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# BUILDER

MAGAZINE

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## Metal Lintels

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FROM EDITOR

Dear Readers

Welcome in the June edition of IBB Builder. In the brief you will find here all the important news, updates on regulations, construction technology and product advice, business solutions, estimations and monthly deals. This month we have included the guide to the fireplace removal, tips on lintels selection and installation and insight into modern building blocks. Our experts shared their best tips and all these three guides should give you the knowledge that you can confidently transfer into practice on site. From materials choices, introductions into the building regulations to technical step by step- we hope you will find this valuable.

**IBB Builders Merchants offer great discounts for those who read our magazine. Subscribe today at [www.ibb.uk](http://www.ibb.uk) to receive every issue and monthly deals via newsletter and get discount on all your orders in our depots. This month there is selection of Ytong products, lintels and other materials essential for your building projects.**

Recent changes to the planning permission rules, called Class Q are described in our Building Regulations section. It is the great opportunity for small builders and contractors to start the development projects, but there are some limitations you have to be aware of.

We try to include as much advice for you as possible to help you comply with the Regs surrounding the construction industry. Check out the insight into CLOCS vehicle checking in operation. Project managers or foreman are also responsible for every vehicle that enters on to the building site. Apart of that, this edition features also the subject of modern slavery that unfortunately is still very common in the construction industry. Stay aware and report any signs of unfair treatment on the building site.



The construction bodies announced the plans on introduction of the licensing scheme to get the rid of cowboy builders. The licensing will ensure the minimum level of competence in the building trade. If you are the migrant builder try to transfer your proof of skills into the British equivalents like for instance, CSCS card or others as soon as possible. This will help you to find new project and happy clients. There will be an increase in the cost of the health and safety test that is required for application for CSCS card.

In our monthly sport section you will get updates on activities of our sponsored teams in volleyball and football. The tournaments season has already ended, but check out what are teams plans and offers for those businesses interested in the sport sponsorship.

We hope you enjoy our June edition. If you find time, get on our online blog and leave us the comment. If you have any questions with regards to the topic covered, we would love to hear from you.

Magdalena Rosół  
Editor





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**CONSTRUCTION NEWS**

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# Licensing to Crush the Cowboys

**Almost 80% of builders are calling for more regulation in the construction industry to end the tyranny of cowboy builders, according to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).**

The FMB is calling on the Government to introduce a licensing scheme in construction as part of its new Agenda 'Raising the bar: A post-Grenfell agenda for quality and professionalism in construction'.

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, said: "Until we introduce a licensing scheme in construction, cowboy builders will continue to run rampant in our industry. Licensing would ensure a minimum level of competence and professionalism and give consumers greater assurance when hiring a builder. Unlike in the US and Germany, anyone can be a builder in the UK. What this means is that we have allowed a significant minority of cowboy builders to give the whole construction industry a bad name. Our latest research shows that almost 80 per cent of our members are so fed up with rogue builders tarnishing their reputa-

tion, they are in favour of introducing a licensing scheme. Our research among consumers also shows that one third of home owners in the UK are so anxious about hiring a dodgy builder that they don't commission any building work whatsoever. What's more, the average home owner would spend around £40,000 on major home improvement projects over the next five years if they could be guaranteed a positive experience with their builder. It's time to release this pent up demand for building work through a licensing scheme consumers can trust."

Berry concluded: "Even more important than the economic benefits that would come from increasing quality and professionalism in the industry are the safety benefits. The Grenfell Tower tragedy reminded us of the price paid when things go wrong in the construction industry. Grenfell raised serious questions about standards, regulation and compliance within the construction sector and although we await the results of the Hackitt Review, we want to start a wider conversation about how we can drive up quality and professionalism in construction. As well as calling on the Government to introduce a licensing scheme for builders, the FMB's

new Agenda calls for mandatory warranties for building projects that require building control sign-off to protect consumers further. The FMB would also like to work with industry to develop a 'general builder' qualification which would seek to recognise the highest standards of professionalism in the industry."

Jason Ryan, a home owner living in West London, was a victim of a rogue building firm earlier this year. Ryan commented on the introduction of a licensing scheme in construction: "At the start of this year, builders were carrying out essential improvements to my home in West London. The whole process turned out to be an absolute nightmare. Our builder would often turn up late, or not at all, and communication was always poor. We would try to call him and often not hear back. The work they eventually carried out was sub-standard – for example, the grooves in the door frames were hacked into and were left uneven and messy. I think all builders should be required to have a licence to protect people like me from having these nightmarish experiences. It was very stressful and has put me off hiring a builder in the future unless I absolutely have to."

(Source: FMB)



# CEMEX GO

**Cemex is a global manufacturer of building materials like aggregates, cement, ready-mixed concrete and rail sleepers. Cemex UK has recently introduced the fully digital customer integration platform called Cemex Go.**

The latest digital technology for smartphones and desktops allow customers to place orders online, track deliveries, manage invoices and make payments for Cemex's building products including bagged and bulk cement, ready mixed concrete

and aggregates. Customers can access their account at any time and the information is delivered in real-time.

