DELTABEAM® with Timber Floors Installation Instructions

The following DELTABEAM® installation instructions are intended to complement the project’s erection method statement. Peikko technical support is available to assist with the erection method statement if required. If there are differences between the erection method statement and this document, the differences should be approved by the structural engineer.

NOTE: IF THE INSTALLATION TOLERANCES OF DELTABEAM® ARE EXCEEDED, PEIKKO MUST BE CONTACTED. DELTABEAM® OR CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DELTABEAM® COMPOSITE BEAMS CANNOT BE MODIFIED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM PEIKKO.

Deliveries

DELTABEAM® Composite Beams are delivered to the site in accordance with the agreed project schedule. The delivery of each shipment should be confirmed with Peikko two weeks before shipping. At the factory, DELTABEAM® Composite Beams of different lengths are not loaded in the order of installation because that would not be economical or practical. The beams are marked with identification codes in accordance with the drawings.

Storage on site

The visible bottom parts of DELTABEAM®, web plates from the edge of the bottom surface to height 50 – 100 mm, end plates, all connections, formworks, and downstands are primed to a minimum 80 μm of anticorrosive primer. Other surfaces are primed to 40 μm. The customer does the final painting on-site and it is not a standard part of DELTABEAM® delivery. Special painting can be done upon request.

For long-term storage, the beams must be covered. Piling strips are used under the beams to protect surface treatment. Piling strips should be free from grease or other substances that may damage surface treatment. When storing beams in piles, the bearing capacity and the level of the surface should be verified.
Lifting and moving

DELTA BEAM® can be lifted and moved using ordinary lifting equipment, such as cranes or forklifts. The weight of each DELTA BEAM® is displayed on the product sticker on the beam and in the fabrication drawings. The CE marking sticker, QR-Code sticker which will link to these installation instructions, and DELTA BEAM® trademark can also be found on the beam.

DELTA BEAM® must be lifted using the lifting holes on the top plate symmetrically to the axis of the center of mass. The maximum allowed lifting angle of the chains must be observed. In special cases, when there are no lifting holes, DELTA BEAM® can be lifted with chains attached to the web holes. In some cases, a third chain is needed to lift DELTA BEAM® and maintain its balance. For example, DELTA BEAM® with wide formwork sheets should be lifted using the lifting holes and a third chain should be attached to the formwork structure.

**NOTE:** ALWAYS USE APPROVED LIFTING CHAINS AND LOCK THE CHAIN HOOKS. NO LIFTING STRAPS OR CHAINS AROUND DELTA BEAM® AS THIS WILL INVOLVE A RISK TO HEALTH AND SAFETY!
Assembling DELTABEAM®

The project’s erection method statement must be followed. Every DELTABEAM® has the DELTABEAM® trademark and identification code on the top plate near the beam end. The beams are installed in such a way that the identification code on the top plate of DELTABEAM® can be read in the same direction as marked in the element layout drawing.

Connecting DELTABEAM®

DELTABEAM® Composite Beams are connected in accordance with the project’s erection method statement, the installation plans, and the connection details. The connection details are specified in the construction plan for each project. Shim plates and steel packs should be placed in accordance with the project related erection method statement. The DELTABEAM® delivery only includes installation material for the connections between DELTABEAM®, i.e. Gerber and side connections.

During the installation of the slabs, maintaining the frame stability requires connecting DELTABEAM® before assembling the props and floor units. This prevents the beams from moving. If on-site welding is required, the process and the qualification of the welders should be in accordance with the erection method statement. Shim plates in Gerber and side connections are used by default to allow installation tolerance. Installation tolerance is +5 mm / -10 mm, and the maximum thickness of the shim plates is 15 mm. DELTABEAM® lengths have been designed including a shim plate; a 5 mm shim plate is set to every connection after DELTABEAM® is installed and before the bolts are tightened. Any variations to the designed total length of the beam line are taken into account by adding or removing the number of shim plates from other connections within the allowed tolerances.
When assembling continuous DELTABEAM® Composite Beams, the location of each DELTABEAM® and the total length of the beam line should be confirmed before tightening the bolts in the Gerber connections and other connections. The ends of the continuous beam lines must be prevented from uplifting during installation. Steel packs are placed on the reinforced concrete structure so that the effect of the contact stress remains inside the perimeter of the stirrup reinforcement. The risk of spalling can be reduced by applying chamfers to the edges of the concrete structure. The usage of neoprene is not recommended between DELTABEAM® and the support.

NOTE: DELTABEAM® CUTTING, OPENING OUT BOLT HOLES, ETC. REQUIRES A PERMISSION AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM PEIKKO.

Propping DELTABEAM®

Propping needs to be carried out in accordance with the project’s erection method statement before assembling the floor units. DELTABEAM® must be connected in accordance with the erection method statement, the installation plans, and the connection details before propping. Only certified props are to be used. Their quantity and placing must be in accordance with the propping plan made by a structural engineer.

