## DAMAGE ANALYSIS AND LOAD CAPACITY DETERMINATION OF A HEAVILY DAMAGED INDUSTRIAL CHIMNEY





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- 1. Gaping separation cracks in concrete shaft
- 2. How could separation cracking occur?
- 3. How is the systematic separation crack pattern to be explained?
- 4. How could the ring reinforcement shear off?
- 5. How likely is further gaping separation cracks to form?
- 6. How much do the separation cracks affect the stability of the chimney?
- 7. Conclusion



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Views of the 150 m high reinforced concrete chimney





Long, up to 20 mm wide separation cracks





**Broken ring reinforcement** 







Necking and shearing of the ring irons





Crack location and some chimney design details





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Commonly considered load conditions in the design of ring reinforcement





Can bending cracks occur on the outside?





Does the steel tend to yield at the bending crack?







Can bending cracks occur on the inside?





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Insulation filling compacted and under radial compression?





Can separation cracks occur due to radial compression?





Does the steel tend to yield at the separation crack?





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Due to fill setting, radial compression below the corbel should not be that high...





**Opposite oscillation increases radial compression in upper areas!** 





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Maximum shear forces with wind crosswise to the crack





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Probability of further through cracking at level of existing separation crack





Probability of further through cracking at level of existing separation crack





Probability of further through cracking above and below existing separation crack



Probability of further through cracking above and below existing separation crack





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Very high load-bearing reserves with given crack pattern





Still quite high load-bearing reserves in case of crack fusion (and strip formation!)





Determination of critical strip lengths depending on their location and width





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- Despite its drastic crack pattern, the chimney has high load-bearing reserves.
- The formation of critical, buckling-sensitive strips is unlikely.

eD,lok [1000 -]
Including measured concrete flaws

- eD.lok | 1000 -

- In terms of stability, extensive strengthening measures can be avoided.
- The aim of the retrofitting is to eliminate the root cause of the separation crack the radial compression transferring insulating fill – and, in this case, to adequately preserve the load-bearing concrete shaft.



Conclusion