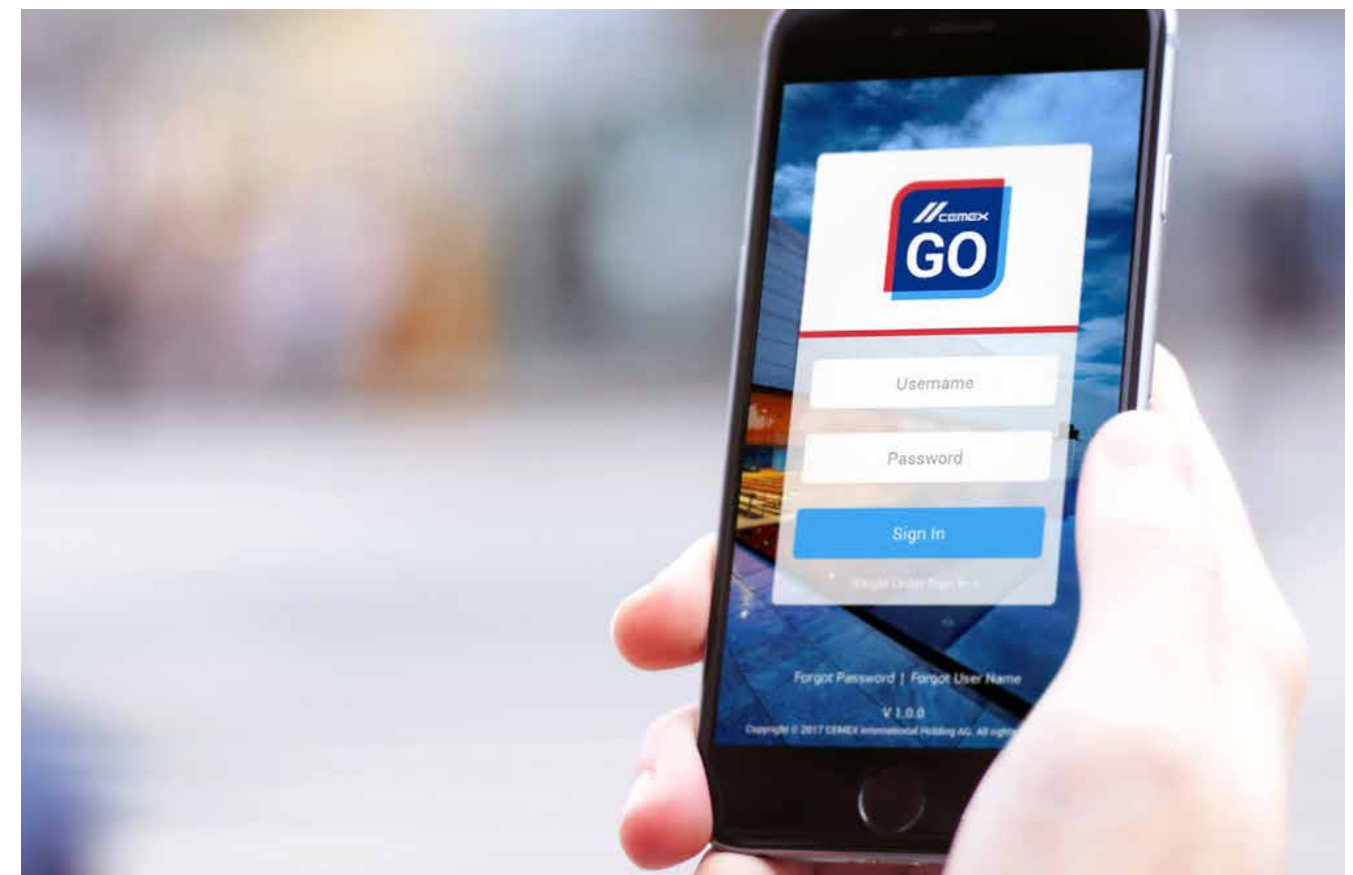
Michel Andre, Country President CEMEX UK comments "CEMEX Go is the first platform of its kind offered in our industry and creates an experience for our customers that is superior to anything that has been provided in the past. For our customers, doing business with CEMEX UK will be revolutionized and will give real benefits in terms of time and efficiency."

One of the customers who will be using the new platform from today is Technic Concrete Floors. The company constructs concrete floors using traditional mesh reinforcement, steel and

polyfibres and has worked extremely closely with CEMEX UK, using their readymixed concrete. The floors are constructed in industrial settings throughout the UK. Darren Murgatroyd, Director comments "The introduction of CEMEX Go will undoubtedly bring massive benefits to our business.

We will be able to track the deliveries and look at efficiency levels/wastage, which in turn will support our environmental strategies and improved invoicing process. We are looking forward to working with CEMEX on this new digital platform."

(Source: Cemex UK)





# Apprenticeships at KIER's Latest Infrastructure Project In Luton

**Kier, working in joint venture (JV) with VolkerFitzpatrick delivering the Direct Air to Rail Transit (DART) system for the London Luton Airport is launching a skills academy in Luton to bolster local talent and provide training opportunities through the project that is set to return 200m in positive social impact over the next three years. The academy will provide apprenticeship opportunities and lifelong skills to hundreds of people in the local area and is being launched as the revolutionary DART system.**

As part of the academy the JV is offering 30 apprenticeships on the pioneering DART and will equip over 200 local residents with practical training courses to improve their skill set with courses

such as first aid. Working with the Learning Skills Partnership (LSP), an independent training provider, apprenticeship placements are now open to applications across a number of trades.

The JV will also engage with schools and colleges across Luton as it looks to inspire the next generation of talent to consider a role within the built environment, providing schoolchildren with training and skills in order to play a part in Luton's extensive pipeline of infrastructure projects.

Nigel Brook, Kier executive director, construction and infrastructure services, said: "We are committed to investing in the communities in which we work and addressing the skills shortage our industry faces. The development of this skills academy gives us a fantastic opportunity to not only engage with the next generation of local talent but also help with recruiting the 400,000 people a year the industry needs.

"We have exceptionally talented people working within our businesses who have helped deliver large infrastructure projects across the country, including the recently completed Mersey Gateway Bridge and current projects with HS2 and Crossrail, and its crucial we pass these skills down to those entering the industry. Our hope is that the iconic DART system

inspires many in the local area to rethink a career within the built environment."

The DART system is part of Luton's wider £1.5 billion transformation plan, and a pivotal infrastructure project for the local area, increasing capacity and speed to the fastest-growing major airport in the UK.

Kier is working with London Luton Airport Limited (LLAL) and Luton Borough Council to provide the DART system, a double-shuttle, fully automated and driverless system, approximately 2.1km in length to transport passengers between Luton Airport Parkway station and London Luton Airport in around five minutes, 24 hours a day. It will also significantly reduce the journey time from central London to the airport terminal to about 30 minutes, using the fastest train from St Pancras International.

The route will run between two purpose-built stations at Bartlett Square and the airport terminal, crossing a new landmark bridge over Airport Way. In peak time a service will leave each station every four minutes.

For more details on the apprenticeships available on the DART project, email [apprenticeships@kier.co.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@kier.co.uk).



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# Health, Safety and Environment Test

**The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has announced that its Health, safety and environment test will cost more from the 18th June. The increase is to 21.00. The test is required for application for a CSCS cards. It is an assessment of general knowledge to improve safety and productivity on site. CITB's comments about the "The increase will allow CITB to continue to reinvest in a product that meets the expanding health and safety requirements of construction, as well as keep up to date with developments in how best to assess the application of knowledge."**

The test has been recently updated and it includes new questions styles. For any tests taken after the 1 June 2018 applicants should revise from the new 2018 revision materials. Tests last for 45 minutes and have 50 questions. There are four types of the test:

- Operative test
- Labour test including L1 award
- Specialist test
- Managers and professional test

The price change only applies to the CITB Health, safety and environment test. The price of your CSCS card remains at £30.

CITB informs that "If you pre-book and pay for a test online or by phone before 18th June, but take your test after the 18th June, you will not be charged extra. Alternatively, if you buy test vouchers before the price increase, as the vouchers are valid for 12 months, you will not be charged extra."

*For more details about test visit the [www.citb.co.uk](http://www.citb.co.uk)*

# Recycling scheme for hard hats

**The construction companies are becoming more committed to minimising the impact of building works onto the environment. Most of the companies try to recycle as much waste as it is possible.**

The recent launch of the recycling scheme for hard hats was welcomed in the industry. Hard hats are mainly made of polypropene. The life-span of a hard hats ranges from two to five years, depending on wear and tear. For the health and safety reasons the site managers should pay the attention for timely hat replacements. Plastic is toxic and it cannot be incinerated. Thousands of used hard hats are binned every month. If not recycled these items add to polluting waste.

