# **OTHER STRUCTURES WITH RUBBER BEARINGS**

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#### **HIGH DAMPING RUBBER BEARINGS** www.mrepc.com/marketplace

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Protecting Lives and Structures

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### RUBBER SEISMIC BEARINGS PRINCIPLE

**UBBER BEARINGS** work on the principle of base isolation and limit the energy transferred from the ground to the structure in the event of an earthquake. The rubber and steel laminated bearing is designed to support the weight of the structure and to provide post-yield elasticity.

With this technology, the building or structure is isolated from the horizontal components of the earthquake ground motion by interposing elastomeric bearings with low horizontal stiffness between the structure and the foundation. In an earthquake, the superstructure responds as a rigid body, with the deformation occurring in the bearings.



High damping rubber bearings (HDNR) are one of the most widely used means of seismic isolation in structures and have proven effective in numerous earthquakes worldewide.

The system has been researched over the past decades and offers the structural engineer a straight-forward simulation of device response due to simple bilinear modelling. This type of rubber bearing was developed by the Malaysian Rubber Board (MRB) in the late 70s as part of a joint R&D effort with the University of California, Berkeley, to evaluate the use of seismic rubber bearings for structures.

Foothills Community Law and Justice Center, San Bernardino, California, United States

The project culminated in the construction in 1985 of the first base-isolated building in the US - the five-storey Law and Justice Center building in San Bernardino, California.

## **APPLICATION**

### HIGH DAMPING NATURAL RUBBER BEARINGS PROTECT STRUCTURES AND CONTENTS FROM SEISMIC ACTIVITY



The high damping natural rubber (HDNR) bearings consist of alternate layers of elastomeric material and vulcanized reinforcement steel plates. As the reinforcement steel plates are fully embedded in the elastomeric material they are sealed and thus protected against corrosion.

The devices are manufactured with the rubber vulcanised to the top and bottom connection plates. The bearings can also be supplied with additional anchor plates, allowing easier replacement of the device in case of maintenance needs. HDNR are made from natural rubber (NR) providing a high resistance against mechanical wear. The exact maximum height of a building suitable for isolation depends on its location and characteristics.

Time (sec)

Left: Conventionally-designed structure Right: Structure on HDNR bearing:

## **ADVANTAGES OF HDNR BEARINGS**

• Rubber-steel laminated bearings based on natural rubber have been in service since 1950s; hence their ageing behaviour is known and predictable. A large body of field data on performance of rubber in the bearings are available for evaluation and comparison.

- Rubber bearings have no moving parts and are therefore maintenance free, remain unaffected by time and are resistant to environmental degradation.
- HDNR bearings are able to sustain some tensile loads without damage; therefore can be used if tensile stresses are present as may happen when vertical seismic excitations are significant.
- The behaviour of the elastomeric isolation system can normally be approximated by linear models; this allows for analysis by most of the commercially available Finite Element software and for a safe engineering judgement based assessment of the calculated results.
- HDNR bearings could cope with displacement inputs larger than the design displacements, thus providing a "safety" factor with respect to beyond design earthquake.

# WORLD'S LARGEST STRUCTURE ON SEISMIC BEARINGS: SECOND PENANG BRIDGE MALAYSIA

The Second Penang Bridge is the longest bridge in Southeast Asia. More than 2,000 units of HDNR bearings were installed on this cable-stayed bridge connecting Batu Maung in Penang to Batu Kawan on the mainland.

The Second Penang Bridge, Malaysia- Completed in 2013, It is the world's largest structure on seismic bearings.

# **BRIDGE CHARACTERISTICS**

