

# State of the Art for joints in industrial floors



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## State of the Art for joints in industrial floors

September 2016

International Joint Tech Engineering s.a. • Hauptstrooss 1 • L-9753 Heinerscheid



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## Overview

- Review / history of joints
- Problem „shock“
- Sinus Slide® Joint
- Cosinus Slide® Joint
- Structural design
- Execution – How not to do
- References
- Resume



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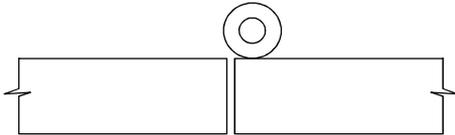
## Review / history of joints

### Some facts:

- Joints in concrete construction are nearly not to avoid
- Each joint in a concrete construction is a possible point of failure
- Joints are generally a weak point in terms of design
- Joints are limiting the use of a construction
- Joints usually require an intensive maintenance during the lifetime of the whole construction

## Review / history of joints

No connection at all:



saw cut joints:



## Review / history of joints

Shrinkage stresses compensated by saw cut joints



Casted floor panels of 900 m<sup>2</sup>  
divided in small panels of 5,0 x 5,0 m:  
**300 m of potential joint problems**



## Review / history of joints

The problems can be various...



## Review / history of joints

The problems can be various...



**note:**  
Over the life time period of an industrial floor, saw cut joints have regularly to be maintained.



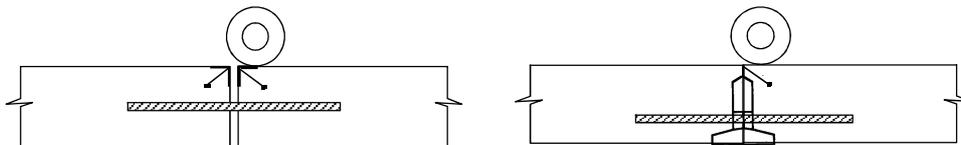
## Review / history of joints

Flooring technology since +/- 1980:  
Jointless floors are constructed  
Potential joint problems reduced by about 80 %



## Review / history of joints

Different construction principles were used:



double angle  
with dowel system

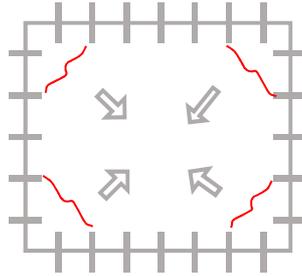


## Review / history of joints

Different construction principles were used:

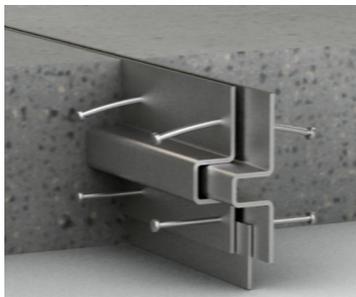


Disadvantage: No movements possible parallel to the joint



## Review / history of joints

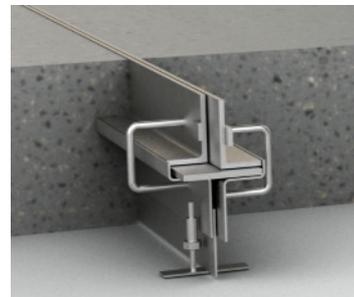
Different construction principles were used:  
Types that allow longitudinal movements with  
continued load transfer:



Omega



Delta

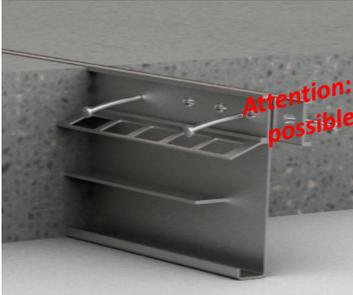


so called „Schwerlastprofil“



## Review / history of joints

Different construction principles were used:  
Types that allow longitudinal movements with  
discontinued load transfer:



