



AS2159 – 2009 PILING DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Information for Engineers on Latest Piling Code

The most significant change to the piling industry in recent years was the release of the AS2159-2009 Piling – Design and Installation Standard.

These major changes should ultimately improve confidence levels for the piling work itself and include:

- Promoting the improvement of geo tech reports for piling;
- Requiring piling design risk ratings; and
- Encouraging pile testing to verify geotechnical strength, pile settlement characteristics at both serviceability and ultimate loads and shaft integrity

A significant change from the old standard is Section 2 'Site Investigation' which requires a much more comprehensive geotechnical report to base the pile design and Section 4 'Geotechnical Design' which now includes a weighted individual risk rating for risk factors and a formula for testing benefit factors (Section 4.3.1 'Design geotechnical strength').

The other major area of change is the pile load testing section of the code, which includes new pile acceptance criteria- Section 8.2.4 'Requirement to test' and Section 8.4 'Static Load Testing'.

The new code encourages more cost effective piling options to be explored; particularly when larger numbers of piles are required as the cost saving will greatly exceed the load testing costs.

Russell Heale Screw Piling has conducted load tests on many sites over the years and the cost savings have been proven. For example, 3 load tests were conducted at a recent NSW Government Housing project, resulting in a total cost saving of 17.5%. To take advantage of this a quality geo tech is required of adequate depth.

We have available calibrated load test equipment including 100t, 200t, and 500t rams, along with reaction beams to suit.



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