

0331 BRICK AND BLOCK CONSTRUCTION**1 GENERAL****1.1 RESPONSIBILITIES****General**

Requirement: Provide brick and block construction, as documented.

1.2 CROSS REFERENCES**General**

Requirement: Conform to the following:

- 0171 General requirements.

1.3 STANDARDS**General**

Materials and construction: To AS 3700 (2018).

1.4 INTERPRETATION**Definitions**

General: For the purposes of this worksection, the definitions in AS 3700 (2018) clause 1.5.2, AS/NZS 4455.1 (2008) clause 1.4 and the following apply:

- Facework: Masonry intended to be exposed in a wall.
- Special mortar: Mortar with compositions not covered in AS 3700 (2018) Table 11.1.

1.5 TOLERANCES**General**

Requirement: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 12.5 and Table 12.1.

1.6 SUBMISSIONS**Fire performance**

Fire-resistance level: Submit evidence of conformity to PRODUCTS, FIRE PERFORMANCE, Fire-resistance of building elements.

Products and materials

Type tests: Submit results, as follows:

- Characteristic unconfined compressive strength of masonry unit: To AS/NZS 4456.4 (2003).

Samples

Face units: Submit face units of each type illustrating the range of variation available, including colour, texture, surface irregularities, defective arrises, and shape, as follows:

- Number of each type: 6.

Facework sample panel: Submit a sample panel in a suitable position for each type of facework including face or pointing mortar and a finished vertical control joint, as follows:

- Minimum size (face of panel): 1200 mm high x 1190 mm or closest unit module long.

Sand: Submit a 2 kg sample of each type of sand required to be of a particular colour, grade or source.

Sealant: Submit samples of each type, showing the finished colour, as follows:

- Quantity: Minimum two of each colour.

Wall ties: Submit sample of the following wall ties:

- [complete/delete]

Tests

Site tests: Submit results for special mortar and masonry as follows:

- Characteristic compressive strength.
- Characteristic flexural tensile strength.

- Scratch index for mortar joints.

1.7 INSPECTION

Notice

Inspection: Give notice so that inspection may be made of the following:

- Set-out.
- Structural steelwork, including bolts and shelf angles, in position.
- Unit type, colour and texture.
- Bottoms of cavities, after cleaning out.
- Bottoms of core holes, before grouting.
- Reinforcement type and diameter.
- Positioning of reinforcement before grouting.
- Control joints, ready for insertion of joint filler.
- Damp-proof courses, in position.
- Flashings, in position.
- Lintels, in position.

2 PRODUCTS

2.1 FIRE PERFORMANCE

Fire-resistance of building elements

Fire-resistance level: Tested to AS 1530.4 (2014).

2.2 DURABILITY

General

Exposure environment: [complete/delete]

Exposure locations: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 5.4.

2.3 MATERIALS

Masonry units

Selections: As documented.

Standard: To AS/NZS 4455.1 (2008) and AS/NZS 4455.3 (2008).

Salt attack resistance grade: To AS 3700 (2018) Table 5.1.

Minimum age of clay bricks: 7 days.

Mortar materials

Mortar class: To AS 3700 (2018) Table 5.1.

Cement: To AS 3972 (2010).

Cement type: [complete/delete]

White cement: With not more than 1% iron salts content.

Lime: To AS 1672.1 (1997).

Sand: Fine aggregate with a low clay content, free from efflorescing salts and deleterious matter, selected for colour and grading.

Water: Clean and free from any deleterious matter.

Admixtures: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 11.4.2.4.

Pigment: To EN 12878 (2014), and as follows:

- Integral pigment mix proportion: Not more than 10% by weight of cement.

Masonry cement mortar mix proportions table (cement:lime:sand), by volume

Mortar class to AS 3700 (2018)	Clay	Concrete	Calcium silicate	Water thickener
M3	1:0:4	1:0:4	N/A	Yes
M4	1:0:3	N/A	N/A	Yes

Cement (GP/GB) mortar mix proportions table (cement:lime:sand), by volume

Mortar class to AS 3700 (2018)	Clay	Concrete	Calcium silicate	Water thickener
M2	1:2:9	N/A	N/A	No
M3	1:1:6	1:1:6	N/A	Optional
M3	1:0:5	1:0:5	1:0:5	Yes
M4	1:0.5:4.5	1:0.5:4.5	N/A	Optional
M4	1:0:4	1:0:4	1:0:4	Yes
M4	1:0-0.25:3	1:0-0.25:3	N/A	Optional

Grout

Standard: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 11.7.

