

Photo 5 Dynamic Loading Test of Menshin Devices at Public Works Research Institute

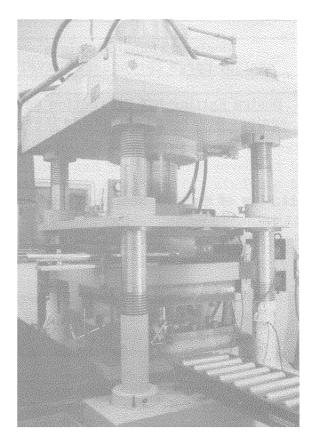


Photo 6 Cyclic Shear Test of Menshin Devices

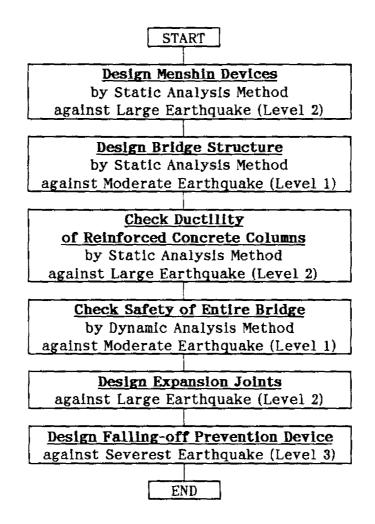


Fig. 11 Flow of Menshin Design of Highway Bridges

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Application of the base isolation to highway bridges in Japan was described in the preceding pages. Seismic damage has been decreased by improving seismic design method as well as construction practices by adopting large lateral force based on the allowable design approach. For further decreasing seismic damage at bearings and reinforced concrete piers, it is appropriate to provide a member where seismic damage would be intentionally concentrated. On the other hand, construction of multi-span continuous bridges is being pursued from the view point of driving comfort, maintenance and release from annoying noise and vibration.

Taking advantage of increasing energy dissipating capability and distribution of lateral force to many piers, the menshin design which is slightly different in concept is being introduced in Japan. The menshin design will be spotlighted in Japan as a new technology for making possible to easily construct multi-span continuous bridges as well as for reducing seismic lateral force.

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