Part 5.6 Masonry components and accessories

5.6.1 Application

[New for 2022]

(1) Part 5.6 is subject to the limitations set out in H1D5(6)(c)(i), (ii) and (iii).

(2) Part 5.6 need not be complied with if H1D5(6)(a) or (b) are complied with.

5.6.2 Masonry units

[2019: 3.3.5.3]

(1) Masonry veneer masonry units must have a minimum compressive strength of—

  (a) 3 MPa for solid or cored units; or

  (b) 10 MPa for hollow units.

(2) *Cavity* masonry and single skin masonry units must have a minimum compressive strength of—

  (a) 5 MPa for solid or cored units; or

  (b) 10 MPa for hollow units.

(3) Masonry *cavity* walls must have a minimum leaf thickness of 90 mm.

(4) Subject to (5), masonry units must be—

  (a) either clay or calcium silicate brick or concrete brick or block; and

  (b) classified and used in the exposure conditions appropriate to their classification as described in (6).

(5) Mixing of panels consisting of clay masonry units with panels consisting of concrete or calcium silicate masonry units is not permitted unless—

  (a) at vertical junctions, a control joint is installed; and

  (b) at horizontal junctions between panels of different materials, a slip joint using a membrane similar to that used for *damp-proof courses* is installed.

(6) Masonry unit exposure classifications and corresponding masonry unit applications are as follows:

  (a) Protected (P) masonry units are suitable for use in locations such as—

    (i) internal walls; and

    (ii) *external walls* that are coated or rendered; and

    (iii) walls above *damp-proof courses* provided the wall is protected at the top by a roof, eaves, coping, topping or the like.

  (b) General Purpose (GP) masonry units are suitable for use in all locations except those where ‘Exposure class’ (Exp) is *required*.

  (c) Exposure class (Exp) masonry units are suitable for use in all locations including severe local conditions such as—

    (i) below the *damp-proof course* in areas where walls are expected to be attacked by salts in the ground water or masonry itself (salt attack or salt damp); and

    (ii) on sea fronts where walls are exposed to attack from salt spray; and

    (iii) in heavily polluted areas subject to deposition of atmospheric pollution; and

    (iv) under regular cyclic freeze and thaw conditions.

Explanatory Information

The exposure classification or durability of a masonry unit is a measure of its resistance to attack by soluble salts, either