Maximum aggregate size: 12 mm.

Minimum cement content: 300 kg/m³.

Characteristic compressive strength: As documented.

Nominal slump: 200 mm.

2.4 BUILT-IN COMPONENTS**General**

Durability class of built-in components: To AS 3700 (2018) Table 5.1.

Steel lintels

Angles and flats: To AS/NZS 3679.1 (2016).

Cold-formed proprietary lintels: Designed to AS/NZS 4600 (2018).

Corrosion protection: To AS 2699.3 (2020).

Cutting: Do not cut after galvanizing.

Reinforcement

Standard: To AS/NZS 4671 (2019).

Corrosion protection: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 5.9.

Minimum cover: To AS 3700 (2018) Table 5.1.

Wall ties

Standard: To AS 2699.1 (2020).

Type: A.

Corrosion protection: To AS 2699.1 (2020).

Duty classification rating:

- Masonry veneer: [complete/delete]
- Normal cavity construction and at abutments:[complete/delete]
- Cavities more than 60 mm and less than 200 mm wide: [complete/delete]
- Cavities more than 200 mm wide: [complete/delete]

Connectors and accessories

Standard: To AS 2699.2 (2020).

Corrosion protection: To AS 2699.2 (2020).

Durability classification to AS 2699.2 (2020): [complete/delete]

Design criteria for flexible masonry ties: [complete/delete]

Flashings and damp-proof courses

Standard: To AS/NZS 2904 (1995).

Slip joints

Standard: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 4.14.

Material: [complete/delete]

Air vents

Blockwork: Select from the following:

- Concrete framed: Bronze wire mesh in concrete frame, 390 x 190 mm.
- Vent blocks: Purpose-made vent blocks.

Brickwork: Select from the following:

- Concrete framed: Bronze wire mesh in concrete frame, 455 x 160 mm.
- Cut brick: Two cut bricks laid vertically and evenly spaced in a 230 mm wide x two course high opening, backed with bronze wire mesh built in.
- Terracotta: Perforated, 230 x 160 mm.

3 EXECUTION**3.1 GENERAL****Mortar mixing**

General: Measure volumes accurately to the documented proportions. Machine mix for at least six minutes. If the initial set of the cement has taken place, discard the mortar. Do not retemper.

Storage and handling

Masonry units: Store above the surface of the ground and cover to prevent entry of rainwater and contaminants. Locate away from surface and ground water runoff.

Mortar materials: Protect from contamination and as follows:

- Sand: Store away from surface and ground water runoff and allow for free drainage of rainwater.
- Cement and lime: Store bags in a dry, under cover and above ground environment.

Bond

Type: Stretcher bond.

AAC units: [complete/delete]

Building in

Embedded items: Build in wall ties and accessories as the construction proceeds. If not practicable to obtain the required embedment within the mortar joint in cored or hollow masonry units, fill appropriate cores with grout or mortar.

Steel door frames: Fill the backs of jambs and heads solid with mortar as the work proceeds.

Minimum clearance for timber frame shrinkage

General: In timber framed masonry veneer construction, provide clearances to allow for long-term shrinkage of timber including at windows, doors, thresholds, at the underside of eaves where the masonry and soffit meet and as follows:

- Single storey (slab on ground): 10 mm.
- Two storey (slab at ground floor): 32 mm
- Additional clearance: Accommodate additional shrinkage of unseasoned floor timbers.

Monolithic structural action

Construction at different rates or times: If two or more adjoining sections of masonry, including intersecting walls, are constructed at different rates or times, rake back or tie the intersections between those sections to obtain monolithic structural action in the completed work.

Header units: Except in stretcher bond facework, provide masonry header units, to AS 3700 (2018) clause 4.11.2 and as follows:

- Spacing: 600 mm maximum.
- Location: Provide header units in the following locations:
 - . At engaged piers.
 - . At engagement of diaphragms with the leaves in diaphragm walls.
 - . At intersections of flanges with shear walls.
 - . At intersections with supporting walls and buttresses.
 - . Between leaves in solid masonry construction.

Joining to existing

General: Provide a control joint where joining to existing structures. Do not tooth new masonry into existing work unless approved by a professional engineer.

Mortar joints

General: Set out masonry with joints of uniform width and minimum cutting of masonry units.

Solid and cored units: Lay on a full bed of mortar. Fill perpend solid. Cut mortar flush.

Hollow units: Face-shell bedded. Fill perpend solid. Cut mortar flush.

Joint thickness: 10 mm.

