- Highly durable and exhibit a long service life

Reinforced Elastomeric Bearings really stand out through their low maintenance and durability. Some types can be used under certain conditions without any additional structural restraining. The deformation rate in vertical direction (deflection) under permanent load is calculable and stays constant. The influences of live loads are generally small and the additional temporary deflections caused by live loads are of a minor degree and will cause no problems for most structures.

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