

# FPC ITALIA

## Mechanical Bearings



D E S I G N , B U I L D , M A I N T A I N



Bearings are a major component of structures, and their function means that they play a decisive role in the operation of those structures. As such, bearings must be designed, manufactured and installed by specialists.

**As a major player in the field of construction, FPC ITALIA has developed a wide range of bearings. FPC ITALIA designs and provides the right solution to meet its customers' needs for every type of structure.**

FPC ITALIA bearings are manufactured in house, CE marked and are officially approved in many countries.

## Areas of use

Bearings are most commonly used to provide the connection between the piers and deck of a bridge. FPC ITALIA bearings can also be used in a number of other areas, such as stadiums, pipelines and all types of buildings.

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**Our primary concern:  
ensuring everyone's safety**



Our "Sustainable technology" signature expresses our commitment to offering our customers sustainable solutions that respect the environment, and to providing our employees with an environment where safety, risk management and innovation are a constant state of mind.

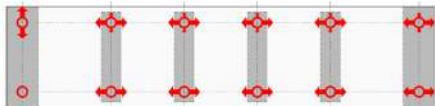
Managing safety on our sites is therefore our primary duty towards our employees worldwide, whatever the local regulations.

We are fully committed to the goal of "Zero Lost Time Injuries"; our rules, our "non-negotiables" and our in-house tools ensure that this commitment will become reality.

# DESIGN

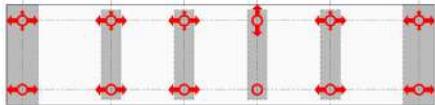
Excellent knowledge of how structures operate is vital in identifying the most appropriate types of bearing.

The diagrams below show the most common bearing layouts underneath a bridge deck. Because every structure is different, the designer must choose the most appropriate solution depending on the constraints imposed.



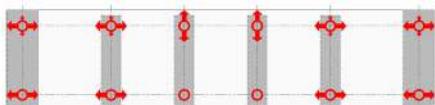
## Fixed abutment:

This layout absorbs significant longitudinal loads (braking, for example).



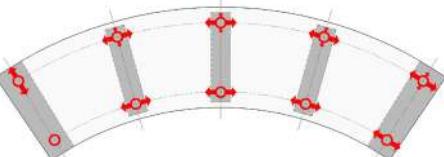
## Fixed pier:

This layout distributes the movements of the deck in order to balance the movement of joints on either side.



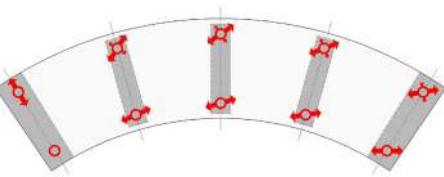
## Two fixed piers:

There is significant distribution of longitudinal horizontal loads. The piers contribute to the absorption of dynamic loads (earthquakes, emergency braking by a train, etc.).



## Curved structure, bearings at a tangent to the direction of movement:

The joints work parallel to the axis of the structure.



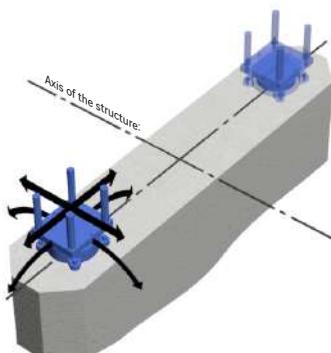
## Curved structure, guided sliding bearings facing towards the fixed point:

The joints work at an angle to the structure. Only the lateral operating loads are exerted on guided bearings.

FPC Italia bearings are designed to ensure that loads are transferred between the superstructure and its supports, and to enable movement and rotation. Each range is therefore broken down into three types of bearing:

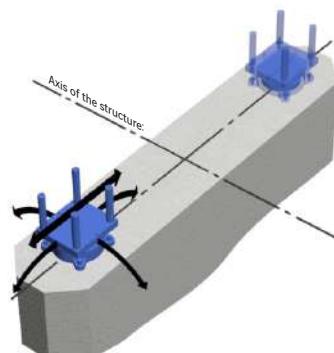
### Free bearings

These transfer the vertical loads and allow all translational and rotational movements of the superstructure.



