

ACI 318-19: A WELDED DEFORMED WIRE REINFORCEMENT (WWR) PRIMER

Item	Design Attribute	Description	Relevant Code Sections ACI 318-19	Remarks
1	Tension Development Length and Lap Splice	ACI 318 allows the Engineer-of-Record to rely on strength of welded intersections in WWR, potentially reducing the tensile development length and lap splice lengths to dimensions less than those associated with rebar.	$25.4.6.1 \rightarrow 25.4.6.4$ $25.5.2.1 \rightarrow 25.5.3.1.1$	While permitted by ACI 318, reliance on welded intersections in lap splice regions is sometimes discouraged due to reinforcement build-up that results from "stacking" of the overlapping WWR mats. The Engineer-of-Record is given the flexibility to ignore the "benefit" of the referenced provision and can instead treat curtailment and lap splice of WWR using the same exact equations as for deformed bars/wires.
2	Development of Transverse Reinforcement	In lieu of hooked curtailment of U-stirrups, ACI 318 allows the Engineer-of-Record to rely on the strength of welded intersections located near the compression face of the member.	25.7.1.1 → 25.7.1.7	This lesser-known provision can prove valuable in gravity beam applications
3	Special Seismic Systems – Axial and Flexure Usage	WWR is not permitted for axial or flexural usage in Special Seismic Systems (Special Moment Frames and Special Structural Walls)	20.2.2.4 → 20.2.2.5	From a manufacturing standpoint, usage of WWR as axial/flexural reinforcement in Special Moment Frames and Special Structural Walls (shear walls) is a generally a non-starter given the very large cross-sectional area of steel required in a relatively confined member region.
4	Special Seismic Systems – Welded Intersections	Welded intersections of WWR are not to be relied upon to resist stresses in response to confinement, lateral support of longitudinal bars, or shear in Special Seismic Systems	Table 20.2.2.4(a)	WWR used as components of transverse reinforcement (hoops) in Special Seismic Systems should be configured with hooked curtailment.
5	Reinforcement Usage in Topping Slabs	For WWR used in topping slabs over precast systems in Seismic Design Categories D, E, or F, ACI dictates a minimum spacing requirement of 10" for wires in the direction parallel to joints between precast elements.	18.12.7.1	The referenced provision is based on maintaining sufficient strain distribution length between welds. WWR mats with the 10" prescriptive minimum spacing are commonly produced.