The stability of the props must be confirmed when they are assembled. The foundation for the props must also be secure and solid. The props shall be assembled as close to the beam support as possible, as they are aimed to prevent the beam from rotating at the supports. The props are placed at the loaded side of the beam, below the web. The props may be removed only when the joint concrete and the infill concrete of DELTABEAM® have reached the required strength.

Propping in the position of Gerber and side connection is not required, as both connections are designed to take the torsion from loads acting in the erection stage. The possible uplift effects of loads during the erection or final stage must be considered when designing the connection details and supporting structures of DELTABEAM® by the structural engineer responsible for the project. For example, Peikko PCs® LOCK Corbel is designed to uplift. Please refer to PCs® Corbels Technical Manual for more information.

The DELTABEAM® wide formwork sheet must always be supported. If this is not possible, special agreement with Peikko technical support is needed. The continuous support is placed along the edge of under the corner of the wide formwork sheet. The continuous support is supported with props, and it shall be the same length as the supported formwork sheet.
Special attention should be paid to asymmetrically support beams, long beam spans, or tall propping heights. When the propping heights are tall, traditional methods such as temporary columns or towers are used. Peikko technical support helps with demanding propping issues.

**Assembling floor units**

The designer of the slab is responsible for informing Peikko whether particular installation requirements exist depending on the type of timber floor. In any case, DELTABEAM® connections and the props must be securely installed and tightened before assembling the floor units. After the slabs are installed the necessary formwork, edge forming, and slab reinforcement will be carried out.

To minimize the rotation of the beam, the floor units should be assembled alternately on different sides of the beam. If one side is loaded, erection props must be designed accordingly. It is possible to secure the floor units onto DELTABEAM® ledge with screws from the bottom. DELTABEAM® ledge can be provided with holes drilled on both sides, if requested. Such connection has construction purposes only.

During installation, timber slab units might need to be protected by weathering according to the slab producer’s instruction. Wood end grains absorbs moisture and releases it again according to the relative humidity and temperature of the air. Excessive or too low humidity levels may cause swelling and shrinkage cracks respectively. Generally, recommended optimum humidity is between 40% and 60%.

**Reinforcement**

Reinforcement is installed in accordance with the erection method statement. The needed amount of rebars for joint and torsion reinforcement and shear connectors, if needed, shall be placed according to the design. The transverse reinforcement should pass through the air holes, web holes ($h < 370 \, mm$) or additional web holes ($h \geq 370 \, mm$) of the DELTABEAM®. The positioning of transverse reinforcement depends on the design, the type of slab and the height of DELTABEAM® profile with respect to the thickness of the slab.
The transverse reinforcement in composite slabs can be placed either within concrete topping thickness or within the timber portion of the slab. In this latter case and in case of solid timber slabs, grooves need to be cut out in the timber panel so to allow rebar installation through DELTABEAM® holes. The length of the groove must be sufficient for both ensuring proper anchoring length of the rebar and for enabling easy installation.

When Gerber connection is used, the end plate has a modified shape that allows installing ring reinforcement between DELTABEAM® \((h \geq 300\ mm)\) and the floor unit. Cut-outs in Gerber plate serves for purpose of concreting of joint. There are two cut-outs in DELTABEAM® with width \(b \geq 600\ mm\).

Casting the concrete DELTABEAM® must be filled with concrete in one run to secure the properties of a composite beam. Whenever possible, the topping concrete of the flooring is cast in a separate phase after the infill concrete of DELTABEAM® has reached the required strength. In case of composite timber slabs where concrete topping surface is flush with DELTABEAM® top plate, the topping concrete is cast simultaneously with the infill concrete.

Structural concrete is always used when casting concrete. The concrete grade is in accordance with the project's erection method statement. The concrete's properties are determined in accordance with the project's concreting plan. The recommended maximum aggregate size is 8 mm (in any case, not more than 16 mm). The maximum aggregate size should ensure that the concrete fills properly all the gaps between DELTABEAM® web plate and the grooves where transverse rebars are placed. Joint sealant or tapes can be used at the support of floor unit on DELTABEAM® ledge or at any other needed location to prevent concrete leakage during the casting phase.

Timber material might be sensitive to water. Protective treatment might be needed on timber end grain in contact with concrete according to timber slab producer's instructions. The drying time of concrete can be reduced by reducing the amount of water required. This can be done by using concrete with low water/binder ratio \((w/c < 0.5)\), or stronger concrete made with water-reducing agents. On-site drying time can be influenced by the guidelines for prevailing environmental conditions and project specific instructions.

The lower parts of Gerber and side connections must be properly filled with concrete. Topping concrete is cast in accordance with the erection method statement.
Casting the concrete

DELTABEAM® must be filled with concrete in one run to secure the properties of a composite beam. Whenever possible, the topping concrete of the flooring is cast in a separate phase after the infill concrete of DELTABEAM® has reached the required strength. In case of composite timber slabs where concrete topping surface is flush with DELTABEAM® top plate, the topping concrete is cast simultaneously with the infill concrete.