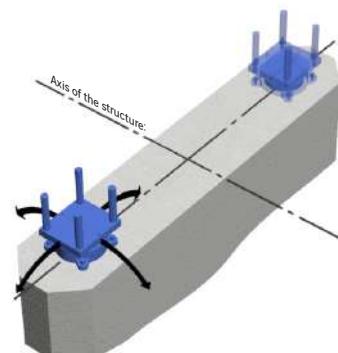
### Guided bearings

These transfer the vertical loads and the horizontal loads in one direction. Translation in the perpendicular direction is allowed, as is rotation.



### Fixed bearings

These transfer all vertical and horizontal loads, while allowing rotation of the superstructure.

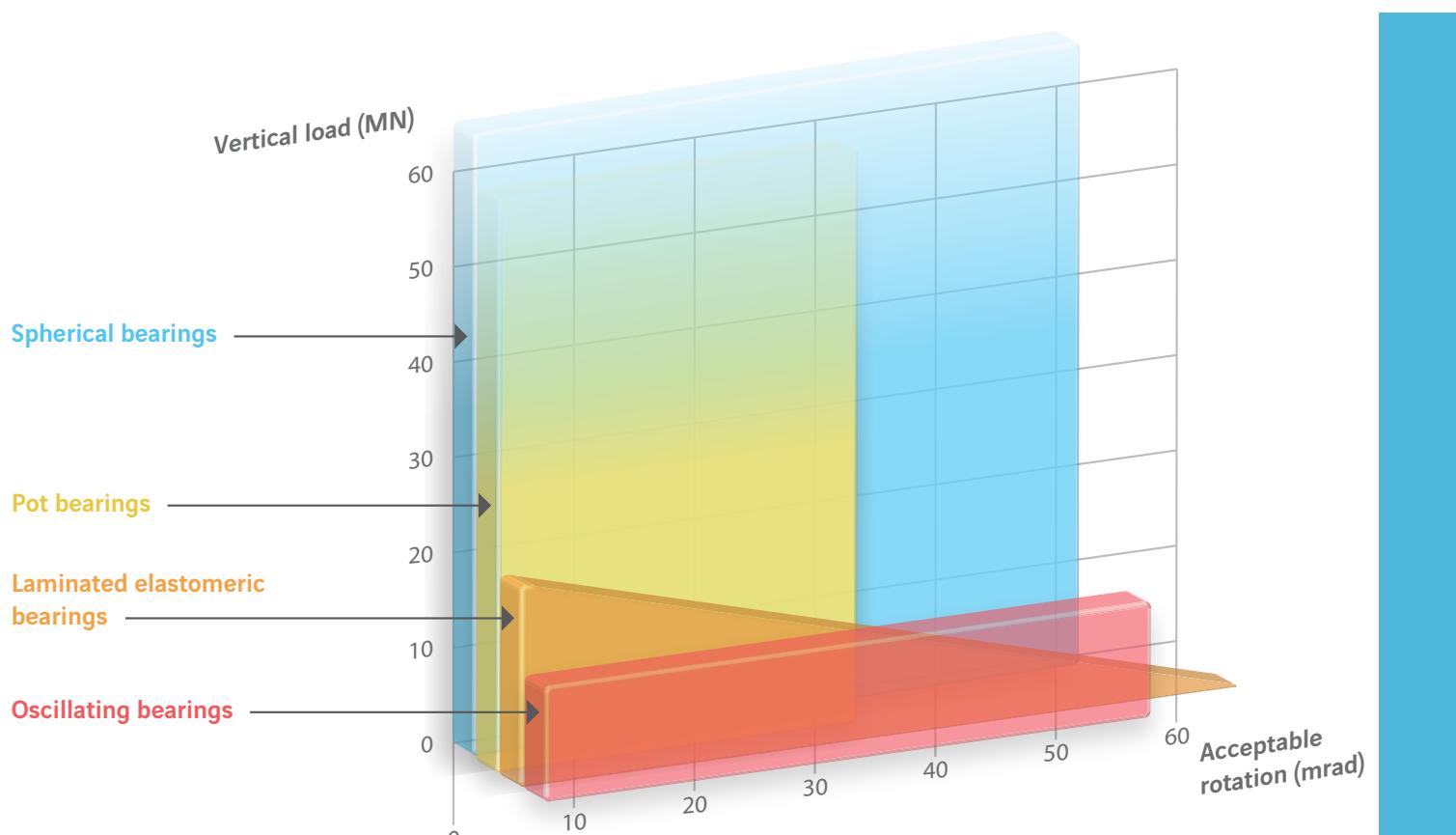


Friction must be taken into account in the directions in which translational movement is allowed, in accordance with the code applied (generally 3%).

# THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BEARING

Bearings are split into four main families, each of which meets different criteria. These are:

- Elastomeric bearings
- Pot bearings
- Spherical bearings
- Special bearings



## Selection criteria:

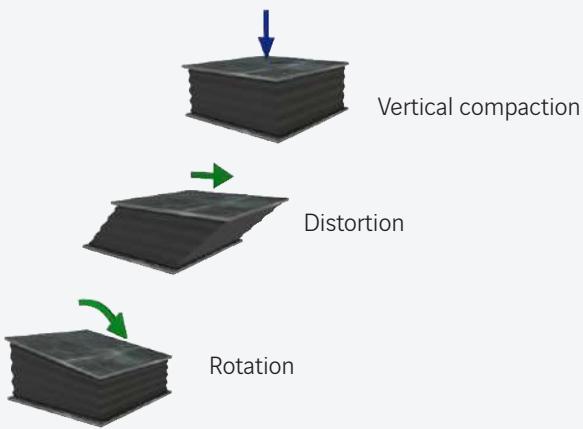
One of the selection criteria for bearings is the vertical load applied and the acceptable concomitant rotation.

The other selection criteria mainly derive from the functions that the bearing must perform, such as:

- Blocking rotation in a given direction;
- The intensity of the horizontal loads;
- How aggressive the environment is (type of environment);
- Ease of maintenance;
- Earthquake input (zone);
- Space constraints;
- Durability.

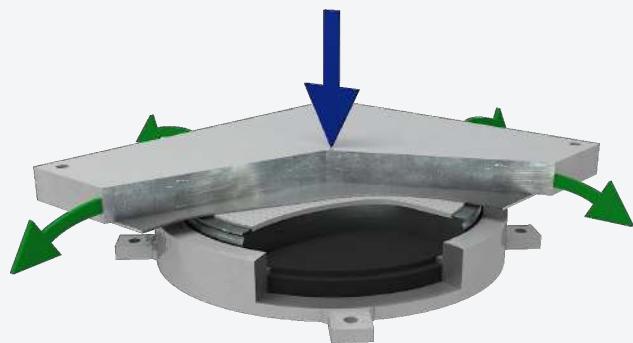
Type of bearing	Vertical load	Horizontal load	Longitudinal movement	Transverse movement	Rotation
Elastomeric	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●●●
Pot	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●○
Spherical	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Oscillating linear	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●
Shear key	-	●●●●●	●●●●●	-	●●●○○
Shear pin	-	●●●●●	-	-	●○○○○
Pad	●●●○○	●●●●○	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●

## ELASTOMERIC BEARINGS



Elastomeric bearings are used for vertical loads generally less than 18,000 kN. The deformation capacity of the bearing determines the acceptable movements. The permissible load decreases as the movements increase. These bearings are made up of a series of elastomeric layers and steel plates.

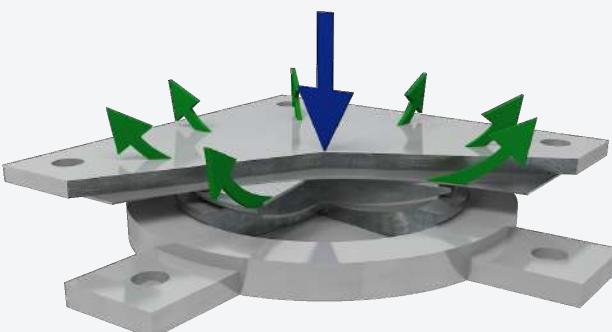
## POT BEARINGS



Pot bearings are used to take up very large vertical loads.

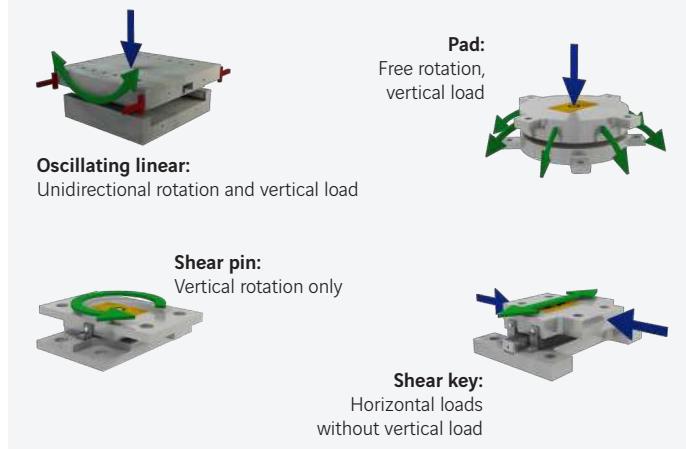
They are made up of an elastomeric disc confined between a steel pot and a circular piston, and can withstand much greater loads than a conventional elastomeric bearing. The deformation of the elastomer defines the rotation capacity of the bearing (up to 20 mrad).

