

## Forterra Building Products Limited

5 Grange Park Court  
Roman Way  
Northampton NN4 5EA

Tel: 0330 123 1018 Fax: 01530 273183  
e-mail: asktechnical@forterra.co.uk  
website: www.forterra.co.uk



Agrément Certificate  
**00/3720**  
Product Sheet 1

### THERMALITE AIRCRETE BLOCKS AND THIN-JOINT SYSTEM

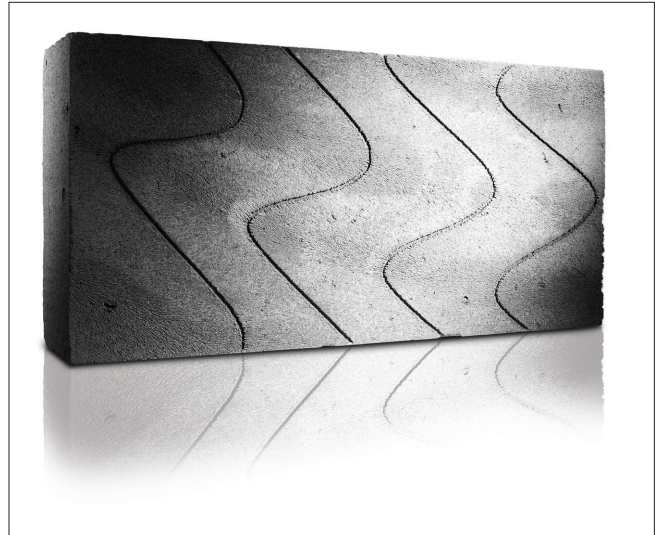
### HI-STRENGTH 7, HI-STRENGTH 7 PAINT GRADE AND HI-STRENGTH 7 TRENCHBLOCK

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet<sup>(1)</sup> relates to Hi-Strength 7, Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock, general purpose, autoclaved aerated concrete (aircrete) building blocks for use above and below the damp-proof course in the construction of loadbearing and non-loadbearing solid internal and external walls and the inner and outer leaves of cavity walls and separating walls.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

#### CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.



#### KEY FACTORS ASSESSED

**Thermal insulation** — the thermal conductivity ( $\lambda$  value) of the blocks may be taken as  $0.18 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ <sup>(1)</sup> in 'protected blockwork' applications (see section 6).

(1)  $0.16 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  ( $\lambda_{10, \text{dry unit}}$ ), declared dry value\*.

**Sound insulation** — the blocks may be used in separating walls and in flanking elements to separating walls and floors (see section 7).

**Properties in relation to fire** — the blocks are 'non-combustible' as defined in the national Building Regulations (see section 8).

**Use below the damp-proof course** — the blocks are suitable for use in situations up to and including MX3.2 as defined in BS EN 1996-2 : 2006, Annex A, Table A.1 and the UK National Annex or in situations up to and including A3 as defined in BS 5628-3 : 2005, and for use in classes DS1, DS2, DS3 and DS4 of soil and groundwater as defined in BRE Special Digest 1 : 2005 (see section 9).

**Structural aspects** — the blocks have a mean compressive strength of  $7.3^* \text{ N}\cdot\text{mm}^{-2}$  and are suitable for use in walls designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5628-1 : 2005, BS 5628-3 : 2005, BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005, BS EN 1996-1-2 : 2005, BS EN 1996-2 : 2006 and BS EN 1996-3 : 2006 and their UK National Annexes, and PD 6697 : 2010 (see section 12).

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the products described herein. These products have been assessed by the BBA as being fit for their intended use provided they are installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Wroe'.

Simon Wroe  
Head of Approvals — Materials

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Curtis-Thomas'.

Claire Curtis-Thomas  
Chief Executive

Date of First issue: 16 April 2014

Originally certificated on 17 July 2000

Certificate amended on 30 September 2015 to update front page information.

