Ancon Lockable Dowels

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ADVANTAGES
The use of Lockable Dowels can save a significant amount of time and materials over other construction methods. Concrete shrinkage has traditionally been accommodated by leaving gaps in the slab called ‘pour strips’ or ‘closure strips’. These strips are filled once movement has stabilised, however until they are filled the slabs must be propped, restricting site access and delaying site progress. Gaps in the slab also create a trip hazard for site workers, use additional formwork and can leave the soffit face marked.

In addition, engineers have found the Ancon Lockable Dowel to be the preferred design solution for pin-ended joints. Although it is customary for practical reasons to use U-bars or other rebar continuity systems at these connections, these options do not truly act as hinges and so rotation of the slab under load can induce cracking at the wall-to-slab interface with potential integrity issues.

The Lockable Dowel is closer to a true pin-ended joint and, being manufactured from stainless steel, provides additional corrosion protection over systems using carbon steel reinforcement.

The performance of site assembled systems can be unreliable
APPLICATIONS
In most cases, Ancon Lockable Dowels can be used to replace pour strips at temporary movement joints in post-tensioned concrete frames. Standard Ancon systems are available for use at slab joints and retaining / core walls.

“By using these dowels we have saved at least four weeks per storey. This construction method is just more efficient. Wet trades finish sooner on site and the anticipated movement at the joints was achieved without any issues.”
Ben Ume, Director, Matthew Consultants
University Campus Suffolk phase 2, Ipswich, UK

“PJ Carey chose the lockable dowel system because it offered time and cost savings, accelerating an already fast build programme.”
Eamonn O’Donnell, Project Manager, PJ Carey (Contractors) Ltd
Emergency Care Centre, Aberdeen, UK

Slab-to-Slab

Various site-assembled components
Unreliable performance, additional construction materials used and support corbel or prop required

Slab-to-Slab

Additional formwork, trip hazard and restricted access
Slabs propped for several weeks

Slab-to-Wall

Restricted access
Slabs propped for several weeks

Pour strip at wall-to-slab junction

Ancon Lockable Dowel

Proven performance
Minimal material usage

Ancon Lockable Dowel

Minimal formwork
Improved site access
Reduced propping time

Ancon Lockable Dowel

Improved site access
Reduced propping time
Ancon Lockable Dowels

RANGE OF LOCKABLE DOWELS
A Lockable Dowel allows initial shrinkage of the concrete to take place and then, after a pre-determined time period (generally 3-4 weeks), is locked in position with a mechanical plate and a controlled amount of epoxy resin. The range comprises three products; ESDQ-L20, HLDQ-L30 and ESDQ-L20W.

SLAB-TO-SLAB LOCKABLE DOWELS ESDQ-L20*
The dowel component is manufactured from 30mm diameter stainless steel; one end is threaded with a fixed nut and washer, and the other features a series of grooves to accept the Locking Plate. The cylindrical sleeve which accepts the dowel component is contained within a box-section to allow lateral, longitudinal and some rotational movement. The epoxy resin is poured into the L-shaped void former. This product has a design capacity of almost 70kN. See pages 6-9 for full technical details.

HLDQ-L30*
The HLDQ-L30 is a high load Lockable Dowel with a design capacity of up to 136kN. See pages 6-9 for full technical details.

Example Specification Clause
Delete/Amend blue text as appropriate
<Ancon ESDQ-L20 or Ancon HLDQ-L30> lockable shear load connector comprising dowel, sleeve and locking components to be installed at the temporary movement joint between two slabs. Product to be positioned at <insert centres>-mm horizontal centres at <the centre line of the slab or XXXmm from the top of the slab>. The dowel is to be locked in position after <insert time period> using the locking plate and resin supplied. System should be installed in accordance with Ancon’s instructions and engineer’s drawings.

Reinforcement being located around ESDQ-L20 Sleeves

HLDQ-L30 Sleeve nailed to formwork

* Patent pending
SLAB-TO-WALL LOCKABLE DOWEL
ESDQ-L20W*

The dowel component is manufactured from 30mm diameter stainless steel, but is shorter than the ESDQ-L20 dowel. One end of the dowel is designed to fix into the stainless steel Ancon SKS24 Threaded Anchor cast into the face of the concrete and the other end features a series of grooves to accept the Locking Plate. The sleeve component is the same as used in the ESDQ-L20. See pages 6-9 for full technical details.

Epoxy Resin

Each dowel is locked after a pre-determined time period (generally 3-4 weeks) with a high quality, two-part epoxy resin. The resin is mixed and poured into the L-shaped void former. Each dowel requires 1,500g of resin which can be supplied either in a single can for one application or a greater mass for locking multiple dowels.

Example Specification Clause

Delete/Amend blue text as appropriate

Ancon ESDQ-L20W lockable shear load connector comprising dowel, sleeve, threaded anchor and locking components to be installed at the temporary movement joint between slab and wall. Product to be positioned at <insert centres>-mm horizontal centres at <the centre line of the slab> or <XXXmm from the top of the slab>. The dowel is to be locked in position after <insert time period> using the locking plate and resin supplied. System should be installed in accordance with Ancon’s instructions and engineer’s drawings.