## SPHERICAL BEARINGS



Spherical bearings can withstand both large vertical loads and significant rotation (up to 50 mrad). They do not contain any elastomeric components, and rotation takes place on a spherical face, by contact between a sliding material and a chrome steel surface.

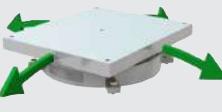
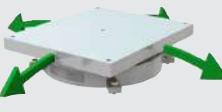
## SPECIAL BEARINGS



Special bearings do not contain any elastomeric components. All of the functions are provided by steel/steel contact or sliding surfaces. There are several types of special bearing (see above).

# ALGAPOT STEEL POT BEARINGS

There are three types of bearing, distinguished by the movements required:

Type	Free sliding bearing	Guided sliding bearing	Fixed bearing
	<b>PNM</b>	<b>PNU</b>	<b>PN</b>
Symbol			
Vertical load			
Rotation			
Movement	Horizontal Multidirectional	Unidirectional	Blocked

## Design basis

The structure of the bearings is designed on the basis of the following parameters:

- Vertical load;
- Acceptable movement;
- Acceptable rotation;
- Exposure temperature;
- Acceptable stress on the supports;
- Horizontal load.

The design can be produced in accordance with various standards, the most common of which are:

- EN 1337 (European Standard);
- BS 5400 (British Standard);
- AASHTO LRFD 2012 (US Standard);
- AS 5100 (Australian Standard).

## Designation

The designation of ALGAPOT bearings identifies their main characteristics.

<b>PNM</b> Free sliding bearing	/	<b>250</b> Total acceptable longitudinal movement in mm	/	<b>20</b> Total acceptable transverse movement in mm
<b>PNU</b> Transverse guided bearing	/	<b>20</b> Total acceptable transverse movement in mm	-	<b>800</b> Longitudinal load at ULS in kN
<b>PNU</b> Longitudinal guided bearing	/	<b>50</b> Total acceptable longitudinal movement in mm	-	<b>800</b> Transversal load at ULS in kN
<b>PN</b> Fixed bearing	-	<b>900</b> Horizontal load at ULS in kN (resultant of x/y*)	-	<b>900</b> Horizontal load at ULS in kN

This gives the following designations, for example:

- PNM 20.000/250/40
- PNU 20.000/20-800
- PNU 20.000/50-800
- PN 20.000-900-900

\* x: longitudinal axis  
y: transverse axis

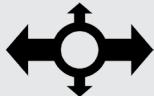
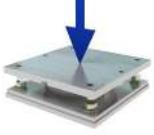
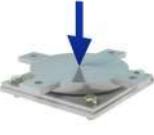
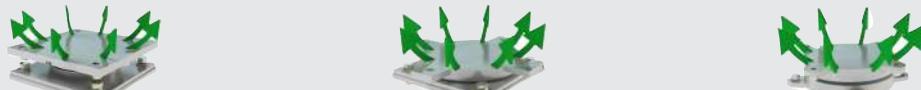
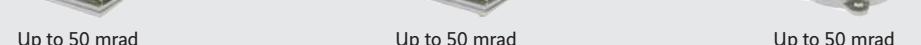






# ALGA SPHERICAL BEARINGS

There are three types of bearing, distinguished by their movement capacity:

Type	Free sliding bearing	Guided sliding bearing	Fixed bearing
Symbol	<b>CSM</b> 	<b>CSU</b> 	<b>CS</b> 
Vertical load			
Rotation			
Movement	Horizontal Multidirectional	Unidirectional	Blocked

## Design basis

The structure of the bearings is designed on the basis of the following parameters:

- Vertical load;
- Acceptable movement;
- Acceptable rotation;
- Exposure temperatures;
- Acceptable stresses on the supports;
- Horizontal load.

The design can be produced in accordance with various standards, the most common of which are EN 1337 and AASHTO LRFD.

