

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**SAA Masonry Code**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee BD/4, Masonry Structures. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 14 November 1988 and published on 12 December 1988.

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The following interests are represented on Committee BD/4:

Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia  
Australian Clay Brick Association  
Australian Uniform Building Regulations Coordinating Council  
Building Management Authority, W.A.  
Clay Brick and Paver Institute  
CSIRO, Division of Building, Construction and Engineering  
Calcium Silicate Brick Manufacturers  
Cement and Concrete Association of Australia  
Concrete Masonry Association of Australia Co-op  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
Deakin University  
Joint Committee P.W.D./A.C.S.E. of New South Wales  
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National Building Technology Centre  
Public Works Department, N.S.W.  
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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 84090.*

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**MASONRY IN BUILDINGS**

**(known as the  
SAA MASONRY CODE)**

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AS 3700 first published 1963.  
Second edition 1967.  
Revised and redesignated AS 1475.1—1977.  
AS 1475.1 first published 1969.  
Revised and redesignated AS 1640—1974.  
AS 1475.2 first published 1983.  
AS 1640—1974, AS 1475.1—1977 and  
AS 1475.2—1983 revised, amalgamated  
and redesignated AS 3700—1988.

Incorporating:  
Amdt.1—1989  
Amdt.2—1991  
Amdt.3—1992  
Amdt.4—1994

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Masonry Structures as a revision and amalgamation of AS 1475, *SAA Blockwork Code*, Part 1—1977, *Unreinforced blockwork*, and Part 2—1983, *Reinforced blockwork* and AS 1640—1974, *SAA Brickwork Code*.

In the preparation of this Standard valuable assistance was given to the committee by organizations and individuals experienced in various aspects of the design and construction of masonry, and the committee wishes to record its indebtedness to them.

Acknowledgement is also made of the assistance gained from the following documents and publications:

- (a) BS 5628, *Code of practice for the structural use of masonry*.
- (b) NZ 4230 P, *Provisional New Zealand Standard for design of masonry structures*.
- (c) '*Masonry Code of Practice*', published by a joint committee of the Public Works Department, N.S.W. and the Association of Consulting Structural Engineers N.S.W.
- (d) Publications of: Brick Development Research Institute; Concrete Masonry Association of Australia Co-op Limited; Masonry Research Centre of Deakin University; CSIRO Division of Building, Construction and Engineering; the National Building Technology Centre (formerly Experimental Building Station); The Department of Architecture and Building of the University of Melbourne; and the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying of the University of Newcastle.

Significant new developments incorporated into the Standard include the following:

- (a) The amalgamation of the requirements for brickwork and blockwork into one Standard.
- (b) An increased use of performance type specifications and requirements, rather than prescription specification, to encourage sound on-going development in all aspects of masonry construction.
- (c) The specification of a minimum flexural tensile strength requirement for all masonry, and a new (alternative) procedure for testing the flexural strength of masonry—the bond wrench test.
- (d) The acceptance of limit state concepts for structural design.

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**MASONRY IN BUILDINGS**

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This Standard specifies requirements for the design and construction of masonry, both unreinforced and reinforced, using manufactured units of clay, calcium silicate or concrete, or units of square-dressed natural stone, laid in mortar.

## NOTES:

1. It has been assumed in the drafting of this Standard that the structural design of masonry is entrusted to experienced structural engineers or similar appropriately qualified persons, for whose guidance Sections 4, 5 and 6 have been prepared, and that the execution of such work is carried out under the direction of appropriately qualified persons who are experienced in high-quality masonry construction and who understand the structural requirements.
2. The Standard does not give specific requirements for prestressed masonry, prefabricated masonry panels, masonry in composite action with steel or concrete structural members. The principles of this Standard should be followed, as far as they are applicable, for such types of construction.

**1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

## AS

- 1129 Fly ash for use in concrete
- 1170 SAA Loading Code  
Part 1: Dead and live loads (AS 1170.1)  
Part 2: Wind forces (AS 1170.2)  
Part 3: Snow loads (AS 1170.3)  
Part 4: Earthquake loads (AS 1170.4)
- 1191 Acoustics—Method for laboratory measurement of airborne sound transmission loss of building partitions
- 1225 Clay building bricks
- 1226 Methods of sampling and testing clay building bricks
- 1302 Steel reinforcing bars for concrete
- 1303 Hard-drawn steel reinforcing wire for concrete
- 1304 Welded wire reinforcing fabric for concrete
- 1315 Portland cement
- 1316 Masonry cement
- 1317 Blended cement
- 1397 Steel sheet and strip—Hot-dipped zinc-coated or aluminium/zinc coated
- 1530 Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures  
Part 4: Fire-resistance tests of elements of construction (AS 1530.4)
- 1650 Galvanized coatings
- 1653 Calcium silicate building bricks
- 1672 Building limes

- 1790 Electroplated coatings—Cadmium on iron or steel
- 2193 Methods for calibration and grading of force-measuring systems of testing machines
- 2464 Methods of testing thermal insulation  
Method 5: Steady-state thermal transmission properties by means of the heat flow meter (AS 2464.5)
- 2601 SAA Demolition Code
- 2699 Wall ties for masonry construction
- 2701 Methods of sampling and testing mortar for masonry construction  
Method 10: Methods for chemical analysis of mortars (AS 2701.10)
- 2733 Concrete masonry units
- 2837 wrought alloy steels—Stainless steel bars and semi-finished products
- 2904 Damp proof courses and flashings
- 2970 Accessories for masonry construction
- 3000 Concrete Structures
- 4356 Bases for the design of structures—Deformations of buildings at the serviceability limit states
- BS  
1014 Specification for pigments for portland cement and portland cement products
- 5390 Code of practice for stone masonry
- 5628 Code of practice for the structural use of masonry  
Part 1: Structural use of unreinforced masonry
- NZ  
4230P Code of practice for the design of masonry structures

**1.3 ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS AND METHODS.**

**1.3.1 General.** This Standard shall not be interpreted so as to prevent the use of new materials or methods of design or construction not specifically referred to herein.

**1.3.2 Existing structures.** Where the strength or serviceability of an existing structure is to be evaluated, the general principles of this Standard shall be applied. Appropriate values for the properties of the materials in the structure shall be used.