4.5.10 Connection Details

This section shows typical details for some of the more commonly used connections for cladding panels and loadbearing precast concrete walls, as well as other connections that may be useful in special applications. The details included are not exhaustive. They should not be considered as "standard," but rather, as concepts on which to build. Detailed design information, such as component sizes, weld and anchorage lengths, joint sizes, and bearing pad thicknesses is purposely omitted.

There are many possible combinations of anchors, plates, steel shapes, and bolts to form various connection assemblies. The details and final assemblies selected should be optimized considering design criteria, production and erection methods, tolerances, and economy. Common practice by precast concrete manufacturers in a given area may also influence the final selection of details on a particular project. The connection details are not numbered in any order of preference.

It is not the intent to limit the type of anchorage of any connector to the precast concrete to that shown in the figures. A variety of anchors are shown in Fig. 4.5.65, which are generally interchangeable and must be integrated with the reinforcement. This is an engineering task required for each individual project. The details may sometimes have to be combined to accomplish the intended purposes. For example, Fig. 4.5.15 and Fig. 4.5.17 are often combined, and Fig. 4.5.46 shows how connector anchor loads can be minimized.

All connections must consider tolerances as outlined in Section 4.5.2.3.

The examples shown cover the following broad categories:

Fig. 4.5.15 to 22	Direct bearing	DB 1-8
Fig. 4.5.23 to 28	Eccentric bearing	EB 1-6
Fig. 4.5.29 to 36	Welded tieback	WTB 1-8
Fig. 4.5.37 to 44	Bolted tieback	BTB 1-8
Fig. 4.5.45 to 51	Shear plate	SP 1-7
Fig. 4.5.52 to 55	Panel to panel alignment	PPA 1-4
Fig. 4.5.56 to 61	Column cover	CC 1-6
Fig. 4.5.62	Beam cover	BC 1
Fig. 4.5.63	Soffit hanger	SH 1
Fig. 4.5.64 to 69	Special conditions	SC 1-7
Fig. 4.5.70 to 74	Bearing wall to foundation BWF 1-5	
Fig. 4.5.75 to 77	Slab to bearing wall	SBW 1-3
Fig. 4.5.78	Slab to side wall	SSW 1
Fig. 4.5.79	Wall to wall	WW 1

Bearing (direct and eccentric) connections are intended to transfer vertical loads to the supporting structure or foundation. Bearing should be provided at no more than two points per panel, and at just one level of the structure. Bearing can be either directly in the plane of the panel along the bottom edge, or eccentric using continuous or localized reinforced concrete corbels or haunches, cast-in steel shapes, or attached panel brackets. Transfer of forces perpendicular to the panel is provided by various tieback arrangements. Adjustability in the support system generally necessitates the use of shims, leveling bolts, bearing pads, and oversized or slotted holes.

Direct bearing connections are used primarily for panels resting on foundations or rigid supports where movements are negligible. This includes cases where panels are stacked and self supporting for vertical loads with tieback connections to the structural frame, floor, or roof to resist forces perpendicular to the panel.

Eccentric bearing connections are usually used for cladding panels when movements of the support system are possible. Cladding panels are, by definition, fastened to and/or supported by a structure located in a different plane. Eccentric bearing connectors (corbel or panel bracket) cause permanent bending stresses in the supported panel that must be accommodated. Concrete haunches or corbels also provide a solution for heavy bending within the panel. Bending combined with tension, shear, and torsion may have to be resisted by the connection and, in turn, the structure, depending on the type of connection and load transfer details.

If leveling bolts and shear plates are used, the shear plates are proportioned for all lateral loads (Fig. 4.5.25).

The leveling bolt is usually left in place to carry the vertical load. If shims are used instead of leveling bolts, and lateral loads are to be carried, a weld plate is recommended, because the welding of shim edges is usually unreliable for transmitting significant forces. The erector's individual preference for shims or leveling bolts should be allowed.

Bearing connections are usually, but not always, combined with tiebacks.

Tieback (welded or bolted) connections are primarily intended to keep the precast concrete unit in a plumb position and to resist wind and seismic loads perpendicular to the panel. Welded tiebacks often require temporary bracing during alignment. Tiebacks may be designed to take forces in the plane of the panel, or isolate them to allow frame distortions independent of the panel and allow movement vertically and/or horizontally.