There is new dedicated scheme introduced by the plastic recycling specialist Polymer Industries in cooperation with the waste management company Viridor. The site established hat recycling facilities allowed for collection of 150 hats in three months. These are shipped to the specialist factory where machinery crash hats, break them into components, shred into granules that are later used to make new products from plastic. The new products are of high quality recycled content.

Moreover, labourers benefit from the training and health and safety practice.

The Viridor company manager, Ian Poyser has said: "Hard hats aren't accepted for commercial recycling due to their complex plastic composition but we know our customers want us to identify a circular economy solution". A trial process was run with Babcock International Group which resulted in approximately 1,200 hats recycled.

Polymer Industries managing director Jason Goozée said: "We are working with Viridor in a way where I believe there has been no real commercial solution to date. Along with Viridor, we see that with the correct infrastructure and process capabilities in place, we can convert conventional waste into a reusable commodity."

"In the current climate where there is scrutiny over the use of plastics, we hope to show that it is not always necessary to design plastics out of our lives, but instead to design the best appropriate means of recovering and recycling them."

The new scheme is currently available in the South West with potential for further expansion for other companies looking to maximise sustainable waste management opportunities.

*(Source: Viridor)*





# Be Onsite

**Skills gap within the construction industry is affecting the performance of many businesses. The recruitment of labourers is essential for timely projects delivery. Last month, Lord Chancellor and justice secretary David Gauke has urged employers within construction industry to consider recruiting more ex-offenders. The not-for-profit project by LendLease called "Be Onsite" is promoting employment of ex-prisoners. This award-winning campaign is helping people from excluded groups to find the job and get back to normal life.**

The aim of Be Onsite is to decrease the skills shortages within the construction industry with the employment of the skilled ex prisoners. Unfortunately contractors often avoid employing people with criminal records due to worries about their honesty, reliability. In reality 60% of employers who decide to employ ex prisoners agree that they work even harder than other workers. Be Onsite provides the pre employment training and the onsite experience and ensures that regardless of the persons circumstances, they are committed to make a change in their lives and work hard to prove it.

Research done by Working Links shows that 55% will use the information of the applicant's conviction to reject candidate, while only approximately 22% of employers knowingly employ ex-offenders. Employers

According to the numbers given by Be Onsite, it costs society £35,000-£75,000 to keep the offender in prison for a year. Approximately 75% of

people with criminal records return to crime. Be Onsite says that 99% of their workers do not re-offend. Real training and opportunities change their life.

Skills Funding Agency figures for years 2013-2014 shows that there were over 30,000 offender learning enrolments on construction courses in the English prison education system.

Be Onsite create skilled workers by searching for individuals with criminal record who are willing to make a change in their lives and sustain a career. The organisation provides the industry-specific training to up-skill the future labourers. The applicant is given the on site experience, counselling and practical support. The prolonged support allows such workers to stay on track and do not re-offend.

Be Onsite can provide skilled workers for most of construction projects.

Visit their website [www.beonsite.org.uk](http://www.beonsite.org.uk) and learn more on how to recruit trained labourers.

## Huge fines for height safety failings

**During work at height special precautions have to be taken to avoid risk of workers falling down and causing injury. Risks connected with working at height include fall from an edge, through an opening or fragile surface, fall from ground level into an opening in a floor or a hole in the ground. Work at height does not include a slip or a trip on the level, as a fall from height has to involve a fall from one level to a lower level. Also it does not include walking up and down a permanent staircase in a building.**

There are huge fines for construction companies who fail to ensure the safety of workers working at heights. The purpose of The Work at Height Regulations 2005 is to prevent death and injury caused

by a fall from height. Employers and managers who control work at height are required to follow the regulations. They must make sure work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people. This includes using the right type of equipment for working at height.

The Regulations apply to all work at height and implies duties on employers, those who control any work at height activity like construction or building managers. The Work at Height Regulations 2005 requires builders to ensure:

- all work at height is properly planned and organised
- those involved in work at height are competent
- the risks from work at height are assessed, and appropriate work equipment is selected and used
- the risks of working on or near fragile surfaces are properly managed
- the equipment used for work at height is properly inspected and maintained

Glasgow Sheriff Court heard on 22nd October 2015, how a self-employed joiner was working on a construction site at Claremont Terrace in Glasgow

when he fell 3.6 metres onto a pile of timber cut-offs, fracturing his ribs and spine. An investigation by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) found that although Fleming Buildings had a risk assessment in place, there were inadequate measures in place to prevent falls through a void in the roof of the building.

Fleming Buildings Limited of Auchinloch Road, Lenzie, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, and Section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. It was fined £9,335.

HSE inspector Graham Mitchell said after the hearing: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known. This incident might have been prevented if suitable and sufficient measures had been in place such as a crash desk or safety net."

Regulations set rules for ladders, working platforms, guard rails, scaffolding and all other fall prevention measures.

*Comprehensive guidance is available at [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)*



# Pay rise for construction workers from June 2018

**The construction industry joint council (CIJC) agreement was reached last month and will ensure the price and allowance rise for construction industry workers working within the CIJC scheme including bricklayers, carpenters and painters. The agreement sets the minimum payment rate for craft workers for £12.31 an hour. This will apply from Monday the 25th June. Another increase is set for June 2019 at the level of 2.9%. In addition to this, the travel allowance will be raised. The tax free allowance will increase in line with inflation, however lodging allowances will increase by nearly eight (7.8) per cent to £40 a night in 2018.**

Moreover, the industry sick pay is to be increased and extended. It will rise to £130 per week (paid in addition to statutory sick pay) an increase of 6.1 per cent and it will now be paid for 13 weeks, an increase on the 10 weeks it is currently paid for. The industry death benefit, paid via the B&CE, will increase from £32,000 to £40,000. If a worker is killed at work or travelling to and from work their family receives dou-

ble that amount. There has also been a significant increase of 6.5 per cent in the payment for first year apprentices who will receive £5.50 an hour. The increases in the workers and apprentices pay and benefits will attract new entrants into the industry.

Jerry Swain, the Unite national officer for construction commented: "This deal is a strong step in the right direction and will give construction work-

ers a well-deserved pay increase. The increases in allowances and other benefits, underline the value of working under an industrial agreement and being part of collective bargaining arrangements.

He added: "Construction workers need to remain vigilant that employers actually pay the agreed pay rates. Too often in construction employers try to boost their profits by failing to pay agreed increases."

GMB national officer Ross Murdoch said: "Given the current climate in the wider construction industry and overall economic climate, this deal is both a recognition of a hard-working, highly-skilled workforce and a demonstration of real commitment to maintaining meaningful joint national industrial agreement."

"As further significant construction projects emerge over the next few years, this deal offers genuine hope of retaining the much needed skills for the industry, as well as attracting new apprentices, with the percentage uplift for apprentice rates further reinforcing the importance of this latter point."