Profile with plate dowels



Profile with round or square dowels

*Attention: longitudinal movements only possible with corresponding sleeves!*



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## Problem „shock“

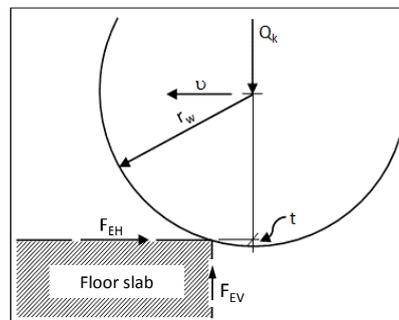
All traditional jointing systems have the same principal problem:



## Problem „shock“

All traditional jointing systems have the same principal problem:

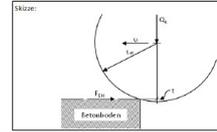
When crossing an open joint: **horizontal an vertical impact!**  
In function of the chosen joint, forces are introduced **systematically!**



# Problem „shock“

**Qualitative overview of horizontal impact – exact calculation practically not possible**

joint opening  $\delta = 15 \text{ mm}$   
 dynamic safety factor  $\phi = 1,20 [-]$   
 static safety factor  $\gamma_Q = 1,00 [-]$  (SLS problem)  
 hypotheses: - Base time factor for the impact of  $t_A = 0,5 \text{ s}$  (assumption on the safe side)  
 - assumed reduction of impact duration in function of the tire material with  $t_{A,red} = t_A \cdot (1-p / 140)$   
 - assumed shock absorption in function of tire material with  $red_p = 1,05 \cdot (1/p)$



tire material: contact pressure p:	covered by DIN EN 1991-1-1						not covered by DIN EN 1991-1-1																														
	practical cases																																				
	pneumatic	super elastic		rubber		Vulkollan	hard plastic / polyamide			steel or similar																											
contact pressure p:	1 bis 1,5 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	1,5 bis 4 N/mm <sup>2</sup>		3 bis 8 N/mm <sup>2</sup>		5 bis 12 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	8 bis 30 N/mm <sup>2</sup>			20 bis 100 N/mm <sup>2</sup>																											
wheel radius r <sub>w</sub> :	325 mm	275 mm		225 mm		150 mm	100 mm			50 mm																											
sinking depth t:	0,09 mm	0,10 mm		0,13 mm		0,19 mm	0,28 mm			0,57 mm																											
forklift category	wheel Q <sub>k</sub> [kN]	speed v [km/h]																																			
		5			10			15			5			10			15			5			10			15											
FL 1	13,0	/			/			/			2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	5	7	9	10	13	8	24	16	48	23	71					
FL 2	20,0	/			/			/			3	4	6	7	3	4	6	8	9	11	5	7	10	13	15	20	12	37	24	73	35	110					
FL 3	31,5	/			/			/			4	5	7	8	11	5	6	10	12	14	17	8	11	16	21	24	31	15	36	27	115	56	175				
FL 4	45,0	1	2	1	3	1	5	2	4	4	7	5	11	4	5	8	10	11	15	7	8	14	16	20	24	12	15	22	27	34	43	24	50	36	141	74	245
FL 5	70,0	1	3	1	5	1	7	3	6	5	11	8	16	6	8	12	16	18	23	10	12	18	22	28	18	23	33	41	51	64	36	74	54	195	103	340	
FL 6	85,0	1	3	1	6	1	8	3	7	6	13	9	20	8	11	17	22	26	33	12	15	22	27	34	24	31	45	56	70	88	48	98	72	285	150	485	

rare or improbable combination of wheel load and contact pressure / tire material  
 common occurring combination



# Problem „shock“

**Horizontal impact – jobsite reality:**



## Problem „shock“

**Horizontal impact – jobsite reality:  
Significantly increased wear of stacker wheels and increased  
electrical / electronic issues**



## Problem „shock“

**Horizontal impact – jobsite reality:**



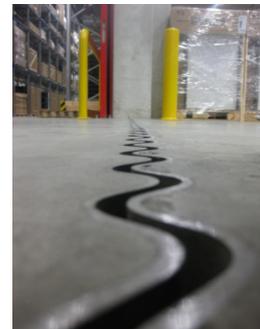
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- Cosinus Slide® Joint
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## Sinus Slide® Joint