The BBA is a UKAS accredited certification body — Number 113. The schedule of the current scope of accreditation for product certification is available in pdf format via the UKAS link on the BBA website at [www.bbacerts.co.uk](http://www.bbacerts.co.uk)

Readers are advised to check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA direct.

British Board of Agrément  
Bucknalls Lane  
Watford  
Herts WD25 9BA

©2014

tel: 01923 665300  
fax: 01923 665301  
e-mail: [mail@bba.star.co.uk](mailto:mail@bba.star.co.uk)  
website: [www.bbacerts.co.uk](http://www.bbacerts.co.uk)

# Regulations

**Durability** — walls constructed using the blocks will have a durability equivalent to those of traditional masonry (see section 1.5).

In the opinion of the BBA, Hi-Strength 7, Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, will meet or contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations (the presence of a UK map indicates that the subject is related to the Building Regulations in the region or regions of the UK depicted):



## The Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement:	A1	Loading
Requirement:	A2	Ground movement
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products can meet these Requirements. See sections 4, 12.1 and 12.2 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.	
Requirement:	B3(1)(2)(3)(a)(4)	Internal fire spread (structure)
Requirement:	B4(1)	External fire spread
Comment:	The products can contribute to a construction meeting these Requirements. See sections 8.1 to 8.3 of this Certificate.	
Requirement:	C2(b)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:	Suitably finished walls designed and constructed from the products can contribute to meeting this Requirement. See sections 4.4 and 10 of this Certificate.	
Requirement:	C2(c)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products will contribute to limiting the risk of condensation. See sections 11.1 and 11.2 of this Certificate.	
Requirement:	E1	Protection against sound from other parts of the building and adjoining buildings
Requirement:	E2(a)	Protection against sound within a dwelling-house etc.
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products can meet these Requirements. See sections 7.1 to 7.3, 7.5 and 7.6 of this Certificate.	
Requirement:	L1(a)(i)	Conservation of fuel and power
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products will contribute to limiting heat loss through walls. See sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Certificate.	
Regulation:	7	Materials and workmanship
Comment:	The products are acceptable. See section 1.5 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.	
Regulation:	26	CO <sub>2</sub> emission rates for new buildings
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products will contribute to limiting heat loss through walls. See sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Certificate.	



## The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8(1)	Durability, workmanship and fitness of materials
Comment:	The use of the products satisfies the requirements of this Regulation. See section 1.5 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.	
Regulation:	9	Building standards applicable to construction
Standard:	1.1(a)(b)	Structure
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products can satisfy this Standard, with reference to clauses 1.1.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> to 1.1.3 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See sections 4, 12.1 and 12.2 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.	
Standard:	2.1	Compartmentation
Standard:	2.2	Separation
Standard:	2.3	Structural protection
Standard:	2.4	Cavities
Standard:	2.6	Spread to neighbouring buildings
Comment:	The products can contribute to a construction satisfying these Standards, with reference to clauses 2.1.1 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.4 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.5 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.8 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.9 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.10 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.11 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.12 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.13 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.1.15 <sup>(2)</sup> , 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 2.2.8 <sup>(1)</sup> , 2.2.10 <sup>(1)</sup> , 2.3.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> to 2.3.5 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 2.4.2 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 2.6.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 2.6.5 <sup>(1)</sup> , 2.6.6 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 2.6.7 <sup>(2)</sup> . See sections 8.1 to 8.3 of this Certificate.	
Standard:	3.10	Precipitation
Comment:	Suitably finished walls designed and constructed from the products can contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses 3.10.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 3.10.2 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 3.10.3 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 3.10.6 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See sections 4.4 and 10 of this Certificate.	
Standard:	3.15	Condensation
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed using the products can contribute to limiting the risk of condensation, with reference to clauses 3.15.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 3.15.4 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 3.15.5 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See sections 11.1 and 11.2 of this Certificate.	
Standard:	5.1	Noise separation
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products can satisfy this Standard, with reference to clauses 5.1.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> to 5.1.5 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See sections 7.1, 7.4 and 7.5 of this Certificate.	
Standard:	5.2	Noise reduction between rooms
Comment:	Walls designed and constructed from the products can satisfy this Standard, with reference to clauses	

