

Derivation of Metocean Design and Operating Conditions

ANSI/API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 2MET
SECOND EDITION, JANUARY 2021

**ISO 19901-1:2015 (Modified), Petroleum and natural gas industries—
Specific requirements for offshore structures—Part 1: Metocean
design and operating considerations**



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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 67, *Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Offshore structures*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 19901-1:2005), which has been technically revised.

ISO 19901 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Specific requirements for offshore structures*:

- *Part 1: Metocean design and operating considerations*
- *Part 2: Seismic design procedures and criteria*
- *Part 3: Topsides structure*
- *Part 4: Geotechnical and foundation design considerations*
- *Part 5: Weight control during engineering and construction*
- *Part 7: Stationkeeping systems for floating offshore structures and mobile offshore units*
- *Part 8: Marine soil investigations*

The following parts are under preparation:

- *Part 6: Marine operations*
- *Part 9: Structural integrity management*

ISO 19901 is one of a series of standards for offshore structures. The full series consists of the following International Standards:

- ISO 19900, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—General requirements for offshore structures*
- ISO 19901 (all parts), *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Specific requirements for offshore structures*
- ISO 19902, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Fixed steel offshore structures*
- ISO 19903, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Fixed concrete offshore structures*
- ISO 19904-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Floating offshore structures—Part 1: Monohulls, semi-submersibles and spars*
- ISO 19905-1, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units—Part 1: Jack-ups*
- ISO/TR 19905-2, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units—Part 2: Jack-ups commentary*
- ISO 19905-3, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units—Part 3: Floating unit*
- ISO 19906, *Petroleum and natural gas industries—Arctic offshore structures*

Contents

1	Scope.....	1
2	Normative References	1
3	Terms and Definitions	2
4	Symbols and Abbreviated Terms	10
4.1	Symbols	10
4.2	Abbreviated Terms.....	12
5	Determining the Relevant Metocean Parameters	12
5.1	General	12
5.2	Expert Development of Metocean Criteria.....	13
5.3	Selecting Appropriate Parameters for Determining Design Actions and Action Effects	14
5.4	The Metocean Database	15
5.5	Storm Types in a Region	15
5.6	Directionality	15
5.7	Extrapolation to Extreme and Abnormal Conditions	16
5.8	Metocean Parameters for Fatigue Assessments.....	16
5.9	Metocean Parameters for Short-term Activities	17
5.10	Metocean Parameters for Medium-term Activities	18
6	Water Depth, Tides, and Storm Surges	18
6.1	General	18
6.2	Tides.....	19
6.3	Storm Surges.....	19
6.4	Extreme Water Level.....	19
7	Wind.....	20
7.1	General	20
7.2	Wind Actions and Action Effects	21
7.3	Wind Profile and Time-averaged Wind Speed	22
7.4	Wind Spectra	22
8	Waves	22
8.1	General	22
8.2	Wave Actions and Action Effects.....	24
8.3	Sea States—Spectral Waves.....	24
8.4	Regular (Periodic) Waves.....	25
8.5	Maximum Height of an Individual Wave for Long Return Periods.....	26
8.6	Nonlinear Wave Models.....	26
8.7	Wave Crest Elevation.....	27
9	Currents	27
9.1	General	27
9.2	Current Velocities	27
9.3	Current Profile	28
9.4	Current Profile Stretching	28
9.5	Current Blockage	28
10	Other Environmental Factors	29
10.1	Marine Growth	29
10.2	Tsunamis	29
10.3	Seiches.....	30
10.4	Sea Ice and Icebergs.....	30
10.5	Snow and Ice Accretion.....	30
10.6	Miscellaneous.....	30