Shear plates are generally welded and serve primarily to provide restraint for longitudinal forces in the plane of the panel. They usually also carry loads perpendicular to the panel, acting as a tieback connection as well. Because seismic force is the most common in-plane force, these plates are sometimes referred to as seismic shear plates. It is, in many cases, uneconomical to carry longitudinal forces on longer panel brackets of eccentric bearing connections because their anchorage loads become very high. In such cases, the shear plate connection is used to reduce the load on the anchors (Fig 4.5.46). Longitudinal force transfer on spandrels, for example, can be accomplished near mid-length of the member to minimize volume change restraint forces that would otherwise be additive to the longitudinal seismic forces.

Panel-to-panel alignment connections are used to adjust precast concrete units' relative positions with respect to adjacent units; they do not usually transfer design loads. Out-of-plane alignment of panels is sometimes necessary, especially if they are very slender and flexible and have warps or bows prior to erection.

Column and beam cover connections are used when precast concrete panels serve as covers over steel or cast-in-place concrete columns and beams. The cover units are generally supported by the structural column or beam and carry no load other than their own weight, wind, and seismic forces. The weight of a column cover section is normally supported at one level. Tieback connections for lateral load transfer and stability occur at multiple levels. Connections must have sufficient adjustability to compensate for tolerances of the structural system. Column cover connections are often difficult to reach, and once made, difficult to adjust. For thin flat units, when access is available, consideration should be given to providing an intermediate connection for lateral support and restraint of bowing. "Blind" connections, made by welding into joints between the precast concrete elements, are sometimes necessary to complete the final enclosure.

Soffit hanger connections can be made by modifying many of the tieback connections previously discussed. If long, flexible hanger elements are used, a lateral brace may be provided for horizontal stability.

Special conditions are presented in Figs. 4.5.64 through 4.5.69. These are suggested to help solve unique or difficult situations.

Bearing wall connections are divided into categories: those that support the bearing wall and floor or roof slabs, and those with (non-supported) edges of floor or roof slab running alongside them. These conditions are not the same as the connection of an architectural panel to the structure like the others in this section. They are included because they often occur in loadbearing wall panel systems. Many of the tieback, shear plate, and panel-to-panel alignment connections in Figs. 4.5.29 to 4.5.45 could be used in bearing walls.

Bearing wall to foundation connections and the direct bearing connections in Figs. 4.5.15 to 4.5.19 are primarily intended to transfer their gravity loads to the panel below or to the foundation, although they can usually carry lateral loads, as well. The connections should provide a means of leveling and aligning the panel. The attachment method should be capable of accepting the base shear in any direction. In cases where an interior core carries lateral loads, this may be accomplished with a simple welded connection.

Slab to bearing wall connections are used to join precast or cast-in-place concrete floor or roof members to precast concrete bearing walls. They transfer any vertical load from the horizontal system and, sometimes, diaphragm action and on rare occasions provide moment resistance.

Blockouts in wall panels or spandrels as in Figs. 4.5.75(e), 4.5.75(f), and 4.5.76 decrease eccentricity and bending in the wall panel. Using blockouts in a spandrel would reduce the torsion stresses and twist during erection. If discontinuous pockets are used, they require substantial draft on their sides ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. [13 mm] every 6 in. [150 mm] depth to allow blockout stripping) and should have at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. (63 mm) cover to the exposed face. More cover (3 in. [75 mm] minimum) is required if the exterior surface has an architectural finish. In the case of a fine textured finish, there may be a light appearing area (the approximate size of the blockout) that shows on the face of the panel due to differential drying. This may be quite noticeable, despite the uniformity of the finish. The initial cure of the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 in. (63 to 75 mm) of concrete versus 8 to 9 in. (200 to 225 mm) in the surrounding area will make the difference.

When the slab functions as a diaphragm, the connections must transmit diaphragm shear and chord forces to a structural core, thus reducing the load on individual exterior walls or spandrel units and their connections. When the slab-to-wall connection is accomplished with composite topping, temporary connections or bracing may be necessary during erection.

Most designs result in some degree of fixity for these connections. However, a fully fixed connection is generally not desirable. The

degree of fixity can be controlled by a judicious use of bearing pads or weld plates.

Slab-to-side wall connections along the (non-bearing) sides of floor or roof slabs may be required to transmit lateral (diaphragm) loads and should either allow some vertical movement to accommodate camber and deflection changes in the floor units, or be designed to develop forces induced by restraining the units.

Wall-to-wall connections are primarily intended to position and secure the walls, although with proper design and construction, they are capable of carrying lateral loads from shear walls or frame action as well. The two locations of wall-to-wall connections are horizontal joints (usually in combination with floor construction) and vertical joints.

The most practical connection is one that allows realistic tolerances and ensures immediate transfer of load between panels.