Standard:	6.1(b)	5.2.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 5.2.2 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See sections 7.1, 7.4 and 7.5 of this Certificate.
Standard:	6.2	Carbon dioxide emissions
Standard:	6.2	Building insulation envelope
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed from the products can contribute to satisfying these Standards, with reference to clauses 6.1.1 <sup>(1)</sup> , 6.1.2 <sup>(1)</sup> , 6.1.4 <sup>(2)</sup> , 6.1.6 <sup>(1)</sup> , 6.2.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 6.2.3 <sup>(1)</sup> , 6.2.4 <sup>(2)</sup> , 6.2.5 <sup>(2)</sup> , 6.2.6 <sup>(1)</sup> , 6.2.7 <sup>(1)</sup> , 6.2.8 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 6.2.9 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 6.2.10 <sup>(2)</sup> , 6.2.11 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> , 6.2.12 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 6.2.13 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . See sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Certificate.
Standard:	7.1(a)	Statement of sustainability
Comment:		The products can contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6 and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting a bronze level of sustainability as defined in this Standard.
Regulation:	12	<b>Building standards applicable to conversions</b>
Comment:		Comments made in relation to the products under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6 also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause 0.12.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and Schedule 6 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . (1) Technical Handbook (Domestic). (2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



## The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

Regulation:	23(a)(i)(iii)(b)	<b>Fitness of materials and workmanship</b>
Comment:		The products are acceptable. See section 15 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	28(b)	<b>Resistance to ground moisture and weather</b>
Comment:		Suitably finished walls designed and constructed from the products can contribute to meeting this Regulation. See sections 4.4 and 10 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	29	<b>Condensation</b>
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed using the products can contribute to limiting the risk of condensation. See sections 11.1 and 11.2 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	30(a)	<b>Stability</b>
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed from the products can meet this Regulation. See sections 4, 12.1 and 12.2 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	35(1)(2)(3)(4)	<b>Internal fire spread - Structure</b>
Regulation:	36(a)	<b>External fire spread</b>
Comment:		The products can contribute to a construction meeting these Regulations. See sections 8.1 to 8.3 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	39(a)(i)	<b>Conservation measures</b>
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed from the products can contribute to limiting heat loss through walls. See sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	40(2)	<b>Target carbon dioxide Emissions Rate</b>
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed using the products can contribute to meeting this Regulation. See sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	49	<b>Protection against sound from other parts of the building and from adjoining buildings.</b>
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed from the products can meet these Requirements. See sections 7.1 to 7.3 and 7.6 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	50(a)	<b>Protection against sound within a dwelling or room for residential purposes</b>
Comment:		Walls designed and constructed from the products may be used to satisfy this Regulation. See sections 7.1 to 7.3 and 7.6 of this Certificate.

## Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

### Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, CDM co-ordinator, designer and contractors to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See sections: 1 *Description* (1.2) and 3 *Delivery and site handling* (3.1) of this Certificate.

## Additional Information

### NHBC Standards 2014

NHBC accepts the use of Hi-Strength 7, Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock, when installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapters 6.1 *External masonry walls* and 6.3 *Internal walls*.

### CE marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of CE marking the products in accordance with harmonised standard BS EN 771-4 : 2011. An asterisk (\*) appearing in this Certificate indicates that data shown are given in the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance.

## **Constructive Details Ltd**

The blocks described in this Certificate have been included in an assessment of thermal bridging details from Constructive Details Ltd (CDL). The handbooks containing these details are free to download from the CDL website at [www.constructivedetails.co.uk](http://www.constructivedetails.co.uk)

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# Technical Specification

## 1 Description

1.1 Hi-Strength 7, Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock are general purpose aircrete blocks comprising cement, lime, sand and pulverized fuel ash, with aluminium powder used as an aerating agent.