11	Collection of Metocean Data	31
11.1	General	31
11.2	Common Requirements	31
11.3	Meteorology	32
11.4	Oceanography	33
11.5	Data Quality Control	34
12	Information Concerning the Annexes	34
12.1	Information Concerning Annex A	34
12.2	Information Concerning the Regional Annexes	34
Annex A (informative)	Additional Information and Guidance	35
Annex B (informative)	Northwest Europe	88
Annex C (informative)	West Coast of Africa	98
Annex D (informative)	Offshore Canada	109
Annex E (informative)	Sakhalin/Sea of Okhotsk	137
Annex F (informative)	Caspian Sea	160
Annex G (informative)	Southern East Asian Sea	178
Annex H (informative)	US Gulf of Mexico	197
Annex I (informative)	US Coast of California	240
Annex J (informative)	Other US Waters	245
Annex K (informative)	Identification and Explanation of Deviations	249
	Bibliography	251
Figures		
1	Water Depth, Tides, and Storm Surges	20
A.1	Overview of the Process of Producing Metocean Parameters	37
A.2	Examples of Wind Spectra	52
A.3	Regions of Convergence of Alternative Wave Theories	67
A.4	Doppler Shift in Wave Period due to Steady Current—Relationship between Intrinsic and Apparent Periods	70
A.5	Linear and Nonlinear Stretching of Current Profiles	77
B.1	Map of Northwest Europe Region	95
B.2	Water Depths—Northwest Europe Region	96
B.3	Limit of Sea Ice—Northwest Europe Region—Annual Probabilities of Exceedance of 10^{-2} and 10^{-4}	97
B.4	Limit for Collision with Icebergs—Northwest Europe Region—Probabilities of Exceedance of 10^{-2} and 10^{-4}	97
C.1	Map of West Coast of Africa Region: Locations of Example Metocean Parameters	108
D.1	Map of Canada	110
D.2	East Coast of Canada Current Regions of Oil and Gas Production Operations—Near Sable Island Offshore Nova Scotia and on the Grand Banks Offshore Newfoundland and Labrador	111
D.3	Canadian East Coast Ocean Current Regime	114
D.4	Map of the Gulf of St. Lawrence Showing the General Circulation Pattern	116
D.5	Mean General Summer Circulation of the Surface Water in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas¹	117
D.6	Surface Circulation in the Southeastern Beaufort Sea for Northwest and East Winds from Surface Drift Studies	118
D.7	30-Year Frequency of Sea Ice Offshore the Canadian East Coast for the Last Week of March (1981–2010)	119
D.8	Map Showing the Three Beaufort Sea Ice Zones in the Arctic	123
D.9	Probability of Finding Pressure Ridge Keels in the Polar Ice Pack	124
D.10	Extent of the Landfast Ice from 1977 to 1980	125

D.11	Ice Thickness in the Beaufort Sea from 1991 to 2002, Including the Canadian Ice Service Mean Curve and the EIS min. and max. Curves	125
D.12	Historical Yearly Mean Iceberg Distribution Offshore Newfoundland, Based on Data from 1981 to 2003	127
D.13	Amount of Daylight Hours as a Function of Latitude	130
E.1	Map of Sakhalin Showing Locations of Example Metocean Parameters	137
E.2	Probability of Any Ice in an Average Year per Given 10-day Period	142
E.3	Probability of Any Ice in the Tartar Strait in an Average Year	149
F.1	Map of the Caspian Sea, Showing Four Designated Regions: Northern, Central, Apsheron, and Southern Caspian	161
F.2	Positions of the Ice Edge in the Caspian Sea by Month and by Winter Severity	162
F.3	Long-term Variation in Caspian Sea MSL	165
F.4	Seasonal Fluctuations in Caspian Sea MSL	165
F.5	Storm Surges in the Northern Caspian Sea	166
F.6	Generalized Current Flows in the Caspian Sea	167
F.7	Precipitation (mm) Over Winter Season in Atyrau, Northern Caspian Sea	169
F.8	Region of the Caspian Sea Where Historical Tsunamis or Anomalous Sea Levels Were Observed	173
G.1	Geography of the Southern East Asian Sea	179
G.2	Bathymetry of the East Asia Sea	181
G.3	Spatial Representation of Maximum Significant Wave Height for January, February, March, and April	183
G.4	Spatial Representation of Maximum Significant Wave Height for May, June, July, and August	184
G.5	Spatial Representation of Maximum Significant Wave Height for September, October, November, and December	185
H.1	Gulf of Mexico (Bathymetry in m)	197
H.2	US Outer Continental Shelf and Deep Water Lease Areas	198
H.3	US Inner Continental Shelf Lease Areas	199
H.4	Tracks of Tropical Cyclones, 2005	201
H.5	Circulation in the Gulf of Mexico	202
H.6	Maximum Sustained Wind Speed—Hurricane Katrina (2005)	204
H.7	Annual Sea Temperature Range—Western Gulf of Mexico	206
H.8	Full Population Hurricane Areas of the Gulf	208
H.9	N -year H_{max} —Western Gulf of Mexico	210
H.10	N -year Extreme Water Level—Western Gulf of Mexico	210
H.11	Associated Surge with Tide—Western Gulf of Mexico	211
H.12	N -year H_{max} —Central Gulf of Mexico	211
H.13	N -year Extreme Water Level—Central Gulf of Mexico	213
H.14	Associated Surge with Tide—Central Gulf of Mexico	213
H.15	N -year H_{max} —Eastern Gulf of Mexico	215
H.16	N -year Extreme Water Level—Eastern Gulf of Mexico	215
H.17	Associated Surge with Tide—Eastern Gulf of Mexico	216
H.18	Direction Factor for Wave Heights North of 26° N, West of 84° W, Depths ≥ 30 m, Return Periods > 10 Years	219
H.19	Current Heading, Depth ≤ 50 m	220
H.20	N -year H_{max} —All Regions	224
H.21	N -year Extreme Water Level—All Regions	224
H.22	Associated Surge with Tide—All Regions	225
H.23	N -year Winter Storm H_{max} , West of 86° W	230
H.24	10-year Loop Current/Eddy Surface Speeds (m/s)	232
H.25	100-year Loop Current/Eddy Surface Speeds (m/s)	233
H.26	June/December Wind Roses—Northwest Gulf of Mexico	236
I.1	Map of California Offshore Region	244
J.1	Other US Waters	246

