

Summary of changes to Chapter 6.1

November 2020

A task group was established to review the chapter comprising membership from manufacturers, trade associations and builders. The chapter needed updating rather than radical changes to reflect current standards and practices used on site.

The changes made include:

Index

Changed 6.20 title from Cold Weather Working to Protection of the works during construction.

Introduction

New text to explain the application of this chapter in relation to other parts of the Standards.

Definitions

All new text to add clarity to the chapter.

6.1.1 Compliance

No change to this clause.

6.1.2 Provision of information

Additional requirements added for information to be provided:

- i) Position of fire breaks, cavity barriers and other passive fire stopping; required fire resistance period should be specified.
- ii) The setting out dimensions, should be masonry co-ordinating dimensions

6.1.3 Structural design

Additional requirement added - damp proof course.

Compliance with standards - PD 6697 Recommendations for the design of masonry structures to BS EN 1996-1-1 and BS EN 1996-2 added.

Clarification of applicable parts to standards referenced.

Lateral restraint - new paragraph added "Lateral restraint provided by buttressing walls".

Concentrated loads (formally point loads) guidance clarified.

Bonding - aerated concrete changed to aircrete.

Movement joints - Table 1 revised and updated, calcium silicate bricks removed, dense concrete blocks and natural stone masonry added. A new set of notes to support this table.

Tidy up and clarification of guidance on movement joints regarding suitable materials for movement joints.

Damp proof courses - new guidance provided to add clarity.

6.1.4 Fire resistance

New guidance to assist with compliance.

6.1.5 Acoustic resistance

Additional guidance on sealing air paths, new bullet on structural members not to transfer across separating walls and reference to Robust Details Ltd handbook. This improvement should improve the acoustic performance.

6.1.6 Exposure

Requirement for frost attack changed to freeze/thaw cycles.

Durability - terminology improved, correct standards referenced, remove air entrained mixes and reworded sulphate resistance guidance for clarity.

Rain penetration - additional bullet points covering single skin garage walls, wall tie drips and cavity trays, DPC's and weep vents. Insulation guidance updated to reflect current regulations.

Freeze/thaw cycles (previous Frost attack) - reference to Table 15 of PD 6697.

Removed reference to calcium silicate bricks.

Removed postcode list for areas of severe exposure of frost.

6.1.7 Thermal insulation

Improved guidance on thermal insulation materials and their installation to reflect current products.

Table 2 - allows the use of recessed mortar joints in sheltered locations.

Restrictions on retro filling cavities in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Isle of Man removed to reflect current regulations.

Inner leaf of insulated blockwork and dual insulation guidance removed.

6.1.8 Concrete blocks

Updated standards referenced, rewritten guidance on sulphate attack below ground.

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6.1.9 Bricks

The different types of brick have been separated into sections for clay brick, concrete brick, reclaimed brick and special shaped brick to assist with clarity.

Calcium silicate brick has been removed due to the current lack of use in the UK; the guidance will go into a Technical Guidance note.

6.1.10 Stone masonry

There is more guidance on stone masonry due to the increased use.

Additional standard referenced for stone copings and sills.

Guidance for stone used below DPC level.

Guidance on wall ties use with stone masonry introduced.

6.1.11 Construction of masonry walls

The standard now references the following standards, masonry walls should comply - BS EN 1996-2 Eurocode 6 and BS 8000-3 workmanship for masonry code of practice. This brings the standard up to date.

Introduced the site reference panel to act as a benchmark for quality of brickwork.

The chapter now cross references the tolerances within Chapter 9.1

Construction - an additional bullet point introduced that cavity barriers are installed as the work progresses, this is good practice.

New paragraph on protecting the cavity wall during construction, again helping to raise quality and reduce damage to work in progress from the weather.

Chasing for services - revised guidance.

6.1.12 Lintels

Additional guidance and diagram provided where separate lintels are used to support the inner and outer masonry leaves.

6.1.13 Materials suitable for mortar

Updated standards listing to reflect current documents.

6.1.14 Mortar

Modified and updated Table 6 to include a column on equivalent mortar class to BS EN 1996.

Guidance modified for cement types with sulphate resisting properties.

6.1.15 Render

New reference to Chapter 6.11 which covers render in more detail.

6.1.16 Cladding

New reference to Chapter 6.9 Curtain walling and cladding. The guidance is updated to ensure the reader knows when to use Chapter 6.1 or 6.9.

Requirement for moisture barrier removed as well as its guidance.

6.1.17 DPCs and cavity trays

Improved guidance on lintels and cavity trays.

Parapet detail - copings to comply with BS 5642, additional drawings to show different materials used in the coping to improve clarity.

Arches - additional new guidance added to cover arches.

6.1.18 Wall ties

Brought guidance up to date to reflect current regulation and practice.

Bed joint reinforcement guidance added.

6.1.19 Handling materials

More guidance for more materials and site safety.

6.1.20 Protection of the works during construction (previously Cold weather working)

New requirement:

Precautions shall be taken to protect walls from damage during construction. Issues to be considered include:

- Cold weather working
- Hot weather working
- Excessive rain

New and updated guidance to reflect the requirement changes.