1.2 The blocks are supplied with the characteristics detailed in Table 1 and the dimensions detailed in Table 2. The characteristics of the blocks in Table 2 are identical. They only vary by dimension.

Table 1 Block characteristics

Gross dry density* (kg·m <sup>-2</sup> )	730
Dry density range* (kg·m <sup>-2</sup> )	680 to 770
Mean compressive strength (N·mm <sup>-2</sup> )	7.3
Minimum individual block compressive strength (N·mm <sup>-2</sup> )	5.8

Table 2 Block dimensions

	Face size (mm)	Thickness (mm)
Hi-Strength 7	440 x 215, 440 x 430	100 to 215
Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade	440 x 215, 440 x 430	100 to 215
Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock	440 x 215, 440 x 140	255 to 355
Coursing units	215 x 65	100 to 150
Coursing blocks	440 x 65	100 to 150

1.3 Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock is also available with a tongue-and-groove system incorporating handholds in 440 x 215 face size for use below the dpc.

1.4 Coursing units and blocks are also available.

## 2 Manufacture

2.1 The blocks are manufactured by mixing the raw materials into a slurry which is discharged into moulds. The slurry rises and sets to form a cake which is then cut into blocks of the required dimensions using tensioned wires. Curing takes place in autoclaves under steam and pressure to increase the physical and chemical stability of the blocks, before they are removed and packaged.

2.2 As part of the assessment and ongoing surveillance of product quality, the BBA has:

- agreed with the manufacturer the quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken
- assessed and agreed the quality control operated over batches of incoming materials
- monitored the production process and verified that it is in accordance with the documented process
- evaluated the process for management of nonconformities
- checked that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated
- undertaken to carry out the above measures on a regular basis through a surveillance process, to verify that the specifications and quality control operated by the manufacturer are being maintained.

2.3 The management system of Hanson Building Products Ltd has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001 : 2008 by CPC (Certificate CP00183).

## 3 Delivery and site handling

3.1 The blocks are supplied shrink-wrapped in standard packs, or banded to pallets (to order) suitable for off-loading with mechanical grabs or fork-lift trucks.

3.2 The blocks must be stored clear of the ground on a firm, level surface and protected from rain and water from the ground. The shrink-wrapping should be kept in place until the blocks are required for use.

# Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Hi-Strength 7, Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock.

# Design Considerations

## 4 Use



4.1 Hi-Strength 7, Hi Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock are suitable for use in the construction of loadbearing and non-loadbearing solid internal and external walls above and below the damp-proof course, and the inner and outer leaves of cavity walls.

4.2 Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblocks are also available in tongue-and-groove format which are for use in the construction of walls below the dpc without vertical mortar joints.

4.3 The blocks comply with the requirements of BS EN 771-4 : 2011.

4.4 The blocks should be specified in accordance with BS EN 771-4 : 2011 and BS 6073-2 : 2008.

4.5 Walls must be designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2011, BS 5628-1 : 2005, BS 5628-3 : 2005, BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005, BS EN 1996-1-2 : 2005, BS EN 1996-2 : 2006, BS EN 1996-3 : 2006 and their UK National Annexes, and PD 6697 : 2010.

## 5 Practicability of installation

The products are designed to be installed by a competent general builder, or a contractor, experienced with these types of product.

## 6 Thermal insulation

6.1 Thermal transmittance (U value) calculations of walls should be carried out in accordance with BS EN ISO 6946 : 2007 and BRE Report (BR 443) *Conventions for U-value calculations*. The conductivity of the blocks should be taken as  $0.18 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  for 'protected blockwork',  $0.19 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  for external blockwork exposed (eg not protected by a cladding system) or below dpc but above ground level and  $0.29 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  for blockwork below ground level.