**Question from the industry: IS IT POSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THE REASON OF DAMAGES?**

**Answer: YES!**



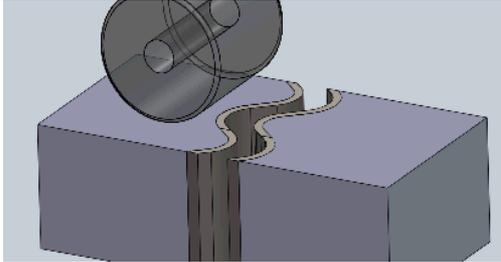
## Sinus Slide® Joint

**Question from the industry: IS IT POSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THE REASON OF DAMAGES?**

**Answer: YES!**

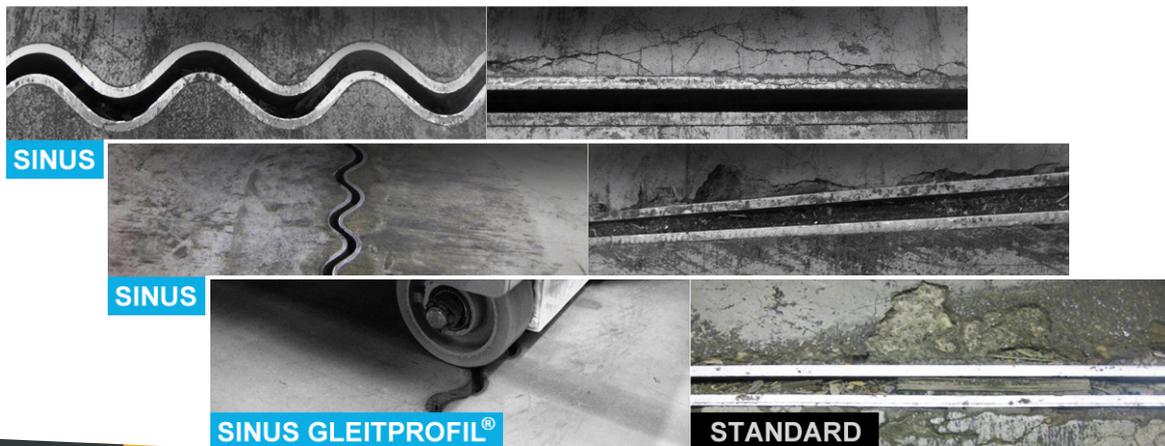
Due to the sinusoidal shape of the Cosinus Slide® Joint the wheels of forklift trucks remain permanently in contact with the concrete.

This permanent contact between wheel and concrete floor creates a sliding and silent crossing, so that drivers experience a feeling of a jointfree floor slab.



## Sinus Slide® Joint

**The initial concept: avoid damage, ensure durability**



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## Cosinus Slide® Joint

### Development of Cosinus Slide® joints

#### **INITIAL SITUATION:**

- Sinus Slide® joints leading to durable solutions, but need a lot of steel and are relatively heavy.
- Existing systems often offer only moderate load transmission
- Bearing capacity always has been achieved through an additional component (dowel)
- Load transfer from the joint system into the floor usually only punctually
  - partially only single dowels or plate dowels approximately in the center of the concrete section
  - depending on the joint opening different failure mechanisms

## Cosinus Slide® Joint

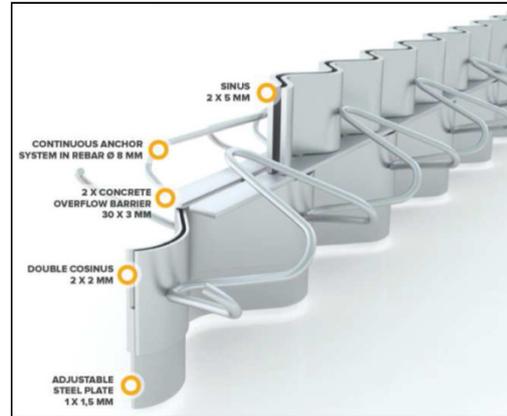
Development of Cosinus Slide® joints

**INITIAL SITUATION:**

Combining all these facts in further R&D projects lead the new solution of

**Cosinus Slide® joint**

solving all the prementioned problems.