Finish: Conform to the following:

- Externally: Tool to give a dense water-shedding finish.
- Internally: If wall is to be plastered, do not rake more than 10 mm to give a key.

Rate of construction

General: Regulate the rate of construction to eliminate joint deformation, slumping or instability.

Rods

Set-out: Construct masonry to the following rods:

- 75 mm high units: 7 courses to 600 mm.
- 90 mm high units: 6 courses to 600 mm.
- 190 mm high units: 3 courses to 600 mm.

Temporary support

General: If the final stability of the masonry is dependent on construction of (structural) elements after the masonry is completed, provide proposals for temporary support or bracing.

3.2 FACEWORK**Cleaning**

General: Clean progressively as the work proceeds to remove mortar smears, stains and discolouration. Do not erode joints if using pressure spraying.

Acid solution: [complete/delete]

Colour mixing

Distribution: In facework, distribute the colour range of units evenly to prevent colour concentrations and banding.

Below ground

Facework: Commence facework at least one full course for blockwork, or two full courses for brickwork, below the adjacent finished surface level.

Double face walls

Selection: Select face units for uniform width and double-face qualities in single-leaf masonry with facework both sides.

Preferred face: Before starting, obtain approval of the preferred wall face, and favour that face should a compromise be unavoidable.

Perpends

General: If other than vertically aligned perpends in alternate courses are proposed, provide details.

Sills and thresholds

General: Solidly bed sills and thresholds and lay them with the top surfaces draining away from the building.

Minimum size of cut unit: Three quarters full width.

3.3 SUBFLOOR WORK**Access openings**

General: In internal walls, provide door-width openings beneath doorways to give access to underfloor areas.

Air vent locations

Minimum subfloor openings and ground clearance: To BCA (2022) F1D8.

Cavity walls: Provide matching vents in the internal leaves located as near as practicable to the vents in the external leaves.

Location: Below damp-proof course to internal and external walls.

Underpinning

Requirement: Install underpinning, without causing damage to the building.

Grouting: Pack dry mix M4 mortar between the top of the underpinning and the underside of the existing structure at the completion of each panel of underpinning.

3.4 CAVITY WORK

Cavity clearance

General: Keep cavities clear at all times.

Cavity fill

General: Fill the cavity with mortar to one course above the adjacent finished (ground) level. Fall the top surface towards the outer leaf.

Cavity width

General: Construct minimum cavity widths in conformance with the following:

- Masonry walls: 40 mm.
- Masonry veneer walls: 40 mm between the masonry leaf and the load bearing frame and 25 mm minimum between the masonry leaf and sheet bracing or services.

Openings

Jambs of external openings: Do not close the cavity.

Wall ties, connectors and accessories

Protection: Install to prevent water passing across the cavity.

3.5 DAMP-PROOF COURSES

Location

General: Locate damp-proof courses, as follows:

- Timber floors: In the first course below the level of the underside of ground floor timbers in internal walls and inner leaves of cavity walls.
- Cavity walls built off slabs on ground: In the bottom course of the outer leaf, continuous horizontally across the cavity and up the inner face bedded in mortar, turned 30 mm into the inner leaf one course above. Project 10 mm beyond the external slab edge and turn down at 45°.
- Internal walls built off slabs on ground: In the first course above floor level.
- Masonry veneer construction built off slabs on ground: In the bottom course of the outer leaf, continuous horizontally across the cavity. Fasten to the inner frame 75 mm above floor level.
- Walls adjoining infill floor slabs on membranes: In the course above the underside of the slab in internal walls and inner leaves of cavity walls. Project 40 mm and dress down over the membrane turned up against the wall.

Height: Not less than:

- 150 mm above the adjacent finished ground level.
- 75 mm above the finished paved or concrete areas that slope away from the wall.
- 50 mm above the finished paved or concreted areas that slope away from the wall and are protected from the direct effect of the weather.

Installation

General: Lay in long lengths. Sandwich damp-proof courses between mortar.

Joints: Locate away from weepholes.

Junctions: Preserve continuity of damp-proofing at junctions of damp-proof courses and waterproof membranes.

Laps: Lap full width at angles and intersections and at least 150 mm at joints.

Lap sealing: Seal with a bituminous adhesive and sealing compound.

Steps: Step as necessary, but not exceeding two courses per step for brickwork and one course per step for blockwork.