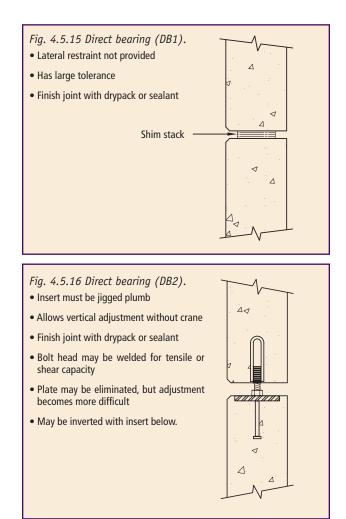


Fig. 4.5.17 Direct bearing (DB3).

- Reasonable tolerance
- Provides lateral restraint
- Realignment not possible after connection complete
- Requires shims until grouting or drypacking is done
- Cold weather may be a problem with grouting or drypacking
- Grout could be injected through tubes, allowing more time for alignment
- Void may be formed or field drilled
- Finish joint with drypack or sealant

Fig. 4.5.18 Direct bearing (DB4).

- Reasonable tolerance
- Provides lateral restraint
- Realignment not possible after connection complete
- Requires shims until grouting or drypacking is done
- Cold weather may be a problem with grouting or drypacking
- Grout could be injected through tubes, allowing more time for alignment
- Upper void difficult to fill
- Upper void could be continuous or intermittent
- Finish joint with drypack or sealant

Fig. 4.5.19 Direct bearing (DB5).

- Full strength of bar can be achieved with proprietary grouted sleeve
- Small tolerance requires jigging
- Requires shims until grouting or drypacking is done
- Joint may be drypacked or grouted at same time as sleeve
- Smooth or corrugated sleeve could replace proprietary sleeve for lower capacity
- Finish joint with drypack or sealant
- Sleeve can be in either panel

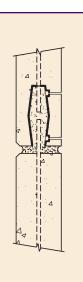
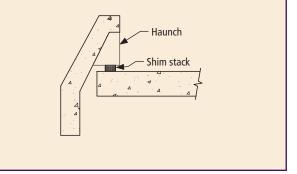
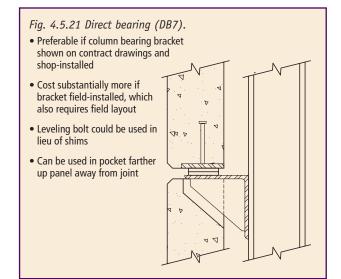
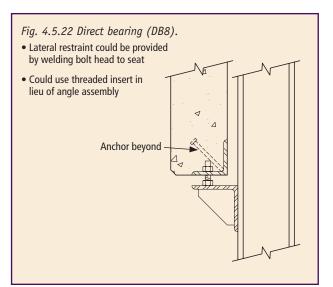


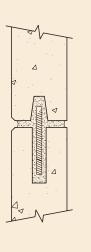
Fig. 4.5.20 Direct bearing (DB6).

- For shaped panels: can eliminate dead load overturn if shims in line with panel center of gravity
- Complex forming, especially if location of haunch changes
- Forming simplified if a bolt-on steel haunch is used









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Fig. 4.5.23 Eccentric bearing (EB1). Coordinate with GC for placement of seat Could use leveling bolt or shims Could eliminate projection from panel by attaching angle with inserts or welding to flush plate Fig. 4.5.26 Eccentric bearing (EB4). Coordinate with GC for placement of seat Any structural shape could be used for projecting bracket—if unsymmetrical, consider torsion Many types of panel bracket anchorage could be used

- Fig. 4.5.24 Eccentric bearing (EB2).Coordinate with GC for placement of seat
- Complex haunch reinforcement
- Complex forming, especially if location of haunch changes
- Haunch could be cast first and set in form
- Haunch could be intermittent or continuous
- Plate washer may require welding for lateral loads

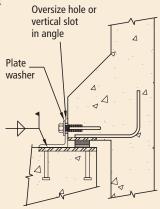
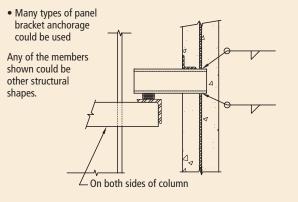
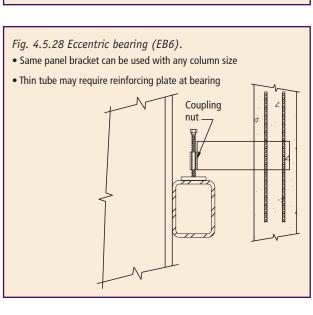


