

DELAWARE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION

CONCRETE BLOCK STRUCTURES CS 33

1. SCOPE

The work shall consist of furnishing the required materials and performing the work to construct the concrete block structures shown on the drawings.

2. MATERIALS

Concrete Blocks shall be as specified on the drawings. The blocks shall be sound, dry, clean and free from cracks when placed in the structure. The blocks shall be stacked and stored at the job on planks or other supports and kept free from contact with the ground. Waterproof covering should be used to protect them from the weather. Dampening of the blocks before or during construction will not be permitted unless required by unusual conditions and approved by the NRCS Technician.

Mortar shall be proportioned and mixed to meet the requirements of ASTM C-270 for the type specified during construction. The mortar shall be kept plastic and workable by retempering it as often as necessary to maintain the desired consistency. When the mortar needs to be retempered (remixed), it shall be done by adding water within a basin formed by the mortar and then reworking the mortar into the water. Splashing water over the mortar will not be allowed.

Steel Wire Reinforcement shall conform to size and gauge specified on the drawings.

3. CONSTRUCTION

The base slab shall be clean of laitance, loose aggregate, or anything that will prevent the bonding of the mortar. The outline of the wall shall be accurately located and marked on the base slab to assure that the complete structure will conform to the line and grade shown on the drawings.

All courses of block shall be laid on a full bed of mortar. Deep furrowing or any ruffling of the mortar with the point of the trowel that will prevent the formation of a solid bed joint will not be permitted. Blocks shall be shoved into place with a downward and forward motion to produce a tight joint.

The mortar bed shall not be spread so far ahead of the block being placed so that the mortar becomes stiff and loses its plasticity. The blocks must be set in soft plastic mortar to assure proper embedment and bond. As each block is laid, the excess mortar extending from the joint on either side of the walls should be cut off cleanly with the trowel. This mortar may be reworked into the fresh mortar and reused.

Mortar that has fallen on the floor or scaffolding shall be discarded. Vertical joints shall be completely filled with mortar after each course is laid and before laying the mortar bed for the next course.

The mason shall use a level, mason's line, and/or story pole to assure that the laying of the block progresses in a manner that will result in a true, straight wall. All aligning and plumbing of each block must be done while the mortar is still soft and plastic. Any adjustments after the mortar has stiffened will break the mortar bond and will not be permitted. After a section of wall has been laid and the mortar has become stiff enough to resist the pressure of a thumb, it shall be tooled to assure the formation of a weathertight joint. Tooling shall produce a concave joint. All horizontal joints on the inside of the wall shall be tooled.