## Cosinus Slide® Joint

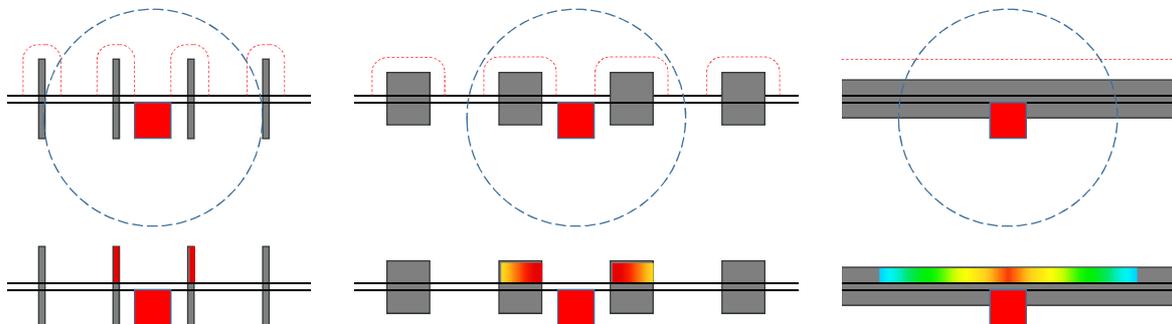
**Other system-related advantages:**

**CAPACITY:**

Discontinuous

vs.

continuous



## Cosinus Slide® Joint

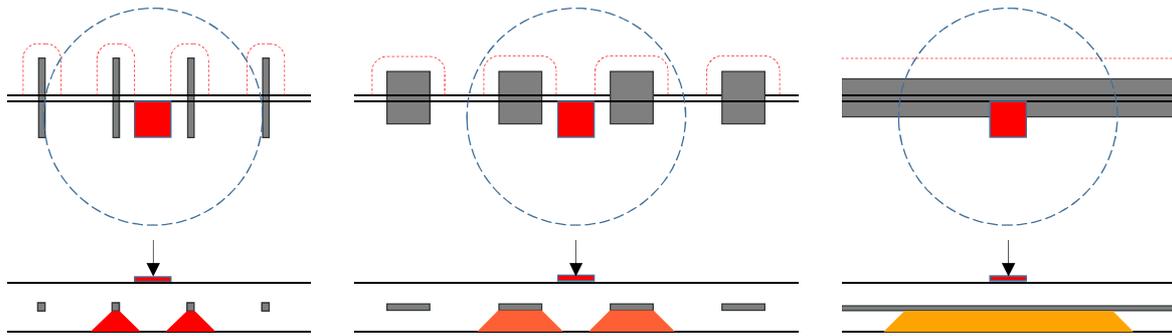
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**vs.**

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## Cosinus Slide® Joint

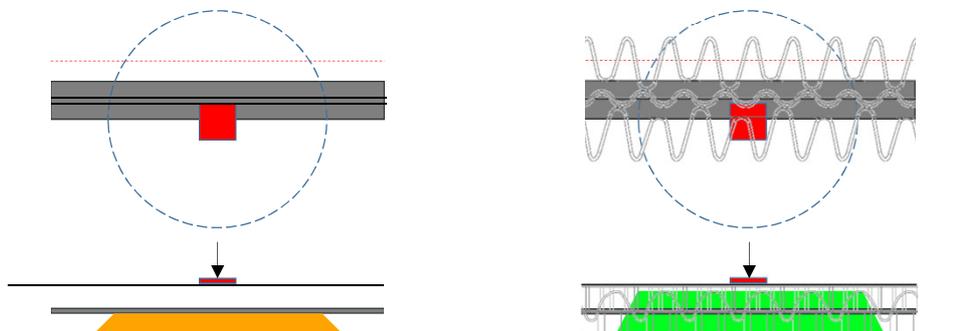
Other system-related advantages:

**CAPACITY:**

**Continuous**

**vs.**

**Cosinus Slide®**



## Cosinus Slide® Joint

**Other system-related advantages:**

**WHOLE BODY VIBRATIONS**

**Problem:** Through work on/with forklift trucks, operators are exposed to whole-body vibration.

**Legal Terms:** EU Directive 2002/44/EC: Europe formulated limits for exposure of drivers.

**Consequence:** operators/owners of forklift trucks obligated to carry out a risk assessment.

**Solution:** Simple construction action eliminates trouble spots when driving over floor joints and provides legal certainty.