Fig. 4.5.25 Eccentric bearing (EB3).
Keep bearing at center of beam to avoid torsion
Leveling bolt saves time

Could use shims in lieu of leveling bolt
May require blockout in floor slab
Different tieback could be used in lieu of shear plate
Shown with optional shear plate

- Fig. 4.5.27 Eccentric bearing (EB5).
- Same panel bracket can be used with any column size
- Any structural shape could be used for projecting bracket





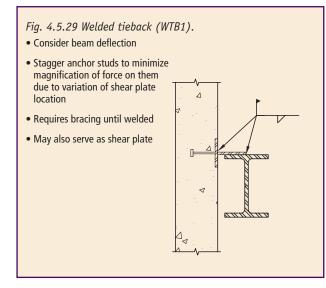


Fig. 4.5.30 Welded tieback (WTB2).

- Requires bracing until welded
- Alignment and welding must be done before upper panel is erected

• Difficult to inspect

 May also serve as shear plate

e as

- Fig. 4.5.31 Welded tieback (WTB3).
- Buckling of rod must be considered if compression load is expected
- Requires bracing until welded
- Do not over-tighten threaded rod if movement in slotted insert to be allowed
- Slotted bar may be used to fit proprietary slotted embedment



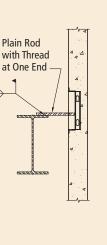
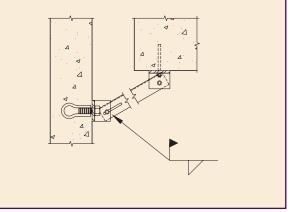
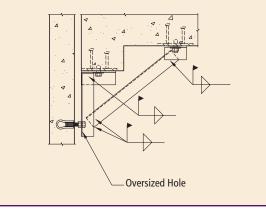


Fig. 4.5.32 Welded tieback (WTB4).

- Consider deflection of support
- Slots and bolts allow fast erection-weld after alignment



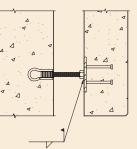
- Fig. 4.5.33 Welded tieback (WTB5).
- Consider deflection of support
- Slots and bolts allow fast erection—weld after alignment



- Fig. 4.5.34 Welded tieback (WTB6).
- Coordinate with GC for placement of insert
- Adjustment limited by thread length of insert and bolt
- Need adequate clearance for welding

• Weld not required for compression only

• Could reverse with plate in structure, and insert in panel



- Fig. 4.5.35 Welded tieback (WTB7).
- Anchorage of plate and angle could vary
- Shear plate configuration to be determined by load type

- Fig. 4.5.36 Welded tieback(WTB8).
- Oversize hole in angle
- Plate washer could be welded and slotted to control directional movement See Fig. 4.5.14 for reference

- Fig. 4.5.37 Bolted tieback (BTB1).
- High-strength rod is advantageous

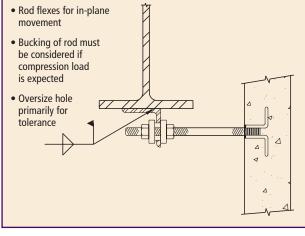


Fig. 4.5.39 Bolted tieback (BTB2).

- Alignment can be completed after release from crane
- Slots in embedment and angle to be perpendicular to each other for three-way adjustment

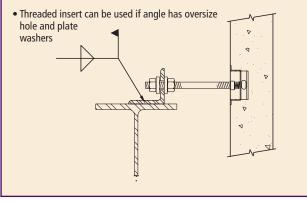
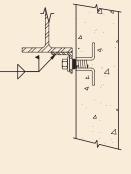
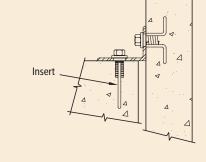