Tables

A.1	Coefficients in Equation (A.21) for Points P_1 and P_2	54
A.2	Directional Spreading Factors for Open Water Conditions	63
A.3	Relationship between Spreading Factor ϕ and Exponents n and s for Directional Spreading Functions $D_1(\theta)$ and $D_2(\theta)$	64
A.4	Potential Application of Metocean Information.....	80
A.5	Recommended Instrument Accuracy and Typical Operational Performance	81
B.1	Terminal Thickness of Marine Growth—UK Sector	90
B.2	Estimated Maximum Thickness of Marine Growth—Areas Offshore Norway	90
B.3	Accumulation of Ice: Offshore Structures in UK Sector	91
B.4	Ice Accretions: Annual Probability of Exceedance of 10^{-2}	92
B.5	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites in Celtic Sea.....	93
B.6	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites in Southern North Sea.....	93
B.7	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites in Central North Sea	93
B.8	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites in Northern North Sea	93
B.9	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites West of Shetland.....	94
B.10	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites at the Haltenbank.....	94
B.11	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sites in Barents Sea	94
B.12	Temperature Ranges—Sites in North Sea, Eastern North Atlantic, and Norwegian Sea	94
C.1	Indicative Wind, Wave, and Current Parameters—Shallow Water Sites off Nigeria	103
C.2	Indicative Wind, Wave, and Current Parameters—Deep Water Sites off Nigeria	104
C.3	Indicative Wind, Wave, and Current Parameters—Sites off Northern Angola	104
C.4	Indicative Wind, Wave, and Current Parameters—Sites off Southern Namibia	105
C.5	Indicative Extreme Values for Other Metocean Parameters	105
C.6	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period—Offshore Nigeria Location	106
C.7	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period—Offshore Angola Location	106
C.8	Example of Wind Sea States Used for Combined Wind Sea/Swell Bimodal Sea States—Offshore Angola	107
D.1	Ice Tendencies in the Gulf of St. Lawrence	121
D.2	Statistics for Ice Scours in the Beaufort Sea	129
D.3	Seabed Scour Statistics for the Beaufort Sea.....	129
D.4	Extreme Air and Water Temperatures for Canadian Offshore Areas	131
D.5	Extreme Metocean Parameters for Canadian Offshore Areas.....	132
E.1	Summary of Ice Conditions.....	141
E.2	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sakhalin East Coast (52.5° N to 55° N and Water Depths from 30 m to 100 m)	157
E.3	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Sakhalin East Coast (51° N to 52.5° N and Water Depths from 30 m to 100 m)	157
E.4	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Aniva Bay (Central, Northern Half)	157
E.5	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters—Tartar Strait (51° N to 52° N and Water Depth of About 30 m).....	158
E.6	Monthly Air Temperature in Korsakov (46° 37' N, 142° 47' E) from 1966 to 2000	158
E.7	Monthly Air Temperature in Odoptu (53° 22' N, 143° 10' E) from 1975 to 2000.....	158
E.8	Sea Temperature Ranges—Indicative Monthly-mean Values.....	158
E.9	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period Offshore Sakhalin NE Coast (52.50° N, 143.66° E)	159
E.10	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period in Aniva Bay (46.45° N, 142.75° E)	159
E.11	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period in Northern Tartar Strait (51.48° N, 141.44° E)	159
F.1	Number of Events per Year with Winds > 15 m/s.....	167
F.2	Average Number of Days per Month with Dust Storms at Fort Shevchenko.....	170
F.3	Summary of Ice Conditions in the Northern Caspian Sea	171