## Cosinus Slide® Joint

**Other system-related advantages:**

**WHOLE BODY VIBRATIONS**

**Solution:** Simple construction action eliminates trouble spots when driving over floor joints and provides legal certainty.



**Result: A jointless floor, joint free in its sensation**



# Cosinus Slide® Joint

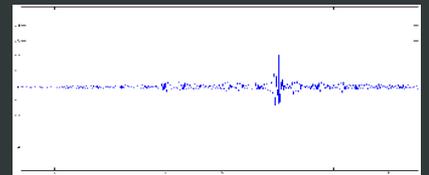
**Other system-related advantages:**

**WHOLE BODY VIBRATIONS**

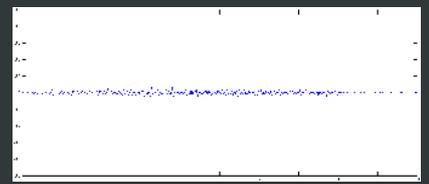
**Scientifically proven:**



Forklift crossing a linear joint.



Forklift crossing a Cosinus Slide® Joint



# Cosinus Slide® Joint

**Other system-related advantages:**

**Economy / Ecology:**

**Fact 1:** In average 66% of all damages of forklift trucks affect electric and wheels  
(source: InnoRad)

**Fact 2:** A major cause of failure of electric and wheels are shocks and vibrations (source : InnoRad)

**Fact 3:** Joint profiles in industrial floors are crossed 140 times per day on average (source : InnoRad)

**Fact 4:** Only by changing damaged wheels in Europe costs arise amounting to € 550 million per year. The average cost per forklift and year is € 755. The Europe-wide quantity of waste is nearly 17,000 tons per year (source: Linde)



## Cosinus Slide® Joint

### Other system-related advantages:

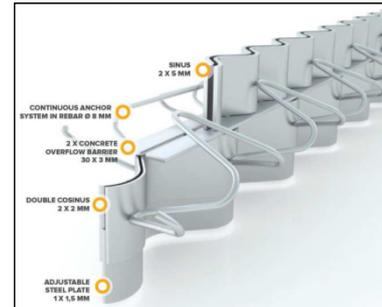
#### Economy / Ecology:

By using Sinus Slide® Joints: minimize consequential costs and waste, both in floor as well as forklift trucks.

Savings between 25 and 50% depending on the forklift type, joint opening, operation time, speed, etc ..

Example: Logistic company operates at a site 50 forklift trucks  
Average costs for wheel change € 755 x 50 = € 37,750 / year  
Savings 25 - 50%: about 9,400-18,800 € / year

The investment costs pay off very quickly.



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## Structural design

### Initial situation:

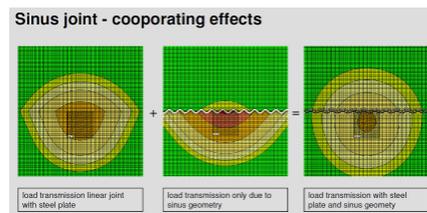
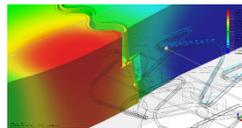
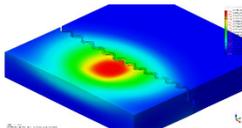
- The capacity of used jointing systems is often not calculated nor proven but simply assumed.
- Partial statements about load bearing capacity: „steel is strong enough, you have to take care for concrete...”
- Designs for industrial floors are – if considered at all – based on assumption for joint capacities. Often this design check is not done at all and forklift trucks are simply declared as „not decisive“
- The tire material of dynamic loads has not been considered!