6.2 Walls incorporating the blocks will need to incorporate thermal insulation as necessary to achieve or improve on (as appropriate) the following 'mean' design U values specified in:

**England** —  $0.18 - 0.35 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$

**Wales** —  $0.26 - 0.35 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$

**Scotland** —  $0.19 - 0.30 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$

**Northern Ireland** —  $0.26 - 0.35 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ .

6.3 The products can contribute to maintaining continuity of thermal insulation at junctions between elements and around openings. Guidance on limiting heat loss by air infiltration can be found in:

**England and Wales** — Accredited Construction Details (version 1.0)

**Scotland** — Accredited Construction Details (Scotland)

**Northern Ireland** — Accredited Construction Details (version 1.0).

6.4 Further information can be found in the NHBC Foundation's *A practical guide to building airtight dwellings (NF16)* (June 2009).

## 7 Sound Insulation

### Separating walls



7.1 Separating walls in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, excluding those covered by the Robust Details Ltd scheme, are subject to pre-completion testing. However, the following constructions, together with their associated flanking elements, should achieve acceptable resistance to airborne sound transmission:

#### New buildings

##### England and Wales

- constructed in accordance with the Robust Details Ltd scheme and paragraph 0.2 of Approved Document E, between dwellings or flats
- wall types 2.4 or 3.3 described in Approved Document E
- a wall described in section 7.2 of this Certificate
- a wall meeting the minimum sound insulation values in Table 0.1a or 0.1b as appropriate in Approved Document E

##### Scotland

- a wall meeting the minimum sound insulation values in clause 5.1.2 of the Technical Handbooks

##### Northern Ireland

- constructed in accordance with the Robust Details Ltd scheme and paragraph 0.14 of Technical Booklet G, between dwellings or flats
- a wall described in section 7.2 of this Certificate
- a wall meeting the minimum sound transmission values in Tables 1a and 1b of Technical Booklet G

#### Conversions

##### England and Wales

- a wall meeting the requirements for new buildings
- a wall similar to a wall meeting the requirements for new buildings, as described in sections 4 or 6 of Approved Document E
- a wall treatment 1 described in paragraphs 4.22 to 4.25 of Approved Document E

#### Scotland

- a wall meeting the requirements for new buildings

#### Northern Ireland

- a wall meeting the requirements for new buildings
- a wall similar to a wall meeting the requirements for new buildings, as described in sections 4 or 6 of Technical Booklet G
- a wall treatment 1 described in paragraph 4.22 to 4.25 Technical Booklet G.



7.2 Separating walls constructed with a cavity comprising two 100 mm thick leaves and complying with the following provisions will adequately limit airborne sound transmission:

- the wall cavity must not be less than 75 mm wide and must be continued into the roof space
- all vertical and horizontal joints must be filled with mortar not exceeding a strength of 1:1:6
- penetration by structural members and services must be avoided; where such penetration is unavoidable, full sealing should be applied at the construction stage
- where joists are at right angles to the separating wall, joist hangers must be used
- wall ties should be of type A to Approved Document E or an alternative proven not to increase the transmission of airborne sound in comparison; this may be determined by test evidence or by reference to an Agrément Certificate
- electrical and TV sockets must not be placed on the wall where avoidable, and never within a block length of each other on opposite sides of the wall
- gas flues must not be built into the separating wall; where such construction is unavoidable, full sealing must be applied at the construction stage
- the walls must be finished with plasterboard on dabs or plaster to both room faces (this finish need not be carried into the roof space)
- the use of lightweight ceiling boards, for example, foam-filled, must be avoided.

#### Walls flanking a separating wall or floor



7.3 The blocks can form the inner leaf of an external masonry cavity wall described in the following documents where any leaf surface mass excluding finishes is acceptable, for example where there is no separating floor, as described in the following documents:

**England and Wales** — Approved Document E, Sections 2 and 3

**Northern Ireland** — Technical Booklet G, Sections 2 and 3.



7.4 The blocks can form the inner leaf of an external masonry cavity wall flanking a Type 2 separating wall where there is no separating floor and the minimum block density is  $450 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  as described in the Building Standards Division Publication, *Example construction and generic internal constructions*, Section *Generic Internal Constructions*, referred to in clause 5.1.3 of the Technical Handbooks.