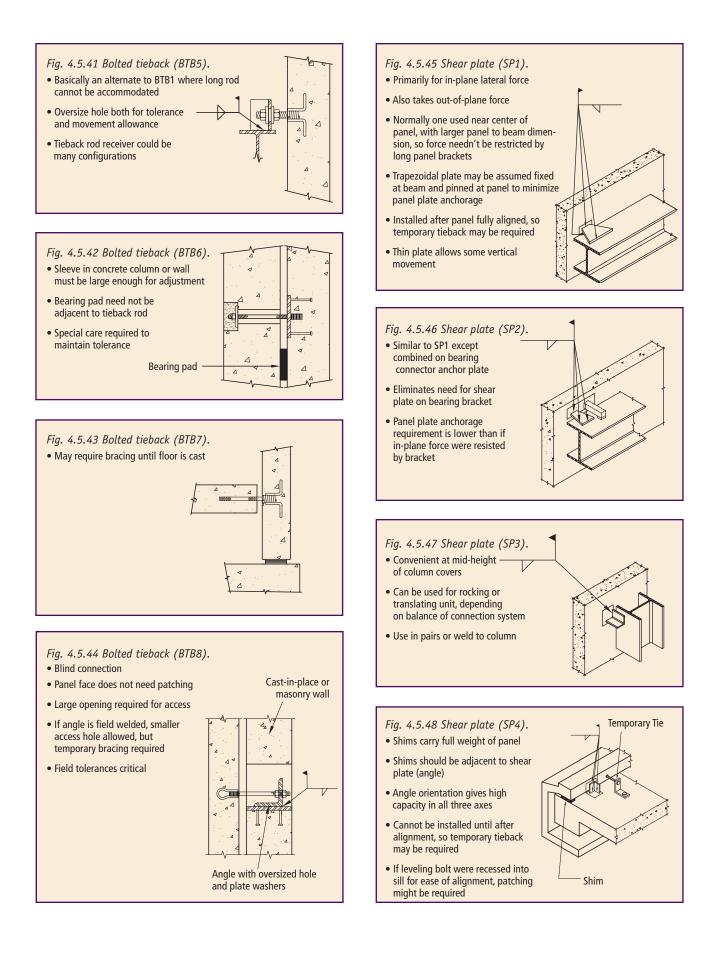
Fig. 4.5.39 Bolted tieback (BTB3).

- Horseshoe shims allow adjustment perpendicular to panel
- Oversize hole and plate washer allows adjustment parallel to panel
- Do not over-tighten bolt if movement to be allowed
- Plate washer could be welded and slotted to control directional movement.
 See Fig. 4.5.14



- Fig. 4.5.40 Bolted tieback (BTB4).
- Coordinate with GC for placement if insert is used
- Edge distance and reinforcing in floor/foundation must be considered
- Angle has slotted holes





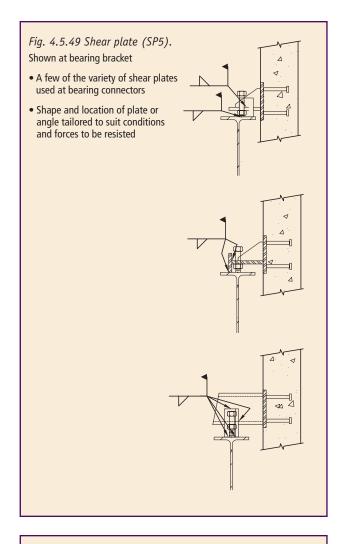
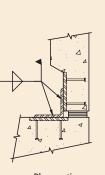
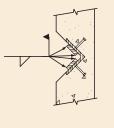


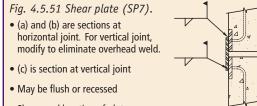
Fig. 4.5.50 Shear plate (SP6).

- Common at foundations
- May be flush or recessed
- Shape and location of plates or angles vary to suit conditions and forces to be resisted

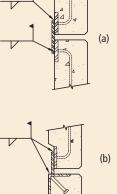


Plan section of variation





- Shape and location of plates or angles vary to suit conditions and forces to be resisted
- Can also resist uplift



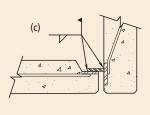


Fig. 4.5.52 Panel to panel alignment (PPA1).

- Not intended for required out-of-plane force resistance, but can be adapted to serve as tieback, as in Fig. 4.5.68
- Dimension to face of panel is critical
- Good solution when slightly bowed panels are not accessible after erection
- If panels are accessible after erection, finger plates can be field welded and shimmed if necessary

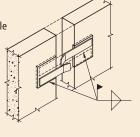


Fig. 4.5.53 Panel to panel alignment (PPA2).

- Not intended for required out-of-plane force resistance, but can be adapted to serve as tieback
- Shim thin panel if necessary

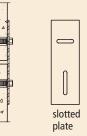


Fig. 4.5.54 Panel to panel alignment (PPA3).

- Not intended for required out-of-plane force resistance, but can be adapted to serve as tieback
- Panels must be aligned before welding
- Option (a) requires vertical weld, inside narrow joint
- Option (b) allows downhand weld, inside narrow joint

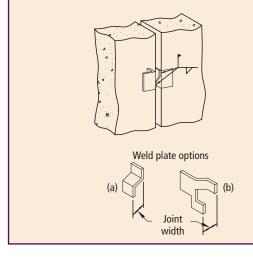
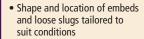


Fig. 4.5.55 Panel to panel alignment (PPA4).