## Structural design

### With Cosinus Slide® Joint:

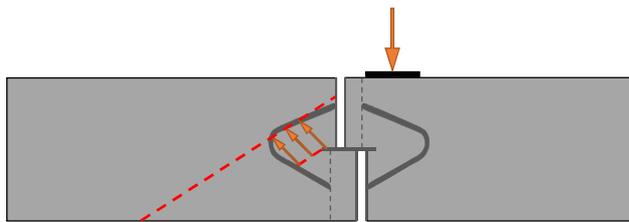
- The impact is excluded by geometrical shape. This is the precondition for a complete structural analysis:
  - Due to exclusion of impact, all forces are known for ULS design
  - SLS is secured
- By sinusoidal formation of the surface the load introduction and transmission is positively influenced.



## Structural design

**With Cosinus Slide® Joint:**

Illustration of the load bearing principle



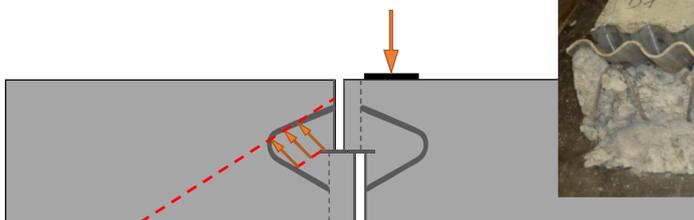
Displacement of the failure area into the upper stirrup level



## Structural design

**With Cosinus Slide® Joint:**

Illustration of the load bearing principle



Due to the special shape of the sinusoidal consoles and their opposite arrangement, the introduced forces can be distributed very uniformly in the length direction of the profile.



## Structural design

### Determination of actions:

- Design of the floor (eg by steel fiber manufacturer) is based on an **assumption** of load transfer at the joint (usually betw. 30 & 50 %)
- Until now a check of this assumption was not possible:
  - Impact effect of vehicles not defined (many unknown parameters)
  - Designer has mostly no information about the bearing capacity of the joint
  - Real percentage of load to be transferred is not exactly known
- How loads are distributed along the joint?



## Structural design

### Determination of actions:

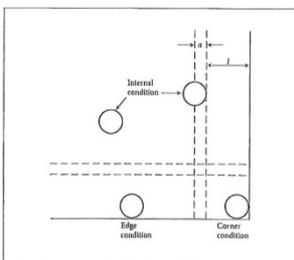


Figure 7.3: Definitions of loading locations.  
Technical Report 34 (TR34),  
The Concrete Society  
Definition of loading locations

What loads have to be considered for a design check at the joint profile?

According Westergaard influence defined by radius of stiffness  $f$  (modulus concrete, thickness, soil characteristics, Poisson's ratio)

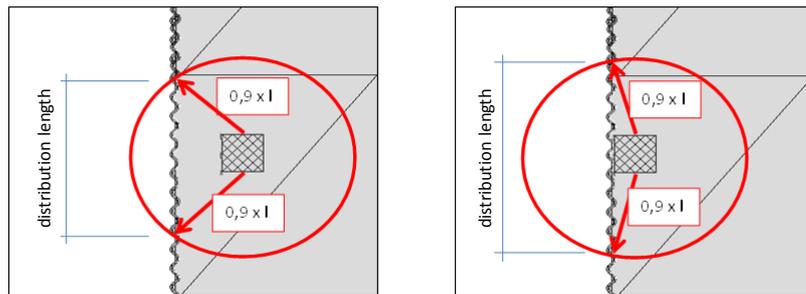
All loads within this distance, have an impact on the joints!