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The lower parts of Gerber and side connections must be properly filled with concrete. Topping concrete is cast in accordance with the erection method statement.
Process of casting the concrete:

1. Use only the concrete mix defined by the structural engineer responsible for the project.
2. Ensure that there is no water in the beam and that water drainage holes are open.
3. Ensure that DELTABEAM® is clean for casting.
4. If there are pre-installed heating wires inside the DELTABEAM®, ensure that the socket of the wire is taken out of the beam before casting the concrete.
5. Ensure that the formwork and the reinforcement are in accordance with the design.
6. Initial infill may be done through the casting holes in the top plate. DELTABEAM® is filled with concrete up to the bottom edge of the web holes.
7. After the initial infill, the final concreting is done only from one side of DELTABEAM®. The entire infill process may be done through the casting holes in the top plate, but it will be slower and require more work with the poker to run the concrete.
8. Ensure that DELTABEAM® is filled with concrete by checking the air holes on the opposite side of DELTABEAM®. The beam is full when concrete runs through the air holes. Concrete spillage over the beam must be avoided as this will make it harder to observe whether the beam is full.
9. Compact the concrete with poker or vibrator while concreting. Vibration of concrete can be done through holes in DELTABEAM® top plate and through pockets or chamfers cut along timber floor edge to ease the process. Mind the formwork plate and the vertical web when using a poker.

NOTE: MATERIAL MUST NOT BE STORED ON THE FLOOR BEFORE THE INFILL CONCRETE HAS HARDENED. THE FLOOR ABOVE MUST NOT BE BUILT UNTIL THE INFILL CONCRETE HAS HARDENED.

Additional fire protection

Additional fire protection is done according to the project’s erection method statement. The DELTABEAM® with expansion joints must be protected against fire from below. When the expansion joint is on the beam ledge the entire width and length of the beam must be protected against fire. The expansion joint can also be located at the end connection or the side connection.

The vertical web of the DR-type DELTABEAM® must be protected against fire on-site if the vertical web is not protected against fire by permanent structures such as walls or façades. A wall would act as permanent structural fire protection.

If DELTABEAM® is being connected to a fire-protected steel structure, the extent of fire protection must be done according to the erection method statement. Unprotected DELTABEAM® will conduct heat to the steel structure through the connection.
After installation
Any damage to the surface treatment should be repaired as soon as possible. The surface treatment should be completed with the top layers as soon as possible.

Safety
All valid health and safety rules must be followed during installation. Fixing points for handrails and other safety products can be ordered separately.

On-site checklist

- **Storage on-site**
  - Use piling strips or timber boards to protect surface treatment.
  - Cover DELTABEAM® Composite Beams when long-term storage on-site.

- **Lifting and moving**
  - DELTABEAM® is lifted by using the lifting holes located on the top plate. Always lock the chains.
  - Note the maximum allowed lifting angle of the chains.
  - DELTABEAM® self-weight is given on a product sticker.
  - **NO LIFTING STRAPS OR CHAINS AROUND DELTABEAM® AS THIS IS A HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK!**

- **Assembling DELTABEAM®**
  - First, check the instructions and the requirements in the erection method statement.
  - The direction of the identification codes of the installed beams should be the same as in the element layout drawing.
  - The beams must be connected (with bolts or welds) to supports before the assembly of the floor units.
  - Before tightening the bolts on the Gerber connections, check the location of each DELTABEAM® and the total length of the beam line.
  - As far as the propping, the erection method statement is followed.
  - Remove only after the concrete has hardened.

- **Assembling floor units**
  - Assemble the floor units directly on the beam ledge without any layers between, unless a sealing tape is needed.
  - Recommended minimum 40 mm gap between the web of the DELTABEAM® and the end of the floor unit.
  - To minimize the rotation of the beam, assemble floor units alternately on different sides of the beam.

- **Reinforcement**
  - Installed transverse reinforcement shall comply with design drawings.
  - Alignment of DELTABEAM® holes with grooves in timber floor units shall be provided to allow rebar installation.
  - In edge beams use L or U-shaped rebars.

- **Casting the concrete**
  - Concrete fulfills the specification given in the project-related erection method statement.
  - Fill in one run, fill only from one side, observe from the other side. The beam is full when concrete starts to run through the small air holes in the upper part of the web. Mind the formwork plates when using a poker/vibrator.
  - Ensure that concrete fills the gap between Gerber and side connections.

DELTABEAM® CUTTING, OPENING OUT BOLT HOLES, ETC. REQUIRES A PERMISSION AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM PEIKKO.

MATERIALS SHOULD NOT BE STORED ON THE FLOOR BEFORE THE INFILL CONCRETE HAS REACHED THE REQUIRED STRENGTH.

THE FLOOR ABOVE MUST NOT BE BUILT BEFORE THE INFILL CONCRETE HAS REACHED THE REQUIRED STRENGTH.