F.4	Historical Tsunamis and Tsunami-like Events Observed in the Caspian Sea	172
F.5	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters for the Northern Caspian Sea Region	174
F.6	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters for the Central Caspian Sea Region	174
F.7	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters for the Apsheron Ridge Area of the Caspian Sea	175
F.8	Indicative Values of Metocean Parameters for the Southern Caspian	175
F.9	Indicative Temperatures Ranges for the Caspian Sea	176
F.10	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period for a Location in the Northern Caspian Sea	176
F.11	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height vs. Spectral Peak Period for a Location on the Apsheron Ridge Area of the Caspian Sea	177
G.1	Offshore Vietnam—Shallow Water	189
G.2	Offshore Vietnam—Deep Water	190
G.3	Gulf of Thailand—North	190
G.4	Gulf of Thailand—South	191
G.5	Offshore Peninsular Malaysia	191
G.6	Offshore Natuna Island (South Natuna Sea)	192
G.7	Offshore Natuna Island (North Natuna Sea)	192
G.8	Offshore Borneo—Sarawak Shallows	193
G.9	Offshore Borneo—Sarawak Shelf Edge	193
G.10	Offshore Borneo—Sabah Shallows	194
G.11	Offshore Borneo—Sabah Shelf Edge	194
G.12	Offshore Borneo—Sabah Deepwater	195
G.13	Offshore Philippines—Palawan Area	195
G.14	Indicative Extreme Values for Other Metocean Parameters	196
H.1	Compressed Marine Growth Thickness	206
H.2	Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge in Deep Water—Western Gulf of Mexico (92° W to 98° W)	209
H.3	Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge in Deep Water—Central Gulf of Mexico (84° W to 92° W)	212
H.4	Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge in Deep Water—Eastern Gulf of Mexico (82° W to 84° W)	214
H.5	Recommended Adjustments to “Surge + Tide” and T_{Hmax} for Gulf of Mexico Conditions	218
H.6	Factors for Combining Independent Extremes into Load Cases in Shallow Water (10 m ≤ Depth ≤ 50 m)	221
H.7	Factors for Combining Independent Extremes into Load Cases in Deep Water (Depth > 50 m)	222
H.8	Sudden Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge (All Regions, Depth ≤ 120 m)	223
H.9	Early Season (June 1 to August 1) Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge—Central and Western Gulf of Mexico (88° W to 98° W), Depth ≥ 120 m	226
H.10	Late Season (October 21 through November 30) Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge—Central and Western Gulf of Mexico (88° W to 98° W), Depth ≥ 120 m	227
H.11	Early Season (June 1 to August 1) Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge—Eastern and Central Gulf of Mexico (82° W to 88° W), Depth ≥ 120 m	227
H.12	Late Season (October 21 through November 30) Hurricane Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge—Eastern and Central Gulf of Mexico (82° W to 88° W), Depth ≥ 120 m	228
H.13	Winter Storm Winds, Waves, Currents, and Surge, Depth ≥ 120 m	229
H.14	Factors for Combing Independent Extremes into Load Cases	230
H.15	Squall Gust Extremes and Associated Sea State and Current	231
H.16	Loop Current Profile and Associated Wind, Waves, and Surge	233
H.17	<i>N</i> -Year Current from TRW, 3 m above Bottom	234
H.18	Indicative Extreme Air and Sea Temperatures	234
H.19	Percentage Occurrence of Total Significant Wave Height and Spectral Peak Period Combinations—Deep Water Location—Gulf of Mexico	235
I.1	Indicative Independent Extreme Values for Winds, Waves, and Hurricane-driven Currents for Southern California (Santa Barbara and San Pedro Channels)	243
I.2	Indicative Independent Extreme Values for Central California	243
I.3	Indicative Extreme Values for Other Metocean Parameters	244
J.1	Nominal 100-year Extreme Wave with Associated Current and Storm Tide for Other US Waters (Depths > 90 m Unless Otherwise Noted)	247
J.2	100-year Extreme Wind Speeds for Other US Waters	248

Introduction

The series of International Standards applicable to types of offshore structure, ISO 19900 to ISO 19906, constitutes a common basis covering those aspects that address design requirements and assessments of all offshore structures used by the petroleum and natural gas industries worldwide. Through their application the intention is to achieve reliability levels appropriate for manned and unmanned offshore structures, whatever the type of structure and the nature or combination of the materials used.