* Patent pending

Slab-to-Wall Application
Ancon Lockable Dowels

PERFORMANCE DATA

Movement

Vertical load transfer between slabs

Locked

Vertical load transfer between slabs

Load transfer between slabs

ESDQ-L20 Lockable Dowels (slab-to-slab)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slab Thickness (mm)</th>
<th>Tension along line of dowel (kN)</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
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ESDQ-L20W Lockable Dowels (slab-to-wall)

<table>
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<th>Tension along line of dowel (kN)</th>
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HLDQ-L30 Lockable Dowels (slab-to-slab)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slab Thickness (mm)</th>
<th>Tension along line of dowel (kN)</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
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<th>25</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>136.0</td>
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<td>121.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ESDQ-L20 Example

Slab thickness = 240mm
Joint width = 20mm
Concrete strength = C30/37
Characteristic permanent action (dead load) = 40kN/m $\gamma_D = 1.35^*$
Characteristic variable action (imposed load) = 50kN/m $\gamma_Q = 1.5^*$
Design load = 1.35 x 40 + 1.5 x 50 = 129kN/m
Vertical design resistance = 62.2kN (240mm slab 20mm joint)
Therefore centres for vertical load = 62.2 / 129 = 0.482m use 450mm centres

Each dowel will in addition provide a design resistance across the joint of 100kN (for slab to wall this is 80kN), therefore the total design resistance in the direction of the dowel = 100 / 0.45 = 222kN (for slab to wall 80 / 0.45 = 177kN).

If this is insufficient, the dowel centres can be reduced to a minimum of 1.5 x slab thickness to increase the design resistance across the joint, in this example it would increase to 100 / 0.36 = 277kN (for slab to wall 80 / 0.36 = 222kN).

*The partial safety factors of 1.35 ($\gamma_D$) and 1.5 ($\gamma_Q$) are those recommended in EN 1990 Eurocode: Basis for structural design. For designs to Eurocode 2, please refer to the national annex for the factors to be used in the country concerned. For designs to BS8110, $\gamma_D = 1.4$ and $\gamma_Q = 1.6$. Other national standards may require different safety factors.

Joint Filler / Fire Protection

Ancon can provide information on a suitable joint filler and also recommend fire resistant material which could be used as part of an overall fire protection system.
**EDGQ DISTANCE AND SPACINGS**

For connectors working at or near their maximum capacity, the minimum spacing should be 1.5 times the slab thickness. Where the design load of the connector could be used in a thinner slab, a spacing of 1.5 times the thinner slab thickness can be used. The minimum end distance is always 0.5 times the spacing.

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**ESDQ-L20 Example**

| Slab thickness | = 300mm |
| Joint width    | = 20mm  |
| Concrete strength | = C30/37 |
| Design resistance/connector | = 63.5kN |

(based on slabs 260mm and above)

Spacing for max. load \( 300 \times 1.5 = 450\text{mm} \)

End distance for max. load \( 450 \times 0.5 = 225\text{mm} \)

Design resistance/metre \( 63.5 \div 0.45 = 141.1\text{kN/m} \)

As an ESDQ-L20 can be used in a 220mm slab for a design resistance per connector of up to 53.6kN, the spacing can be based on a 220mm slab. Therefore:

Reduced spacing \( 220 \times 1.5 = 330\text{mm} \)

Reduced end distance \( 330 \times 0.5 = 165\text{mm} \)

Design resistance/metre \( 53.6 \div 0.33 = 162.4\text{kN/m} \)
**REINFORCEMENT DETAILS**

Local reinforcement is required around each Ancon Lockable Dowel to guarantee that the forces are transferred between the connectors and the concrete. Correct detailing in accordance with appropriate design codes and the recommendations provided here will ensure the dowels attain their full capacity. The tables show the main reinforcement required, together with details of reinforcement above and below the connectors. Although only the sleeve components are illustrated, the same reinforcement is required around the dowel component.

### Options for Main Reinforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lockable Dowel Ref.</th>
<th>No. of U-bars each side</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESDQ-L20</td>
<td>H12: 2, H14: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLDQ-L30</td>
<td>H12: - , H14: 3, H16: 3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Options for Longitudinal Reinforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lockable Dowel Ref.</th>
<th>No. of bars top and bottom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESDQ-L20</td>
<td>H12: 2, H14: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLDQ-L30</td>
<td>H12: 2, H14: 2, H16: 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Threaded Anchor**

Reinforcement around the Ancon Threaded Anchor should be a minimum diameter of 12mm, installed at maximum 200mm vertical and horizontal centres.
### DIMENSIONS

#### ESDQ-L20 Components

- **Dowel Component**
  - 30mm internal diameter
  - 450mm length

- **Sleeve Component**
  - 31mm internal diameter
  - 170mm length
  - Max. +/-20.5mm lateral movement

#### HLDQ-L30 Components

- **Dowel Component**
  - 30mm internal diameter
  - 490mm length

- **Sleeve Component**
  - 31mm internal diameter
  - 280mm length
  - Max. +/-20.5mm lateral movement

#### ESDQ-L20W Components

- **SKS24 Threaded Anchor**
  - 30mm internal diameter
  - 240mm length

- **Dowel Component**
  - M30x3.5mm
  - 150mm length

- **Sleeve Component**
  - 31mm internal diameter
  - 110mm length
  - Max. +/-20.5mm lateral movement
**INSTALLATION**

**Slab-to-Slab**

Although installation is shown for the ESDQ-L20, the procedure is the same for the HLDQ-L30.