#### Internal walls — new buildings and conversions



7.5 Internal walls between a bedroom or a room containing a toilet and other rooms (in England and Wales) or an internal wall between an apartment in a dwelling and a room in a residential building which is capable of being used for sleeping (in Scotland), are acceptable as follows:

**England and Wales** — a wall type D described in paragraph 5.20 of Approved Document E and a wall meeting the minimum sound insulation values in Table 0.2 of Approved Document E

**Scotland** — a wall Type 4 and 4A described in the *Generic Internal Constructions* referred to in clause 5.2.2 of the Technical Handbooks and a wall meeting the minimum sound insulation values in clause 5.2.1 of the Technical Handbooks.



7.6 The blocks can form an internal partition abutting a Type 1, 2 or 4 separating wall or a Type 1 or 2 separating floor if the minimum surface mass excluding finishes of the partition is not less than  $120 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ . Guidance on circumstances (for example where there is no separating floor) where any surface mass can be acceptable can be found in the following documents:

**England and Wales** — Approved Document E, Sections 2 and 3

**Northern Ireland** — Technical Booklet G, Sections 2 and 3.

## 8 Properties in relation to fire



8.1 The fire resistance of walls constructed with aircrete masonry can be determined by reference to:

- BS EN 1996-1-2 : 2005, Annex B, Tables NB 4.6 and the UK National Annex, Tables NA 3.10 to NA 3.12
- BRE report (BR 128 : 1988) *Guidelines for the construction of fire-resisting structural elements*.

8.2 The blocks have a reaction to fire of Class A1\* to BS EN 13501-1 : 2007 and are classified as non-combustible as defined in the national Building Regulations.

8.3 With regard to the placing of cavity barriers, the surface of the products may be taken as Class 0.

8.4 The fire performance and suitability of wall ties and anchors for a specific construction should be confirmed with the manufacturer of these products.

## 9 Use below the damp-proof course

9.1 The blocks are resistant to freeze/thaw conditions likely to occur below the dpc and are therefore suitable for use in situations up to and including MX3.2 as defined in BS EN 1996-2 : 2006, Annex A, Table A1 and its UK National Annex or A3 as defined in BS 5628-3 : 2005, Table 12, (ie where there is a high risk of saturation with freezing).

9.2 The blocks are suitable for use in classes DS1, DS2, DS3 and DS4 of soil or groundwater as defined in BRE Special Digest 1 : 2005 *Concrete in aggressive ground, Part C Assessing the aggressive chemical environment*.

9.3 In unusual soil and/or groundwater conditions, eg soils contaminated by industrial waste or highly acidic soils, expert advice should be obtained.

## 10 Resistance to moisture



10.1 Walls built from the blocks should be designed and constructed in accordance with:

**England and Wales** — Approved Document C

**Scotland** — Mandatory Standard 3.10, clauses 3.10.1 to 3.10.4 and 3.10.6

**Northern Ireland** — Technical Booklet C.

10.2 For single leaf constructions, the minimum block thicknesses to be used in solid rendered external walls are given in Table 3.

Table 3 Minimum block thicknesses<sup>(1)</sup>

Exposure <sup>(2)</sup>	Minimum block thickness (mm)
Severe	215
Moderate	190
Sheltered	90

(1) Increased thicknesses may be necessary to meet other requirements such as structural stability (see sections 4.4, 6 and 7).

(2) The exposure is defined in PD 6697 : 2010.

## 11 Condensation risk



11.1 Walls will adequately limit the risk of surface condensation when the thermal transmittance (U value) does not exceed  $0.7 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  ( $1.2 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$  in Scotland) at any point and the junctions with floors, roof and openings comply with section 6.3.