- Not intended for required out-of-plane force resistance
- A few of the variety of alignment connectors



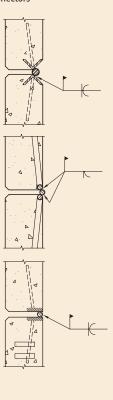


Fig. 4.5.56 Column cover (CC1).

- Serves as tieback
- Length and diameter of rod may limit capacity
- First element of column cover must be aligned prior to placing second
- Could be used for both halves if located at top

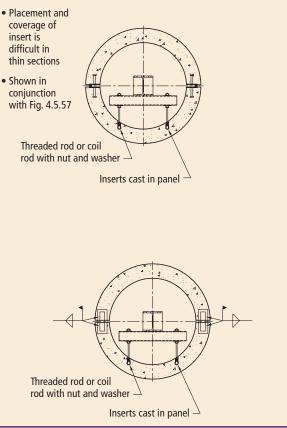
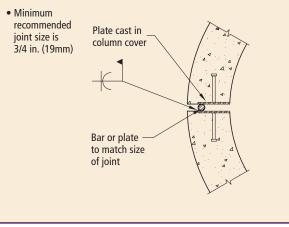
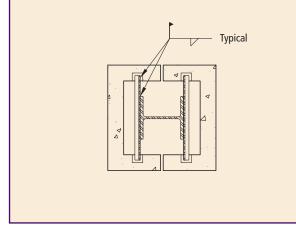


Fig. 4.5.57 Column cover (CC2).

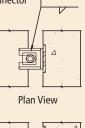
- Use where access is limited
- Exercise caution to prevent weld stain and cracking from excess heat



- Fig. 4.5.58 Column cover (CC3).
- Serves as tieback
- Used only at top for welding access
- Could be changed to bolted



- Fig. 4.5.59 Column cover (CC4).
- Can be both a loadbearing and tieback connector
- Lower panel must be aligned and welded prior to placing upper portion
- Good with limited access
- Could modify to insert and bolt if ample space





Section View

- Fig. 4.5.60 Column cover (CC5).
- Top connector
- Align with tieback rods prior to welding angle

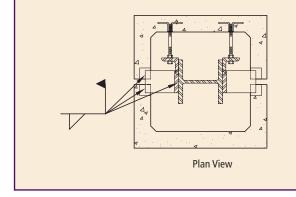


Fig. 4.5.61 Column cover (CC6).

- Bottom connector
- Support unit on shims
- Joint width sets thickness of vertical plate on knife assembly
- Align and weld first unit prior to setting second
- Welding of second half difficult in narrow joint
- Allows units to rock if bent plate (or angle) legs long enough