1. Nail the sleeve to the formwork either central in the slab or for slab depths over 300mm so the top of the void former is level with the top of the slab. Do not remove the label over the nailing plate as this prevents ingress of concrete into the sleeve. Fix the local reinforcement, as specified on engineer’s drawings.

2. Pour the concrete, and when of sufficient strength, strike the formwork. Puncture the label to reveal the cylindrical sleeve only and insert the dowel until it is approximately 20mm from the back of the void former.

3. Fix the local reinforcement around the dowel component and pour the concrete.

4. After a predetermined time period (generally 3-4 weeks), when movement between the slabs has stabilised and the joint between the slabs has been filled, the dowel is ready to be locked.

   Fit the Locking Plate on a groove in the centre of the void former. The fan-shaped Locking Plate allows the dowel to be locked in any position.

5. Mix the two-part epoxy resin and pour into the void former. It is essential the resin flows along the stainless steel box section towards the joint and reaches the notches on the locking plate, which indicate minimum resin depth. Joint must be filled before resin is installed.

6. After 24 hours the void former can be filled with cementitious material, level with the top of the slab, to complete the installation. The locked dowel continues to transfer vertical load between the slabs, but movement can no longer take place.

**Notes:** Where deep concrete pours are proposed, the installation will require further consideration. More robust fixing of the sleeve and dowel components will be necessary, to avoid displacement during casting of the concrete.

**Slab-to-Wall**

1. Nail the threaded anchor to the formwork so the dowel will be central in the adjoining slab or within 150mm of the top of slabs over 300mm. Fix the local reinforcement as specified on engineer’s drawings and cast the concrete.

2. When concrete reaches sufficient strength, strike the formwork and remove nailing plate. Screw the dowel into the anchor.

3. Puncture the label of the sleeve to reveal the cylindrical sleeve only. Push the sleeve over the dowel until it is flush with the concrete. Tie sleeve to reinforcement and pour concrete.

See Steps 4 to 6 above to complete installation.
PROJECT REFERENCES

200 Lockable dowels were installed on the James Hehir Building (University Campus Suffolk phase 2) in Ipswich, UK. ‘Highly Commended’ in the 2010 CONSTRUCT award for innovation and best practice for its use of the Lockable Dowel.

5,000 Lockable dowels were installed on the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

500 Lockable dowels were installed on the Emergency Care Centre in Aberdeen, UK.

OTHER ANCON PRODUCTS

DSD/Q Shear Load Connectors
Ancon DSD and DSDQ double-dowel connectors are used to transfer shear across movement joints in suspended concrete slabs. They are more effective at transferring load and allowing movement than standard single dowels and can be used to eliminate double columns at structural movement joints in buildings. The Q version features a rectangular box section to allow lateral and some rotational movement.

Plate Dowel Systems
Ancon MultiJoint is a plate dowel system for use in ground bearing concrete floor slabs. It is an all-in-one solution to load transfer, concrete contraction, armoured edge protection and formwork. Individual plate dowels are also available.

Punching Shear Reinforcement
Ancon Shearfix is used within a slab to provide additional reinforcement from punching shear around columns. The system consists of double-headed steel studs welded to flat rails and is designed to suit the load conditions and slab depth at each column using free calculation software from Ancon.

Reinforcing Bar Couplers
The use of reinforcing bar couplers can provide significant advantages over lapped joints. Design and construction of the concrete can be simplified and the amount of reinforcement can be reduced. The Ancon range includes parallel-threaded, tapered-threaded and mechanically-bolted couplers.

Reinforcing Continuity Systems
Ancon Eazistrip is approved by UK CARES and consists of bent bars housed in a galvanised steel casing. Once installed, the protective cover is removed and the bars straightened ready for joining. As an alternative, Ancon Starter Bars are rebar lengths supplied fixed to an Ancon coupler which can be cast into the face of the concrete.

Insulated Balcony Connections
Ancon Isolan connectors join external concrete balconies to internal concrete floor slabs. Used to minimise cold bridging, they provide continuity to the thermal insulation. Standard systems, comprising rigid CFC-free polystyrene insulation and duplex stainless steel shear reinforcement, suit most depths of cantilevered and simply supported balconies. Conventional reinforcing bars are used to provide the tension and compression reinforcement.
The construction applications and details provided in this literature are indicative only. In every case, project working details should be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced persons.

Whilst every care has been exercised in the preparation of this document to ensure that any advice, recommendations or information is accurate, no liability or responsibility of any kind is accepted in respect of Ancon Building Products.

With a policy of continuous product development Ancon Building Products reserves the right to modify product design and specification without due notice.