11.2 Walls will adequately limit the risk of interstitial condensation when they are constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2011 (Section 4 and Annexes D and G). For the purpose of calculations, the block's water vapour resistance factor ( $\mu$ ) may be taken as 10 (a resistivity of  $50 \text{ MN}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$ ) as given in BS EN ISO 10456 : 2007, Table 4.

11.3 Additional guidance can be found in BRE report (BR 262 : 2002) *Thermal insulation : avoiding risks*.

## 12 Structural aspects

### General



12.1 Coursing should be set out such that bearings are not less than 100 mm in length or the length required by the design calculation, whichever is the greater. Where possible the masonry should be set out to provide a full block under a bearing. Pressed steel lintels should have a bearing of not less than 150 mm.

### Concentrated loads



12.2 Increased local stresses may be permitted in the masonry provided the member applying the load is sensibly rigid and of appropriate bearing area or a suitable spreader is introduced. Design should be in accordance with BS 5628-1 : 2005, clause 30 or BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005, clause 6.1.3 and its UK National Annex.

12.3 Joist hangers may be used provided that:



- when designing in accordance with BS 5628-1 : 2005, BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005 and its UK National Annex and/or PD 6697 : 2010, the full effect of the maximum eccentric load at the joist hanger detail is taken into account. It should be assumed that joist hangers are not effectively rigid when calculating the local bearing stress under single hangers, and the effective load applied via the hanger should be determined by an acceptable elastic theory
- they are compatible with aircrete blocks with mean compressive strengths of  $7.3^*$  N·mm<sup>-2</sup> or above. The dimensions used in the design and the manufacture from appropriate materials are set out in BS 5628-1 : 2005 (Table 1), BS EN 845-1 : 2003 and BS EN 1996-2 : 2006, Annex C, Table C1 and the UK National Annex
- supervision and workmanship<sup>(1)</sup> are adequate to ensure that:
  - installation is in accordance with the hanger manufacturer's instructions
  - the masonry course to carry the hangers is level and at the correct height, any adjustments being made before the course is laid
  - the hanger bears directly on a complete block with the back plate flat against the block
  - the gap between the joist and the back plate does not exceed 6 mm
  - construction complies with the conditions used in the design and restraint type hangers are used when specified
  - the blockwork above the hanger is completed and matured before any load is applied to the hanger.

(1) Further guidance may be obtained from the BRE *Good Building Guide 21 (1996): Joist hangers*.

## 13 Movement

13.1 The moisture movement of the blocks may be taken as a nominal value of 0.4 mm·m<sup>-1</sup>\*

13.2 Movement may be accommodated using movement joints or bed joint reinforcement, or a combination of the two. When bed joint reinforcement is intended to contribute towards accommodation of movement, it should be designed and installed strictly in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions.

13.3 Movement joints must be provided in accordance with BS 5628-3 : 2005, clause 2.3.4 of BS EN 1996-2 : 2006 and clause NA.2.1 of its UK National Annex, Table NA.1 of PD 6697 : 2010 and the Certificate holder's instructions.

13.4 In external walls containing openings, movement joints may need to be provided at more frequent intervals, or the masonry above and below the opening may need to be reinforced to restrain movement. Particular attention should be paid to long, low, horizontal panels of masonry, eg those under windows.

## 14 Maintenance

As the blocks are generally concealed and have suitable durability (see section 15), maintenance is not required.

## 15 Durability



Autoclaved aerated concrete (Aircrete) is a durable material. Walls constructed from the products will have durability equivalent to those of traditional masonry and will fulfil their intended function for the life of the building in which they have been installed.

# Installation

## 16 General

16.1 Installation of Hi-Strength 7, Hi-Strength 7 Paint Grade and Hi-Strength 7 Trenchblock must be carried out strictly in accordance with BS 8000-3 : 2001, the Certificate holder's instructions and this Certificate.