3.6 FLASHINGS

Location

General: Locate flashings, as follows:

- Floors: Full width of outer leaf immediately above slab or shelf angle, continuous across cavity and up the inner face bedded in mortar, turned 30 mm into the inner leaf two courses above for brick and one course above for block. If the slab supports the outer skin and is not rebated, bed the flashing in a suitable sealant.
- Under sills: 30 mm into the outer leaf bed joint one course below the sill, extending up across the cavity and under the sill in the inner leaf or the frame for masonry veneer. Extend at least 150 mm beyond the reveals or each side of the opening.
- Over lintels to openings in cavity walls: Full width of outer leaf immediately above the lintel, continuous across cavity, turned 30 mm into the inner leaf two courses above for brick and one course above for block or turned up at least 150 mm against the inner frame and fastened to it. Extend at least 150 mm beyond the lintels.
- At abutments with structural frames or supports: Vertically flash in the cavity using 150 mm wide material, wedged and grouted into a groove in the frame opposite the cavity.
- At jambs: Vertically flash jamb, extending 75 mm into the cavity, interleaved with the sill and head flashing at each end. Fix to jambs.
- At roof abutments with cavity walls: Cavity flash immediately above the roof and over-flash the roof apron flashing.

Installation

General: Sandwich flashings between mortar except where on lintels or shelf angles. Bed flashings, sills and copings in one operation to maximise adhesion.

Laps: If required, lap full width at angles and intersections and at least 150 mm at joints.

Lap sealing: Seal with a bituminous adhesive and sealing compound.

Pointing: Point up joints around flashings, filling voids.

Steps: Step as necessary, but not exceeding two courses per step for brickwork and one course per step for blockwork.

Weepholes

Requirement: Locate weepholes to external leaves of cavity walls in the course immediately above flashings, and cavity fill, and at the bottoms of unfilled cavities.

Form: Open perpend.

Maximum spacing: 1200 mm.

Weephole guards: Provide insect barrier.

3.7 WALL TIES

Location

General: Space wall ties in conformance with AS 3700 (2018) clause 4.10 and at the following locations:

- Not more than 600 mm in each direction.
- Adjacent to horizontal or vertical lateral supports.
- Adjacent to control joints.
- Around openings.

Installation

Embedment: At least 50 mm into mortar. Provide at least 15 mm of mortar cover to any exposed surface.

Fixing of masonry veneer ties:

- To timber frames: Screw fix to outer face of timber frames with fasteners to AS 3566.1 (2002).
- To concrete: Masonry anchors.
- To steel frames: Screw fix to outer face of steel members with fasteners to AS 3566.1 (2002).

3.8 CONTROL JOINTS

General

Location and spacing: Provide control joints to AS 3700 (2018) clause 4.8.

Control joint filling

Filler material: Provide compatible sealant and bond breaking backing materials that are non-staining to masonry. Do not use bituminous materials with absorbent masonry units.

- Bond breaking materials: Non-adhesive to sealant, or faced with a non-adhering material.
- Foamed materials: Closed cell or impregnated, not water-absorbing.

Installation: Clean the joints thoroughly and insert an easily compressible backing material before filling with a gun-applied flexible sealant.

Sealant joint depth to width ratio (depth:width): 1:2.

Minimum sealant depth: 6 mm.

Fire-resisting control joints

General: If a control joint is located in an element of construction required to have a fire-resistance level (FRL), construct the control joint with fire-stopping materials that maintain the FRL of the element.

Fire-stopping: To AS 4072.1 (2005).

3.9 BRICKWORK AND BLOCKWORK DUCT RISERS

General

Location: Build a one-piece corrosion-resistant metal tray to the masonry duct risers at roof level to shed water from the duct above roof flashing level.

Material: [complete/delete]

Installation

General: Cut an opening for the riser. Turn tray edges up 25 mm around the opening, 13 mm clear of the walls. Externally turn the tray up 100 mm under the stepped flashing and down 100 mm over the apron flashing. Lap and solder joints.

Weepholes

General: Provide two weepholes through the masonry duct riser walls on opposite sides immediately above the tray.

3.10 BRICKWORK BED JOINT REINFORCEMENT

Location

General: Locate as follows:

- In two bed joints below and above head and sill flashings to openings.
- In two bed joints below and above openings.
- In third bed joint above bottom of wall.
- In second bed joint below top of wall.

Maximum vertical intervals: 500 mm.

Installation

General: Lap 450 mm at splices. Fold and bend at corners so that the longitudinal wires are continuous. Stop 50 mm short of control joints. Extend 450 mm beyond each side of openings.

Reinforcement

Material: Galvanized welded wire mesh.

Width: Equal to the width of the leaf, less 15 mm cover from each exposed surface of the mortar joint.

