

Appearance

The appearance of brickwork isn't covered in BS EN 771-1 since it is not performance related. However, BSI have published PAS 70, A Publicly Available Specification which is intended to cover aesthetic aspects.

Prior to construction, the manufacturer should provide upon request a reference panel sufficiently representing the bricks in question. This should be built on site and should be to a size agreed by all parties but not less than 1m² in size, and be constructed using the intended mortar colour, joint profile and bond of the finished building.

Subsequent deliveries of bricks should have a sample panel built from bricks randomly chosen from the whole load (to check colour/texture consistency). Individual bricks should not be closely scrutinised.

Portable Sample boards should not be taken as the definitive guide to colour, they give an idea of colour and texture to aid decisions and a reference panel will show a broader perspective of the likely colour variations.

It should also be noted that facing bricks, chosen for their aesthetic appearance, are only finished to one stretcher and one header surface as is seen in normal cavity construction. The rear face of most products will be unsuitable for facing purposes.

- a) The reference panel should be built on a level firm foundation in a dry location with natural daylight.
- b) Construct sample panels representing subsequent deliveries in the same way allowing mortar sufficient time to dry out before viewing.

Or

Dry lay bricks sampled in the same manner but take no account of mortar or joint profile. But, in the case of a dispute, a mortared panel should be used for comparison purposes.

- c) Assessment of panels should be agreed by all parties.
- d) All panels, when viewed from approximately 3 metres away, should not differ significantly.
- e) Bricks should be reasonably free from deep or extensive cracks, damage to edges and corners, pebbles and expansive particles of lime.

To avoid many of the issues of colour variation of products built into structures, the following procedures are recommended either by PAS 70 or by Industry Associations.

- a) Inform the manufacturer in the first instance of the total amounts involved so deliveries from one batch can be arranged.
- b) Upon delivery, check each load against the reference panel.
- c) Always blend from AT LEAST 3 packs.
- d) For small quantities involving 1 or 2 packs, work through packs 1 blade at a time rather than top layer down.