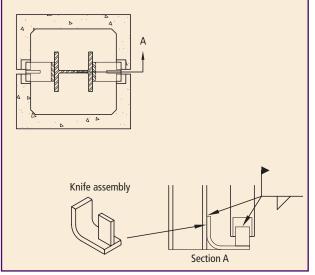
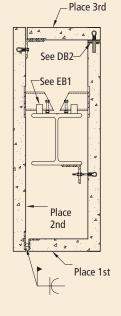
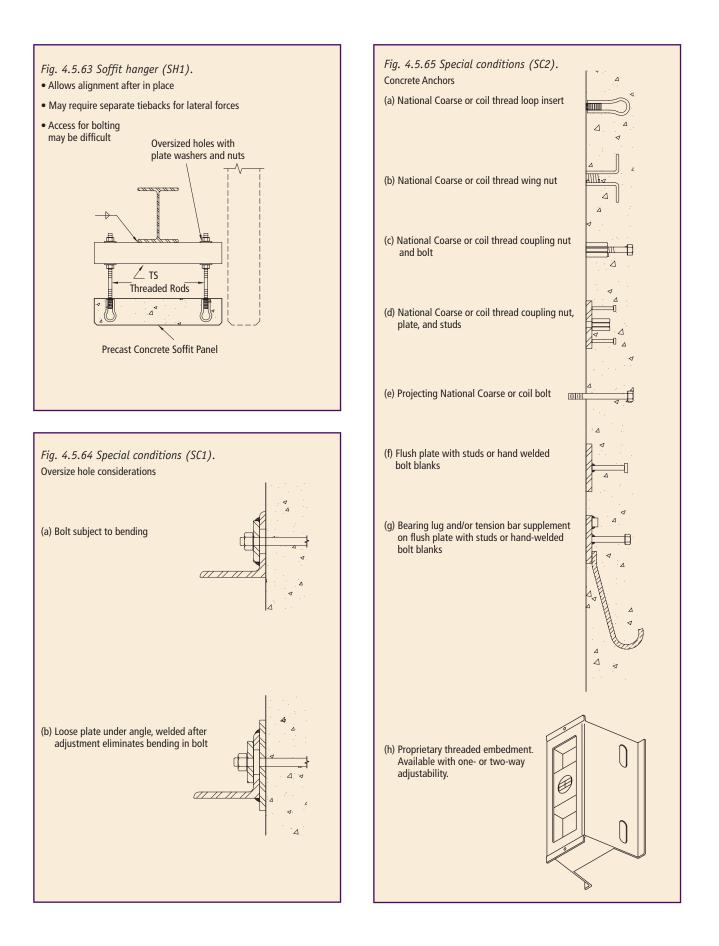
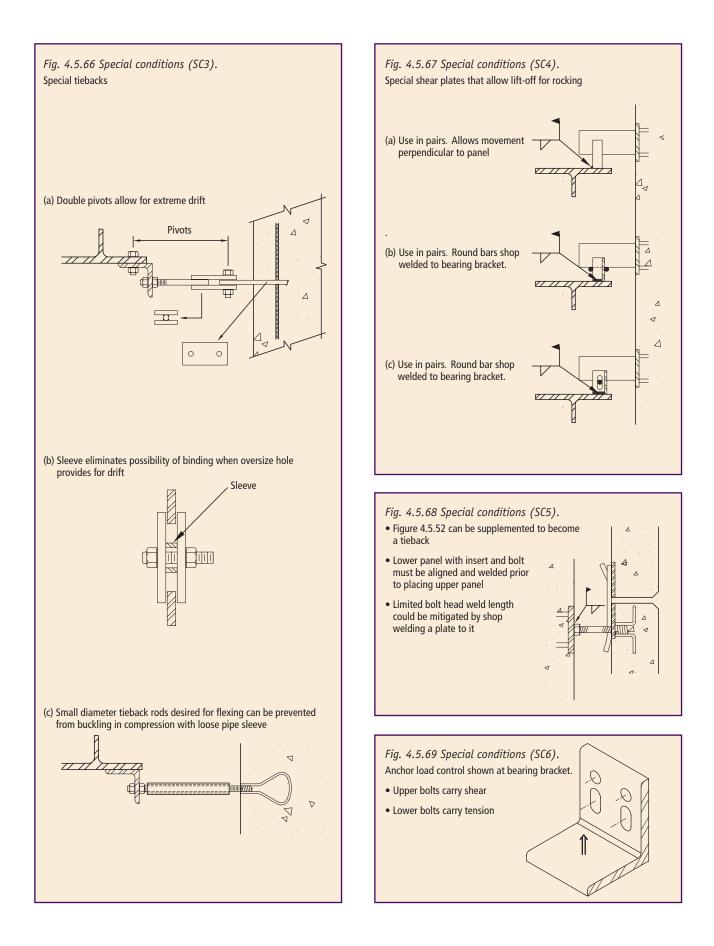


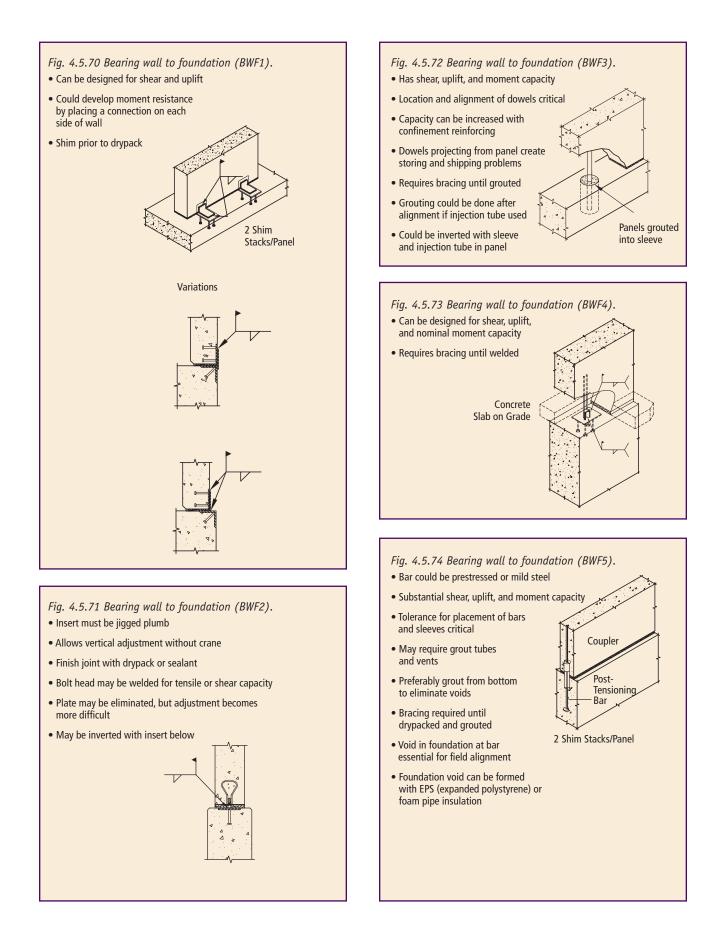
Fig. 4.5.62 Beam cover (BC1).