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# Modern Slavery in Construction Industry

**The Modern Slavery Act came into force in 2015 but the non-compliance of UK construction firms is still a problem. Some companies have to run an internal audit to produce an annual slavery and human trafficking statement about the measures undertaken to ensure modern slavery does not exist in their business or supply chain.**

According to the Home Office, there are approximately 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK. Construction sector is prone to labour exploitation due to engagement of the temporary labour.

In the UK thousands of migrant workers face dangerous working conditions, work without proper contract, verbal and physical abuse. According to recent survey by Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) migrant construction workers from nations including Romania, Hungary, Poland or Albania have done jobs for no pay. Labourers are too scared or do not know how to make complaints.

Recently a Romanian man who enslaved up to

15 men, offering demolition work and then using violence to trap them, has been jailed for seven years. David Lupu, 29, promised the men £50 per day as well as accommodation, but instead paid them just a fraction of the wage, housed them in cramped conditions and confiscated their ID papers.

Metropolitan Police detectives began an investigation – supported by CITB's Fraud Team - in September last year, after two Romanian men reported to Forest Gate police that they had been treated like slaves after coming to work in the UK. On 23 March at Inner London Crown Court, David Lupu was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment after being

convicted of multiple offences of holding a person in slavery or servitude.

During the trial, seven Romanian men said they had been offered jobs in July last year, but after travelling to the UK, were expected to live in a small one bedroom flat in Leyton, east London. Up to 15 men slept wherever they could in the kitchen, bedroom, hallway and storage cupboard, on mattresses found in the street. Victims said they were only allowed out of the house two at a time, and warned that they would be arrested if discovered.

They were told that they owed Lupu hundreds of pounds and were forced to work long hours in the demolition sector in order to repay the costs. Meanwhile, Lupu was paid a significant wage by the building site's employers for the men's labour. When the men discovered their wages from the building site had not been passed on by Lupu, they confronted him, only to be beaten and threatened to be killed if they insisted on being paid before they had paid their 'debts'.

Ian Sidney, CITB's Fraud Investigator who assisted the Met Police investigation, says: "Modern slavery is a horrific injustice that unfortunately is becoming more commonplace in the UK's construction industry. Forcing people to work illegally not only deprives people of their human rights, it also

harms the reputation of the industry, puts employers at risk, drives down wages and denies employment opportunities to many others. "CITB has been working with industry, implementing measures to ensure that modern slavery is eradicated from the UK construction industry. We will also continue working with law enforcement agencies to bring offenders to justice."

## What are the obligation under the Modern Slavery Act 2015?

Engaging in any form of modern slavery is a criminal offence. Large companies with an aggregate annual turnover not less than £36m have to publish an annual statement called the Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (the SHT statement) detailing the steps taken to eliminate slavery and human trafficking in their organisation and the whole supply chain. In reality the so called no-notice site inspections by public authorities are rare as there is estimated 0.4 labour inspectors per 100,000 workers. Prime Minister, Theresa May has announced the plan not establish a Taskforce to crackdown on modern slavery.

## Here is a checklist for your business

- Did you implement any rules and policies to prevent modern slavery in your business?

- Do you assess your company and your supply chain complies with these rules?
- Have you done any risk assessment with regards to the modern slavery within your business and supply chain?
- Do you assess your new subcontractors and suppliers on the basis of working conditions?
- Do your existing contracts include any references to modern slavery prevention policies or rules?
- Are there any rules on ethical requirements for your business, employees and subcontractors?
- Do you check your building site conditions with regards to modern slavery?
- Are your employees aware on the procedures how to identify and report modern slavery?

To report call the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority on 0800 432 0804 or Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700 or at <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report>.

*For more information on modern slavery visit [www.stronger2gether.org](http://www.stronger2gether.org)*





## Construction Logistics and Community Safety

**Recent numbers show that between 2008 and 2013 approximately 55 per cent of cyclist fatalities in London were caused by a heavy goods vehicle. Transport for London (TfL) launched the review of the construction sector's transport activities that resulted in '(CLOCS) report published in February 2013 by Transport Research Laboratory.**

According to the report :

- Blind spots on construction vehicles could be larger than general haulage vehicles
- Road safety was not considered in same way as health and safety on-site

- There was little understanding of the impact of construction activity on road safety
- There was no common standard for the industry to work to in order to manage work related road safety

In response, the construction industry collaborated to create the standard for construction logistics. Managing work related road risk (WRRR) aims to ensure that construction companies follow effective practice in the management of their operations, vehicles, drivers and construction sites. Each requirement has been developed to reduce the risk of a collision between heavy goods vehicles in the construction sector and vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians. The Standard sets the detailed minimum requirements to create a consistent foundation and promote the best practice.

The CLOCS Standard is a key step to demonstrate the commitment of construction logistics

industry organisations to improve road safety throughout the supply chain.

All HGVs (over 3.5 tonnes gvw) arriving on site must conform to the CLOCS Standard for construction logistics. The key checks that should be completed on any vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gvw arriving on site include vehicle operator check, vehicle check and driver check.

The CLOCS Standard is a key step to demonstrate the commitment of construction logistics industry organisations to improve road safety throughout the supply chain.

There is a number of guidance documents (CLOCS Guides) that supplement the CLOCS Standard. Amongst others there is guide on site assessment, vehicle safety, managing driver training and licensing, managing supplier compliance etc.

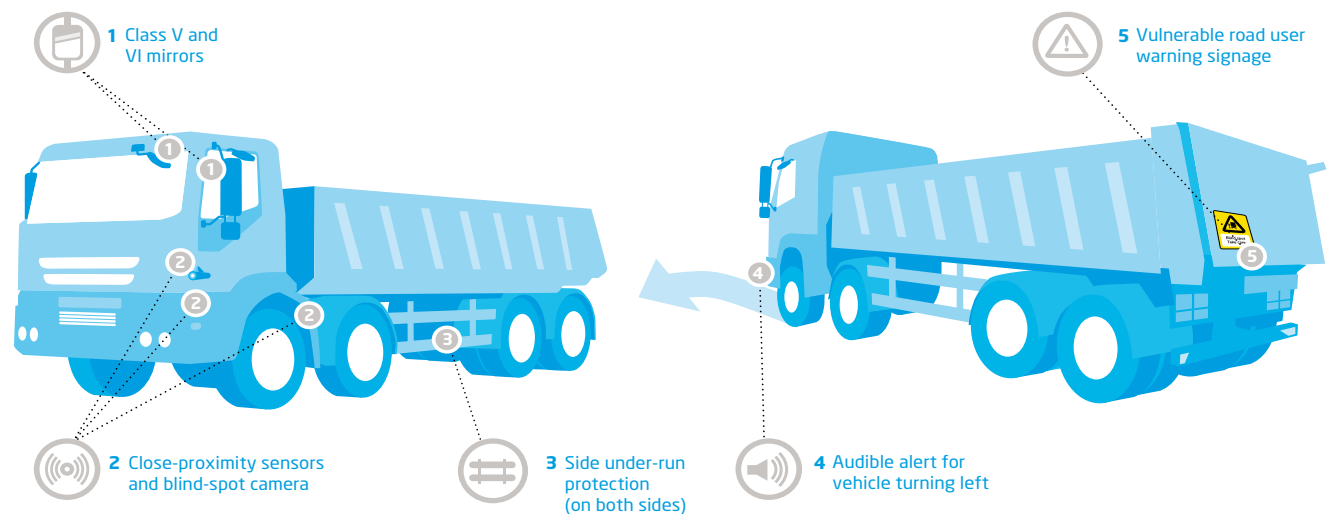
**For more details visit: CLOCS Standard: [www.clocs.org.uk/standard-for-clocs](http://www.clocs.org.uk/standard-for-clocs) CLOCS website and resources: [www.clocs.org.uk](http://www.clocs.org.uk)**