### Isoslide® for compact, stronger bearings

Sliding surfaces conventionally formed by stainless steel/PTFE or chrome steel/PTFE contact accept limited stresses. FPC ITALIA therefore now offers a new material known as Isoslide® to replace the PTFE. Isoslide® accepts higher stresses, in most cases making it possible to reduce the bearing dimensions. The tables on the following pages show the two sliding material options available for ALGASFERON bearings. Isoslide® is also five times more wear resistant than PTFE, which is particularly beneficial for applications involving frequent, repetitive movements.

## Designation

The designation of ALGASFERON bearings identifies their main characteristics.

<b>CSM</b> Free sliding bearing	<b>20,000</b> Vertical load at ULS in kN	/	<b>250</b> Total acceptable longitudinal movement in mm	/	<b>40</b> Total acceptable transverse movement in mm
<b>CSU</b> Transverse guided bearing		/	<b>800</b> Vertical load at ULS in kN	-	<b>40</b> Total acceptable transverse movement in mm
<b>CSU</b> Longitudinal guided bearing		/	<b>800</b> Transverse load at ULS in kN	-	<b>40</b> Total acceptable longitudinal movement in mm
<b>CS</b> Fixed bearing		-	<b>900</b> Horizontal load at ULS in kN (resultant of x/y*)	-	<b>900</b> Horizontal load at ULS in kN

This gives the following designations, for example:

### With PTFE

- CSM 20,000/250/40
- CSU 20,000/40-800
- CS 20,000-900-900

### With Isoslide®

- ALGASFERON ISO CSM 20,000/250/40
- ALGASFERON ISO CSU 20,000/40-800
- ALGASFERON ISO CS 20,000-900-900

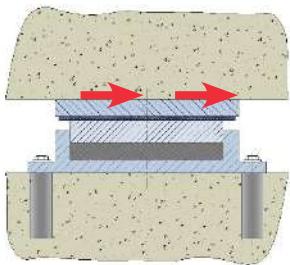
\* x: longitudinal axis  
y: transverse axis





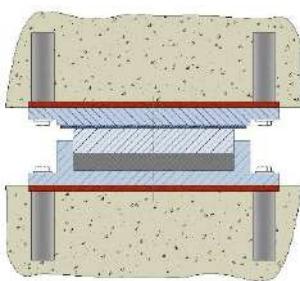


# FASTENING SYSTEMS



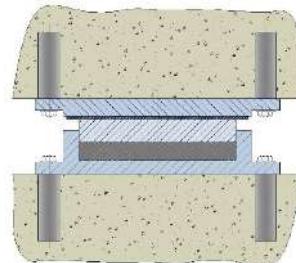
## Friction

Horizontal loads are transferred between the superstructure and the bearing by contact between the two surfaces. The design takes into account the vertical load and the friction coefficient of the contact zone. This system does not withstand uplift force.



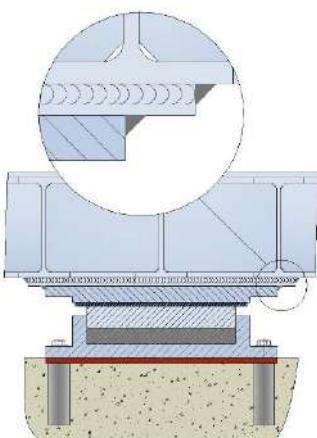
## Distribution plate

Distribution plates (generally embedded in the concrete) can be inserted between the structure and the bearing. They make it easier to remove the bearing, and in some cases make it possible to reduce the bearing dimensions.



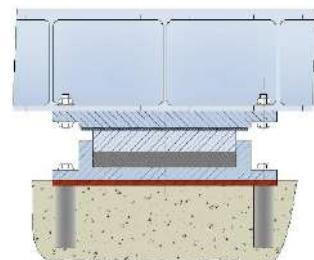
## Anchors

Anchors are used to secure the bearing to the structure for significant vertical and/or horizontal loads.



## Welding

In some cases (for example on incrementally launched bridges), the precise location of the bearing relative to the structure is not known in advance. The solution of welding the bearing to the superstructure (metal deck) or to an embedded distribution plate (concrete deck) is then implemented. Special measures are taken to protect the weld from corrosion.



## Bolts

Bolts are generally used for fastening to a metal structure; these are designed to withstand any tensile stress and the horizontal load.

## The different types of anchor



Welded studs



Dowel bushing



Dowel bushing with collar



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