- Erection sequence critical
- Beam must be adequate to prevent excessive rotation when first element is placed
- Top right connector (alternate) requires tight tolerance
- Sealant at top left connector (alternate) is critical
- May require combination of grouting, bolting, and welding
- Preferably, use one type of alternate top connector
- Joint locations optional









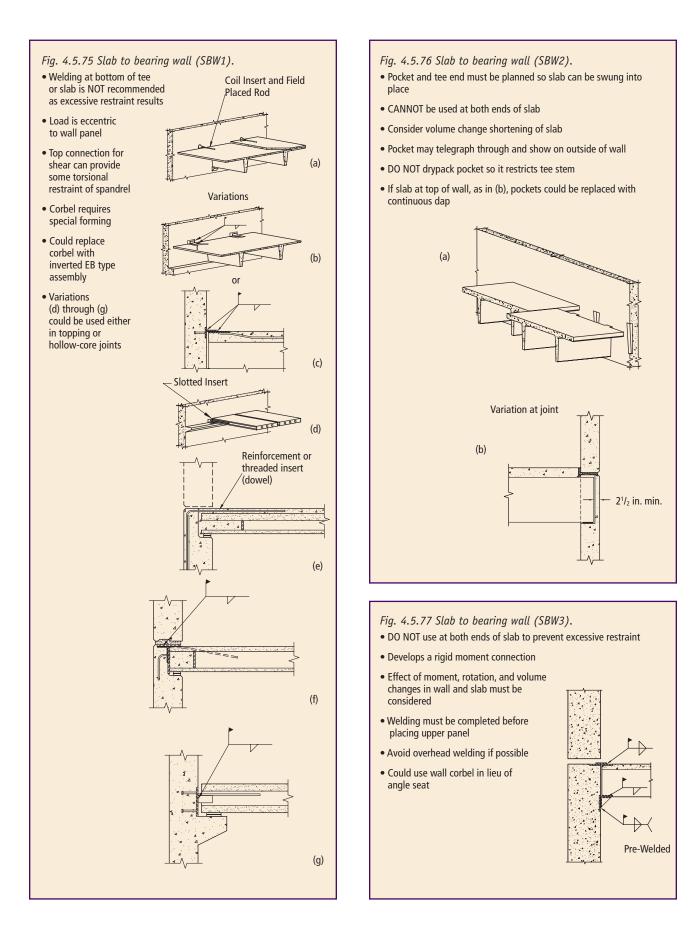
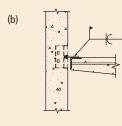
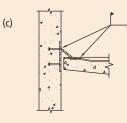


Fig. 4.5.78 Slab to side wall (SSW1).

- Allows for slab deflection
- Transfers horizontal forces
- Do not over tighten bolt in (a)
- Proprietary or fabricated slot embedment in (b)
- Vertical movement accommodated by flexing plate and welds in (c)
- Vertical movement accommodated by flexing tee flange in (d)
- (c) and (d) could be underneath, for less roofing interference, but field labor would be more expensive

(a)





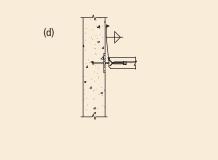


Fig. 4.5.79 Wall to wall (WW1).

- Can be used to withstand uplift forces
- Connection is hidden and protected
- Connection is not developed until tensioning is completed (bars are anchored)
- Temporary bracing is required
- Drypack, tensioning, grouting sequence may limit erection to one story at a time
- Grouting requires care to ensure complete filling