3.11 REINFORCED AND GROUTED BLOCKWORK

Reinforcement

Cover: Maintain cover to vertical and horizontal steel reinforcement using plastic clips or wheels, as appropriate.

Vertical reinforcement: Tie vertical steel reinforcement to the starter bars through cleanout holes in each reinforced hollow masonry unit and fix in position at the top of the wall with plastic clips.

Horizontal: Lay horizontal steel reinforcement in contact with rebated webs. Hold in position using plastic clips if vertical steel is subsequently positioned to wall construction.

Cleaning core holes

General: Provide purpose-made cleanout blocks or machine cut a cleaning hole at the base of each grouted core.

Location: Locate on the side of the wall that is to be rendered or otherwise concealed.

Cleaning: Rod cores to dislodge mortar fins protruding from the blocks and mortar droppings from reinforcement. Remove through the clean-out blocks.

Grouting

Commencement: Do not commence until grout spaces have been cleaned out and the mortar joints have attained sufficient strength to resist blow-outs.

Height of lift: Limit the height of individual lifts in any pour to make sure that the grout can be thoroughly compacted to fill all voids.

Compaction: Compact by vibration or by rodding.

Topping up: On the completion of the last lift, top up the grout after 10 min and within 30 min, and vibrate or rod to mix with the previous pour.

3.12 LINTELS**Location**

General: Install one lintel to each wall leaf, as documented.

Installation

General: Do not cut on site. Keep lintels 10 mm clear of heads of frames.

Steel lintels: Pack mortar between any vertical component and supported masonry units. For angles, install the long leg vertically.

Minimum bearing each end:

- Span not more than 1000 mm: 100 mm.
- Span more than 1000 mm and not more than 3000 mm: 150 mm.
- Span more than 3000 mm: To structural drawings.

Propping: Provide temporary props to lintels to prevent deflection or rotation.

- Minimum propping period: 7 days.

3.13 CONNECTORS AND ACCESSORIES**Slip joints**

General: Install slip joints to top of all unreinforced masonry walls supporting concrete slabs and other concrete elements.

Protection: Keep the slip joints in place and protect from displacement.

Flexible masonry ties

General: Install stabilising ties at control joints and abutting structural elements, including columns, beams and slab soffits.

Locations and details: As documented.

3.14 ARCHES**Arch voussoirs**

General: Cut units using a masonry saw.

Shapes and dimensions

General: Form arches using solid or cored masonry units.

3.15 BAGGING**Preparation**

General: Cut joints flush before bagging.

Dry bagging

Application: Apply laying mortar to the surface using a hessian bag or similar. Flush up irregularities, but leave a minimum amount of mortar on the surface.

Textured bagging

Application: Apply laying mortar to the surface using a sponge float. Flush up irregularities, but leave approximately 2 mm of mortar on the surface. When initial set is reached, texture using a hand bristle brush.

3.16 TESTING**Mortar**

Durability: Scratch index test to AS 3700 (2018) Appendix E.

Compressive strength: To AS 3700 (2018) Appendix C.

Flexural strength: To AS 3700 (2018) Appendix D.

Special masonry

Sampling and testing: To AS 3700 (2018) clause 12.7.

Performance: As documented.

4 SELECTIONS

4.1 SCHEDULES

Masonry performance schedule

	A	B	C
Fire-resistance level (FRL)			
Characteristic unconfined compressive strength (MPa)			
Coefficient of contraction			
Coefficient of expansion			
Salt attack resistance category grade			
Solar absorptance			

Special masonry performance schedule

	A	B	C
Scratch index upper limit (mm)			
Characteristic compressive strength (MPa)			
Characteristic flexural tensile strength (MPa)			

Masonry schedule

	A	B	C
Name or type			
Work size (mm)			
Category			
Air vent units			
Sill units			
Threshold units			
Mortar: Cement			
Mortar: Colour			
Mortar: Mix proportions or mortar class			
Mortar: Sand			
Unit mortar joints: Bond			
Unit mortar joints: Depth (mm)			
Unit mortar joints: Shape or profile			
Grout: Compressive strength (MPa)			

Built-in components schedule

	A	B	C
Durability class			

	A	B	C
Damp-proof course type			
Flashing material			
Lintel type			
Wall ties			
Weephole insect barriers			

Control joint schedule

	A	B	C
Type			
Backing rod			
Primer			
Sealant			
Width (mm)			

Lintel schedule

Opening dimensions (mm)	Lintel type	Depth (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)

Note: Lintel length required is equal to sum of the opening dimension plus two times the bearing length.