# CLOCS Vehicle checking in operation

All HGVs\* arriving on this site must conform to the **CLOCS Standard** for construction logistics. To comply three checks must be completed before entry.

\*over 3.5 tonnes gvw



### 1. Vehicle Operator Check



Vehicle operator must be certified at minimum FORS bronze level. FORS is the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme [www.fors-online.org.uk](http://www.fors-online.org.uk)

### 2. Vehicle Check

Any vehicle over 3.5 tonne gvw shall have the following vulnerable road user safety kit fitted:

#### Blind-spot minimisation:

- 1 Class V and VI mirrors
- 2 A method of minimising the vehicle blind-spots eg camera system and/or sensor system and/or Fresnel lens (the system must be working)
- 3 Side under-run protection (both sides)
- 4 Audible alert for vehicle turning left
- 5 Vulnerable road user warning signage

### 3. Driver Check

- Driver must have a valid driving licence for the vehicle they are driving
- Driver must be able to prove they have undertaken approved vulnerable road user training



### Refusal of access to site

In the event of non-conformance the vehicle may be refused entry and a non-conformance report completed



Looking out for vulnerable road users

To find out more please visit [www.clocs.org.uk](http://www.clocs.org.uk)





# Energy

## renovation trend

**Energy efficiency is the attractive sector for builders. Improving comfort, health and well being for homeowners but also public buildings' users is becoming the priority of governments.**

Recently, the Prime Minister Theresa May announced the 2030 target to halve building energy use. The urban regeneration plans include both residential and commercial sector. The Prime Minister challenged the construction industry to embrace

innovation or modern methods of construction and deliver higher standards to meet the new 2030 target, which will also reduce household energy bills and help with national carbon targets. Energy efficiency projects often benefit from funding schemes as the reduction of the energy demand of buildings is crucial to achieve a highly energy efficient nearly zero-energy buildings.

May said: "We are at the forefront of scientific invention because we embrace change and use regulation not to stifle but to stimulate an environment for creativity,"

She added "Meeting this challenge will drive in-

novation and higher standards in the construction sector, helping it to meet our ambitious homebuilding targets and providing more jobs and opportunity to millions of workers across the country. "We will use new technologies and modern construction practices to at least halve the energy usage of new buildings by 2030. By making our buildings more energy efficient and embracing smart technologies, we can slash household energy bills, reduce demand for energy, and meet our targets for carbon reduction."

Julie Hirigoyen, the Chief Executive of the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) has commented:

"The Government made a bold statement in mak-

ing Clean Growth a central part of the Industrial Strategy – and we welcome the new mission set for the building sector today. Addressing the energy used in new and existing buildings will be central to delivering clean growth and can only be achieved with strong leadership from Government working in close partnership with the industry." "Now this mission has been set, it will be vital to underpin it with clear and consistent policies. Government should set a trajectory for building regulations to achieve net zero carbon from 2030, as well as introducing long-term incentives for retrofitting homes and commercial buildings. These market signals will be key in driving investment

and innovation in the supply chain to meet these challenges and get us on track to meeting the Paris Agreement."

Higher sustainability standard's for new build houses and retrofitting of existing ones will provide air quality, energy efficiency, low and zero carbon design. The current edition of the Approved Documents of Part L of the Building Regulations covers the energy efficiency requirements of the building regulations.

Builders working within the energy renovation sector will not suffer from difficulties to find a job. External and internal insulation works, solar panels installation, upgrade on ventilation to systems with

heat recovery, roof and windows replacement, fitting modern heating systems and many more works will be required to increase comfort and standards and meet the expected energy saving targets. Homeowners wishing to invest in these "green works" could be given quotes from different building firms for each separate works, but builders that will specialise in providing overall pack on energy saving renovation works will be able to win more projects. Upgrade your business now. Check our online course for installation of IBB Therm external insulation and thin coat render system at [www.ibb.uk/tv](http://www.ibb.uk/tv)



# Agricultural buildings into residential houses

*What is class Q permitted development?*



**The Government has recently introduced the permitted development (PD) rights known as the Class Q that allow for the conversion of existing agricultural buildings into houses. This brings a lot of opportunities for self-builders and small building companies.**

The old barns can be updated to the higher valued properties. However, there are some limitations. The old barns can be turned into new houses but it is necessary to submit a Prior Approval application. The

local planning authority has the opportunity to assess the case and make a request for more detailed information if required.

It is important to keep in mind that the Class Q does not apply to barns in the conservations areas, national parks or listed barns, scheduled ancient monuments or sites of special scientific interest.

The barn must have been in the agricultural use before 20th March 2013 and the building must be capable of alterations without the need for structural changes. Class Q allows for changes necessary to convert the residential building including building of exterior walls, replacement of roof coverings, insertion of doors and windows, connection of services, drainage, electricity and gas connections. The structure of the existing barn has to be strong enough to

take necessary loading to support the external works. Under the Class Q the partial demolition can be accepted but the external dimensions of the building has to remain untacked. The extension to the existing barn is not acceptable. Moreover, there is the additional condition that the garden adjacent to the new dwelling must be no larger than the floor area of the house. It is not possible to add new foundations, load bearing floor slabs or first floor.

For those who are looking to convert the existing agricultural unit, there is unfortunately a little obstacle as the maximum number of barns that can be converted must not exceed five. In most cases the size and number of existing barns will be determining factor. In addition, there are two classes of barn conversion with different maximum floor space limit:

- large dwellings defined as residential conversions between 100m<sup>2</sup> and 465m<sup>2</sup> in size. Class Q allows for three such dwellings to be created with total cumulative maximum floor space of 465m<sup>2</sup>.
- Small dwellings classed as residential units not exceeding 100m<sup>2</sup> each, with maximum of five and no more than total cumulative floor space of 500m<sup>2</sup>.
- The maximum floorspace that can be converted into residential use is 865m<sup>2</sup>.

