

CODE

COMMENTARY

1.5—Interpretation

1.5.1 The principles of interpretation in this section shall apply to this Code as a whole unless otherwise stated.

1.5.2 This Code consists of chapters and appendixes, including text, headings, tables, figures, footnotes to tables and figures, and referenced standards.

1.5.3 The Commentary consists of a preface, introduction, commentary text, tables, figures, and cited publications. The Commentary is intended to provide contextual information, but is not part of this Code, does not provide binding requirements, and shall not be used to create a conflict with or ambiguity in this Code.

1.5.4 This Code shall be interpreted in a manner that avoids conflict between or among its provisions. Specific provisions shall govern over general provisions.

1.5.5 This Code shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the plain meaning of the words and terms used. Specific definitions of words and terms in this Code shall be used where provided and applicable, regardless of whether other materials, standards, or resources outside of this Code provide a different definition.

1.5.6 The following words and terms in this Code shall be interpreted in accordance with (a) through (e):

- (a) The word “shall” is always mandatory.
- (b) Provisions of this Code are mandatory even if the word “shall” is not used.
- (c) Words used in the present tense shall include the future.
- (d) The word “and” indicates that all of the connected items, conditions, requirements, or events shall apply.
- (e) The word “or” indicates that the connected items, conditions, requirements, or events are alternatives, at least one of which shall be satisfied.

1.5.7 In any case in which one or more provisions of this Code are declared by a court or tribunal to be invalid, that ruling shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Code, which are severable. The ruling of a court or tribunal shall be effective only in that court’s jurisdiction, and shall not affect the content or interpretation of this Code in other jurisdictions.

1.5.8 If conflicts occur between provisions of this Code and those of standards and documents referenced in **Chapter 3**, this Code shall apply.

supports is a common example where a portion of the slab is designed in conformance with this Code.

R1.5—Interpretation

R1.5.4 General provisions are broad statements, such as a building needs to be serviceable. Specific provisions, such as explicit reinforcement distribution requirements for crack control, govern over the general provisions.

R1.5.5 **ACI Concrete Terminology (2018)** is the primary resource to help determine the meaning of words or terms that are not defined in the Code. Dictionaries and other reference materials commonly used by licensed design professionals may be used as secondary resources.

R1.5.7 This Code addresses numerous requirements that can be implemented fully without modification if other requirements in this Code are determined to be invalid. This severability requirement is intended to preserve this Code and allow it to be implemented to the extent possible following legal decisions affecting one or more of its provisions.