

## **PERFORMANCE VERSUS COMPLIANCE**

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### **Abstract**

With the development in recent years of performance based seismic design and assessment methods are we losing sight of the distinction between minimum code defined compliance measures and the expected performance that compliance measures are intended to achieve? In doing so are we as designers/assessors at risk of confusion regarding what is tolerable seismic performance when this is considered holistically? The authors believe that this is already leading to poorly understood objectives, poor design decision making and inadequate assessments. In this paper the authors discuss the difference between compliance and performance, as they see it, and use some simple examples to illustrate why there should be clarity around these differences.