To obtain the necessary permission it is necessary to submit a Prior Approval application under Class Q. The application form and any advice can be obtained in the local planning authority. The additional documents include the location plan, a site plan including the garden, parking and access arrangements. The drawings of the proposal and of the existing building have to be attached. More details could be required including full structural survey, details of the external appearance or transport and highways matters, noise impacts of the development, flooding risks, etc.

It is possible to apply for the permission on extension after the barn was converted to residential dwelling and such application will be consider under the standard rules.

Class Q is the broad and quite complicated building regulation with still many restrictions but it gives the excellent opportunities for creative, modern design. The Government's Rural Planning Review announced in 2016 is underway and it will impact Class Q permitted developments rights.







# How to remove the chimney breast?

**In the old properties chimneys with age if not maintained regularly become an unnecessary cost and possibly causing damp to penetrate into the house. Moreover, there is also the issue of the space taken up by the chimney breast, and a chimney removal is the excellent option to free up the area. The removal of a chimney or its parts are not that straightforward and requires the careful planning. Here is the insight into the subject.**

The internal chimney might be removed either on the ground floor or the first floor without the need to remove the external stack, alter the roof or external appearance and character of the building. A chimney breast is brickwork which allows the chimney rises through the property and usually it starts at the ground floor. With semi-detached and terrace properties, chimney breasts are often built 'back to back' between neighbours. Removing only the section of the chimney like the chimney breast requires the additional support. Unless the whole chimney, from the fireplace to the roof stack is going to be removed, suitable support beams will need to be incorporated to support any masonry above to avoid structural distress or damage or even the collapse of the building.

Depending on the building layout it is possible

to remove the chimney breast either from outside or inside. It might be required to relay the existing electrical cables, pipes or old heating appliances. If the upper parts of the chimney will stay, the structure has to be supported with the steel beams. Such steel support for a chimney breast lies between remaining structural walls or across the loft hatch. The chimney stack should be taken down with the proper support until the permanent structure will be created. The damp prevention is applied, and all voids have to be filled. If the removal of the chimney breast requires the additional support from the party wall, it is essential to involve the structural engineer to design the structure and calculate steel sizes.

The engineer will assess the existing structure, establish the method of work and supports

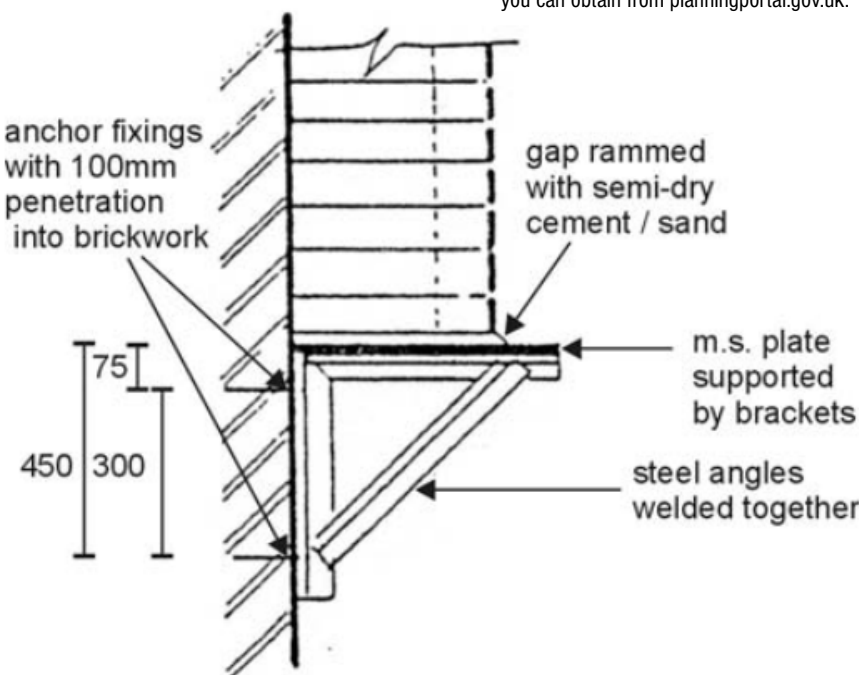


required. The method of work and all designs will need to be submitted to the local building control office for approval before any work commencing. In a scenario when the chimney breast is on a party wall, the Party Wall Act applies and neighbour will be required to give the consent. In such cases, the building control officers supervise work and certify it. It is necessary to check neighbours wall and chimney to see if vibrations can cause debris to fall. The additional protection and insurance might be required. Steel support for a chimney breast between remaining structural walls or across the loft hatch. Where a chimney stack on an external wall is partly removed (often in the terrace houses) the chimney stack has to be of no more than 1 metre above the highest point of the where the stack emerges from the roof.

is partly removed, say on the end house of a terrace, the chimney stack should be reduced to be no more than 1 metre above the highest point of the where the stack emerges from the roof. All the steel should be given one coat of protective paint. The holes in the angles should be 12mm in diameter and the anchor fixing should be a 10mm diameter Rawlbolt or similar and should go into the brickwork at least 100mm (see drawing).

## Constructing and fixing a supporting bracket

Where a stack forms a buttress, the wall must be checked for stability by a structural engineer. The supporting bracket should be made of 50mm x 50mm angles in 5mm or 6mm steel. The edge of the support should be 450 with all the joints welded together with 5mm fillet weld. The brackets should be at 600mm centres and no more than 300mm from the vertical edge of the chimney stack. Over the top of the bracket, there should be a 6mm thick steel plate. All the steel should be given one coat of protective paint. The brackets should be fixed to brickwork in excellent condition. Any brickwork or mortar that is not in good condition should be rebuilt. Where a chimney stack on an external wall



If any unused chimney breast is retained, it will need to be ventilated at both the top and bottom. Any moisture in an unventilated wall or chimney will interact with the soot remaining in the used chimney and can cause staining. There should be a 25mm gap between the steel plate and the underside of the brickwork. This gap should be rammed full with semi-dry sand/cement (1:3 mix), and the chimney made good and re-pointed as necessary (Extract from advice by Southend on Sea Borough Council).

When all the demolition and structural works are finished, there is time for final decorating. The approximate cost of removing is of approximate £3500 + VAT plus a charge of external finish depending on the clients choice.

Regulations that apply to the chimney breast removal involve:

- Notice to the local authority and compliance with the Building Regulations. Building Regulations ensure structural strength, fire safety, sound insulation, maintenance of any neighbour's chimney, damp prevention, ventilation to rooms.
- The cost of the approved inspector is approximately £200-£300 + VAT
- Planning permission in case of the listed building
- Survey for Party Wall Act range between £700-£800 + VAT

For more information on chimney removal you can obtain from [planningportal.gov.uk](http://planningportal.gov.uk).