16.2 Mortar must not be stronger than the blocks, using the definitions in either:

- BS 5628-3 : 2005, Table 13
- BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005 and Table NA.2 of the UK National Annex
- PD 6697 : 2010, Table 15.

## 17 Chasing

17.1 The maximum depth of horizontal and vertical chases allowed without calculation is given in clauses 8.6.1 to 8.6.3 of BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005 and Tables NA.11 and NA.12 of the UK National Annex.

17.2 In accordance with BS 5628-3 : 2005, vertical chases in the masonry should not exceed one third of the thickness of the leaf, and horizontal chases should not exceed one sixth of the thickness of the leaf at any point.

## 18 Rendering and plastering

Rendering and plastering must be carried out in accordance with BS EN 13914-1 : 2005 and BS EN 13914-2 : 2005. The Certificate holder should be consulted regarding suitable finishes and low water vapour permeability renders. The moisture condition of the blocks should be considered before the finishes are applied.

## 19 Fixings

19.1 Cut nails or proprietary nails may be used for lightweight fixtures. For heavier fixtures, screws and plugs, nailable expansion fixings or helical fixings should be used. All fixings must penetrate a minimum of 50 mm into the blocks.

19.2 Fixings must be selected and installed in accordance with the fixing manufacturer's instructions, paying particular attention to drilling depth, drill diameter, minimum spacings and minimum edge distance.

19.3 Mean pull-out loads for certain proprietary fixings used with the blocks can be obtained from the Certificate holder. In each case a safety factor of 4 is recommended to establish a safe working load.

## Technical Investigations

### 20 Tests

20.1 Tests were carried out and the results assessed to determine:

- dimensional accuracy
- dry density
- compressive strength
- drying shrinkage (moisture movement).

20.2 An assessment of data was made to determine:

- sulfate resistance
- acoustic performance
- behaviour in fire.

20.3 An assessment of the durability of the products was made, based on data resulting in the issue of previous Agrément Certificates.

### 21 Investigations

The manufacturing process was evaluated, including the methods adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

## Bibliography

BS 5250 : 2011 *Code of practice for control of condensation in buildings*

BS 5628-1 : 2005 *Code of practice for the use of masonry — Structural use of unreinforced masonry*

BS 5628-3 : 2005 *Code of practice for the use of masonry — Materials and components, design and workmanship*

BS 6073-2 : 2008 *Precast concrete masonry units — Guide for specifying precast concrete masonry units*

BS 8000-3 : 2001 *Workmanship on building sites — Code of practice for masonry*

BS EN 771-4 : 2011 *Specification for masonry units — Autoclaved aerated concrete masonry units*

BS EN 772-13 : 2000 *Methods of test for masonry units — Determination of net and gross dry density of masonry units (except for natural stone)*

BS EN 845-1 : 2003 *Specification for ancillary components for masonry — Ties, tension straps, hangers and brackets*

BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005 *Eurocode 6 — Design of masonry structures — General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures*

UK National Annex to BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2005 *Eurocode 6 — Design of masonry structures — General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures*

BS EN 1996-1-2 : 2005 *Eurocode 6 — Design of masonry structures — General rules — Structural fire design*

UK National Annex to BS EN 1996-1-2 : 2005 *Eurocode 6 — Design of masonry structures — General rules — Structural fire design*

BS EN 1996-2 : 2006 *Eurocode 6 — Design of masonry structures — Design considerations, selection of materials and execution of masonry*

UK National Annex to BS EN 1996-2 : 2006 *Eurocode 6 — Design of masonry structures — Design considerations, selection of materials and execution of masonry*

BS EN 13501-1 : 2007 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests*

British Board of Agrément  
Bucknalls Lane  
Watford  
Herts WD25 9BA

©2014

tel: 01923 665300  
fax: 01923 665301  
e-mail: mail@bba.star.co.uk  
website: www.bbacerts.co.uk