It is important to recognize that structural integrity is an overall concept comprising models for describing actions, structural analyses, design rules, safety elements, workmanship, quality control procedures, and national requirements, all of which are mutually dependent. The modification of one aspect of design in isolation can disturb the balance of reliability inherent in the overall concept or structural system. The implications involved in modifications, therefore, need to be considered in relation to the overall reliability of all offshore structural systems.

The series of International Standards applicable to types of offshore structure is intended to provide a wide latitude in the choice of structural configurations, materials, and techniques without hindering innovation. Sound engineering judgement is therefore necessary in the use of these International Standards.

The overall concept of structural integrity is described above. Some additional considerations apply for metocean design and operating conditions. The term “metocean” is short for “meteorological and oceanographic” and refers to the discipline concerned with the establishment of relevant environmental conditions for the design and operation of offshore structures. A major consideration in the design and operation of such a structure is the determination of actions on, and the behavior of, the structure as a result of winds, waves, and currents.

Environmental conditions vary widely around the world. For the majority of offshore locations, there are few measured data from historic conditions; comprehensive data often only start being collected when there is a specific need, for example, when exploration for hydrocarbons is being considered. Despite the usually short duration for which data are available, designers of offshore structures need estimates of extreme and abnormal environmental conditions (with an individual or joint probability of the order of 1×10^{-2} /year and 1×10^{-3} to 1×10^{-4} /year, respectively).

Even for areas such as the Gulf of Mexico, offshore Indonesia, and the North Sea, where there are up to 30 years of fairly reliable measurements available, the data are insufficient for rigorous statistical determination of appropriate extreme and abnormal environmental conditions. The determination of relevant design parameters has therefore to rely on the interpretation of the available data by experts, together with an assessment of any other information, such as prevailing weather systems, ocean wave creation, and regional and local bathymetry, coupled with consideration of data from comparable locations. In particular, due account needs to be taken of the uncertainties that arise from the analyses of limited data sets. It is hence important to employ experts from both the metocean and the structural communities in the determination of design parameters for offshore structures, particularly since setting of appropriate environmental conditions depends on the chosen option for the offshore structure.

This part of ISO 19901 provides procedures and guidance for the determination of environmental conditions and their relevant parameters. Requirements for the determination of the actions on, and the behavior of, a structure in these environmental conditions are given in ISO 19901-3, ISO 19901-6, ISO 19901-7, ISO 19902, ISO 19903, ISO 19904-1, ISO 19905-1, and ISO 19906.

Some background to, and guidance on, the use of this standard is provided in informative Annex A. The clause numbering in Annex A is the same as in the main text to facilitate cross-referencing.

Regional information, where available, is provided in the Regional Annexes B to J. This information has been developed by experts from the region or country concerned to supplement the guidance provided in this standard. Each Regional Annex provides regional or national data on environmental conditions for the area concerned.

Annex K highlights the areas where this adoption of ISO 19901-1 as the second edition of API RP 2MET differs from ISO 19901-1:2015.

Derivation of Metocean Design and Operating Conditions

1 Scope

This standard gives general requirements for the determination and use of meteorological and oceanographic (metocean) conditions for the design, construction, and operation of offshore structures of all types used in the petroleum and natural gas industries.

The requirements are divided into two broad types:

- those that relate to the determination of environmental conditions in general, together with the metocean parameters that are required to adequately describe them;
- those that relate to the characterization and use of metocean parameters for the design, the construction activities, or the operation of offshore structures.

The environmental conditions and metocean parameters discussed are as follows:

- extreme and abnormal values of metocean parameters that recur with given return periods that are considerably longer than the design service life of the structure;
- long-term distributions of metocean parameters, in the form of cumulative, conditional, marginal, or joint statistics of metocean parameters; and
- normal environmental conditions that are expected to occur frequently during the design service life of the structure.

Metocean parameters are applicable to:

- the determination of actions for the design of new structures;
- the determination of actions for the assessment of existing structures;
- the site-specific assessment of mobile offshore units;
- the determination of limiting environmental conditions, weather windows, actions and action effects for pre-service and post-service situations (i.e. fabrication, transportation and installation, or decommissioning and removal of a structure); and
- facility operations, where appropriate.

NOTE Specific metocean requirements for site-specific assessment of jack-ups are contained in ISO 19905-1, for arctic offshore structures in ISO 19906, and for topside structures in ISO 19901-3.

2 Normative References

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.