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**The installation of the steel lintels is required in various buildings structures to spread the loads of the construction. Lintels are designed and made to order as they have to be fit for the specific installation and type of the structure. The design takes into account building type, loadings or thermal performance. There is a broad selection of steel lintels based on application from cavity walls, timber frame, solid external walls, arches or bays, etc.**

Steel lintels have to be CE marked to guarantee that steel meets the Construction Products Regulations in compliance with British BS EN 1090.

As heat transfer easily through steel, lintels are often a major thermal bridge in the building. Thermal performance of steel lintel is given as psi value- the lower the psi, the better the performance. All standard lintels have to satisfy the thermal performance requirements of England and Wales' Part L

of the building regulations, Northern Ireland's Part F and Scotland's Technical Handbook, section 6. The standard lintels range has Psi values ranging from 0.2 to 0.3 W/m.k. The exact Psi value depends upon the wall construction the lintel is built into.

It is recommended to install a damp proof course or cavity tray over all openings in external cavity walls. Some lintels have built-in damp proof course.

There is the range of lintels for particular installation. You can choose from most common standard lintels (galvanised or stainless steel), hi therm lintels which exceed thermal requirements, special lintels and even brickwork feature lintels.

In IBB Builders Merchants depots you can order the standard lintels, which feature:

- Fire resistance performance
  - Corrosion resistance - made of high quality grade pre-galvanised mild steel with a zinc coating of 600g/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Structural performance subject to load selection
  - Durability
- Lintels are available in three materials types:
- galvanised steel
  - Stainless steel

- Galvanised steel/grp
  - Polystyrene insulation
- All are insulated with polystyrene.

**Tips for proper steel lintel selection:**

1. Check what is type of the wall construction (Illustration 1):
2. For the cavity wall construction you need to know the following details: width of outer leaf, width of cavity, width of inner leaf (Illustration 2).
3. To get the lintel length check the width of the structural opening and add 150mm minimum bearing to each end.
4. To know the load that will be supported by the lintel you need to establish the following:
  - Masonry
  - Roof loads incl. truss, attic, cut, etc.
  - Floor loads incl. joists, slabs, etc.
  - Type of the load: residential, commercial or industrial use
5. There is need to establish the load ratio between the inner and outer leaves of the cavity wall. To calculate it you need to check

The structural engineer will specify that for you.

Illustration 1. Types of the wall construction.

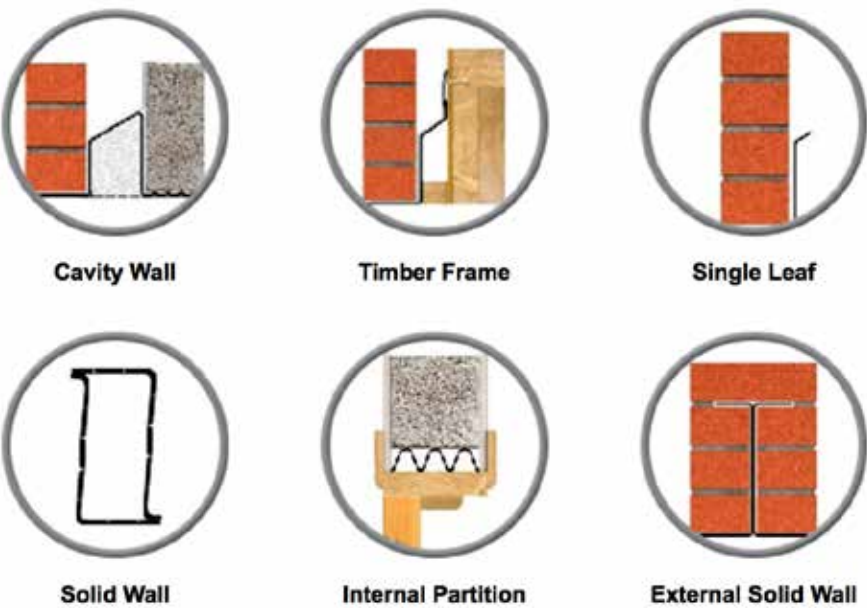
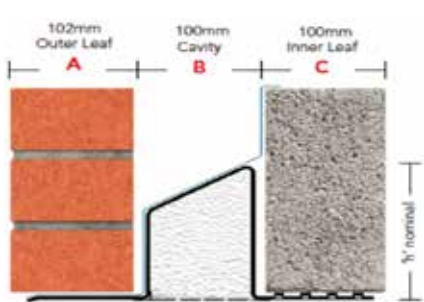


Illustration 2. Wall details



- how many loads will be on inner wall and how many on outer leaf. The structural engineer will specify these details.
6. When choosing the lintel select the proper length (including the 150mm increments) for the particular cavity widths. The total UDL (uniformly distributed load) is given in (kN) is evenly distributed along the span of the lintel relative to the load ratio.

**Tips for lintels installation:**

- All loads are checked by the structural engineer
- Ensure lintel is not damaged and is levelled across the length and width
- Never cut lintels
- Ensure wall dimensions are in accordance with the engineer specification
- Minimum end bearing of 150mm at each end
- Lintel is bedded on mortar and brickwork
- Point loads should not be applied directly onto lintel flanges.
- Masonry overhang not exceed 25mm
- Mastic or other flexible sealing compound is used at the junctions of lintel and window head

- Install DPC - proprietary stop ends should be used or alternatively the DPC should extend to the edge of the external lintel flange and 50-150mm beyond the end of the lintel (depending on coursing) to allow formation of an integral stop end at a suitable perpendicular joint.
- Provide weep holes at a maximum of 450mm intervals (at least two per opening) with fair-faced masonry.
- Wall ties are fitted at maximum horizontal spacing of 450mm within 300mm above the lintel
- Ensure the masonry above the lintel is properly cured before following with the installation of roof or floor. The masonry above the lintel should be built in accordance with BS EN 1996-2:2006.
- Use the temporary propping beneath a steel lintel to reduce the load. Propping facilitate the speed of construction. When propping a lintel, a horizontal timber plank should be placed along the underside of the lintel and appropriate props should be secured into place at maximum 1200mm centres
- Inner leaf block should not overheat the lintel flange by more than 25mm.
- In the standard load applications, blockwork should be built tight against inner face of the lintel. Place mortar bed on top of blockwork before oor units are laid to provide even distribution of load.