## Structural design

### Determination of actions:

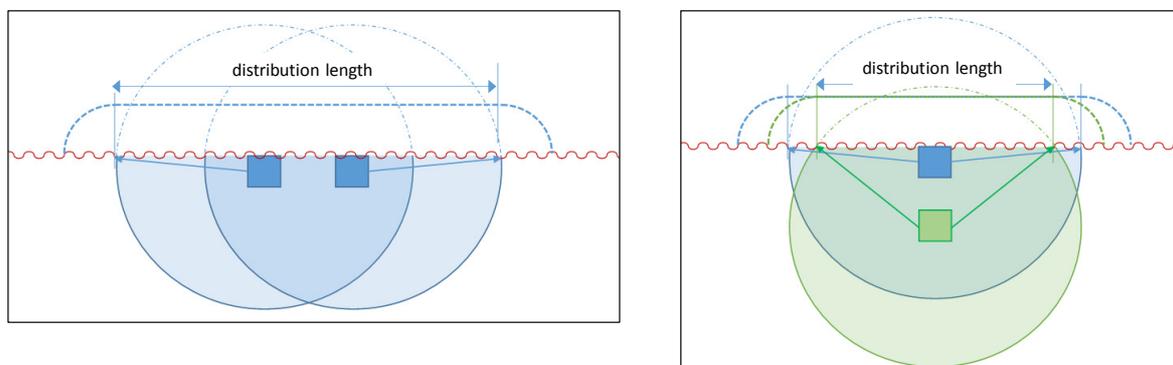
Acc. Technical Report 34 (TR34): load distribution up to  $1,8 \times l$  bothsides of load, but decreasing  
Simplification:  $0,9 \times l$  with full loading



## Structural design

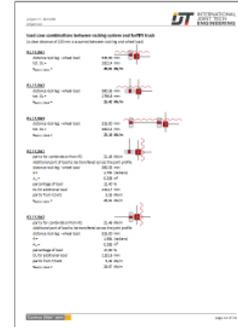
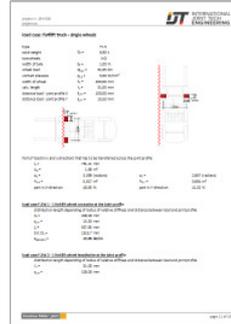
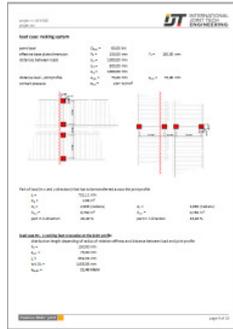
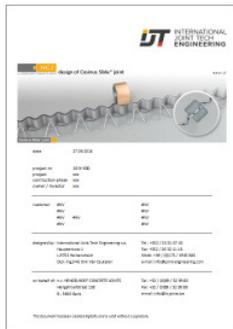
### Determination of actions:

Development of the model: superposition of actions



# Structural design

Bringing everything together in a full design check:



Detailed and project-related designs available on request



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## Execution – How not to do



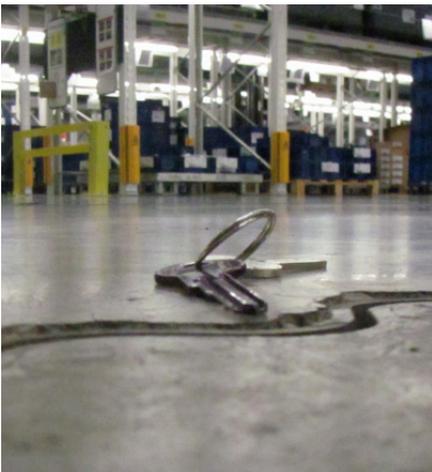
## Execution – How not to do



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## References

Toyota Parts Center  
Diest (Belgium)



## References

Volkswagen Braunschweig (Germany)



## References

REWE Neu-Isenburg  
(Germany)



## References

Shoprite Distribution Centre Cilmor, Brackenfell, Cape Town, (RSA)



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## Resume

- The requirements for industrial floors and by consequence for joints have increased significantly.
- Straight profiles are not anymore State of the Art in case of presence of forklift trucks with hard tires.
- Cosinus Slide® Joints allow to ensure and prove the bearing capacity and long term serviceability. Additionally, significant cost savings over the life time period can be achieved.
- Responsibility of designers: inform and advice the building owner. He has then to make the choice whether or not a durable solution at the State of the Art is required, or if he – being aware of all facts – tends to another solution that might be cheaper in short term view.
- Although as it should be known from other areas and as it is obvious: The execution is the key to a high quality and durable industrial floor.



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Thank you for  
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