For more tips on steel lintels check our October 2017 edition in archives at [www.ibb.uk/magazine](http://www.ibb.uk/magazine)



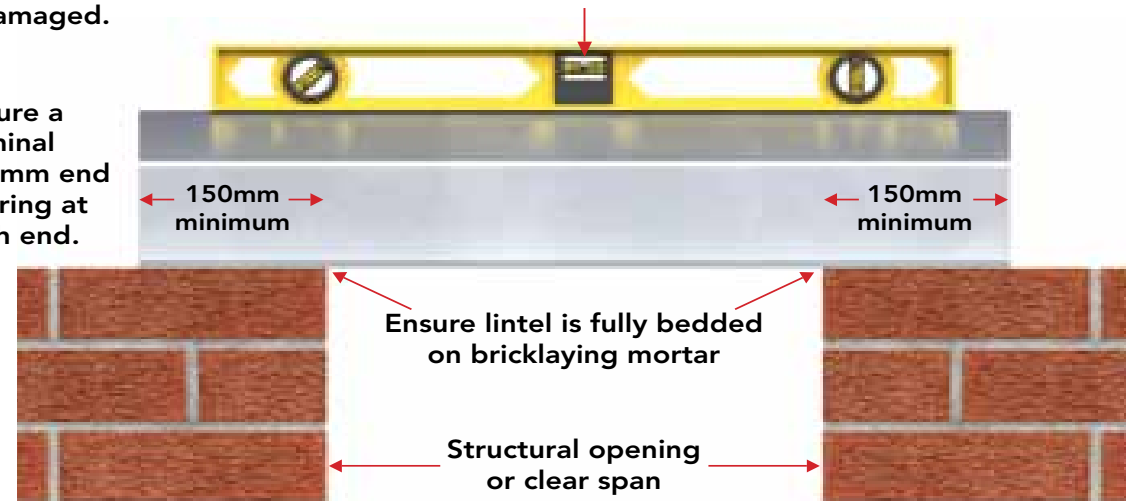


## ENSURE LINTEL IS LEVEL ALONG ITS LENGTH

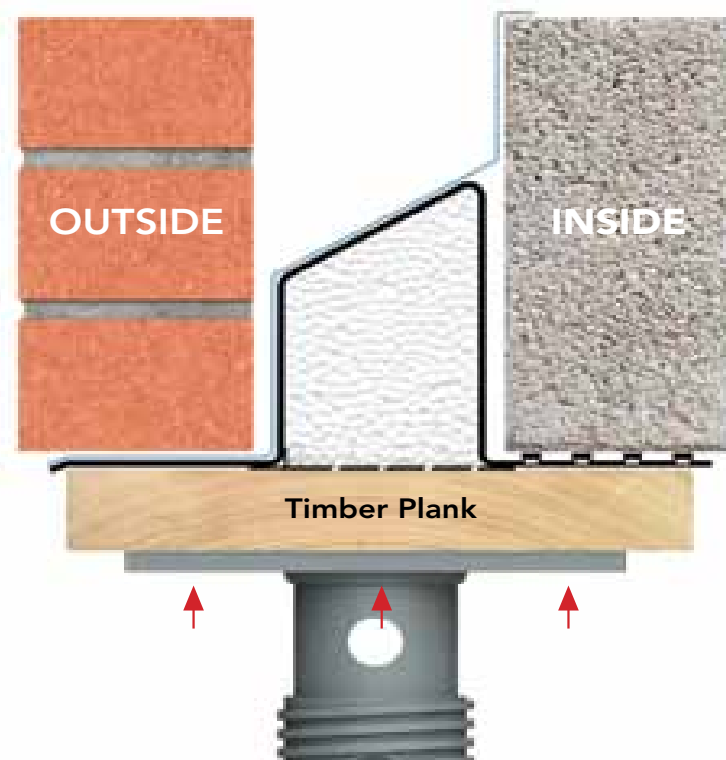
Ensure lintel is not damaged.

Ensure lintel is level along its length.

Ensure a nominal 150mm end bearing at each end.



## PROPPING



The practice of propping a lintel is sometimes used to facilitate speed of construction. It should only be introduced after initial masonry load has been applied to the lintel.

When propping a lintel, a horizontal timber plank should be placed along the underside of the lintel and suitable\* props secured into place at maximum 1200mm centres.

*\* Suitability of props is the responsibility of site management.*

source: www.iglinels.com

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# YTONG

## Building Blocks

**Ytong aerated concrete building blocks are used for internal partition walls and load bearing external walls constructions. Ytong blocks can be laid in either standard mortar or thin layer mortar. Any mortar used should comply with BS EN 998-2 specification for Mortar for Masonry. Ytong blocks is a thermal efficient option due to their insulating properties. The dimensional accuracy of Ytong blocks make them perfect choice for thin joint system. Moreover, Ytong blocks are highly sustainable.**

The Ytong block consists of sand, lime and cement - natural abundantly available raw materials that are obtained from responsibly managed extraction sites. During the manufacture CO2 emissions are reduced as the energy is consumed in curing the product by means of steam, and even

then technology keeps energy consumption to an absolute minimum. Highly durable Ytong blocks never lose their energy efficiency or structural values. Used Ytong blocks can be recycled to manufacture a new aerated concrete.

The use of Ytong blocks with no cavity and



with the external insulation is becoming more popular amongst builders and developers in the UK. Ytong products offer good thermal insulation what reduces the extreme in the internal temperature of the building. In construction built with Ytong blocks the heat is absorbed during a day and released overnight. The thermal mass significantly reduces the overheating problem. The Ytong block of 4.0 compressive strength can be used in various locations like block and beam floating system or separating walls.

In addition to their excellent thermal properties Ytong blocks allow for high speed construction. The blocks can be easily cut, lightweight, simple to lay, quick to assemble and allow for unlimited finishes.

Ytong blocks can be used to build both load-bearing and non load-bearing:

- Inner leaves of cavity walls
- Solid walls
- Block and beam flooring
- Partition walls
- Internal walls
- External walls
- Fire walls
- Roof and ceiling elements

Due to its characteristic structure of millions of tiny pores filled with air, Ytong block helps to accumulate heat and avoid loss of energy. Thermal bridges are significantly reduced as the in-

ulating properties of the Ytong block are evenly distributed. Ytong block reduces the temperature fluctuations to a minimum and ensures proper air ventilation.

A 400 mm thick wall of Ytong blocks has an equivalent Lambda value of only 0.065 W/(mK) and achieves a U-value 0.15 W/(m K). A wall thickness of 48 cm can even achieve the Passivhaus standard U-value for external walls of 0.14 W/(m K). Such aerated concrete masonry meets the highest standards for energy efficiency without the need to use any additional insulation.

Ytong blocks have unlimited construction possibilities and great properties:

- Non flammable (offers up to 3 hours of protection against fire)
- Impermeable to frost and moisture
- Highly thermally efficient (till-lambda 0.07)
- Create the healthy living environment
- Provides an even temperature
- Low shrinkage values (<0,2 mm/m) and dimensional accuracy (perfect choice for thin joint system)
- Lightweight
- Easy to cut
- Excellent sound insulation
- Easy to transport and handle on site
- Large format allows quick and easy building
- Future high-quality construction



**YTONG 3,6 Standard Blocks** - perfectly suited to build the internal and external leafs of cavity walls, solid walls, separating walls, partitions, flanking walls, soil conditions D S-1. Available in range of thicknesses. Laid weight for design purpose incl. 3% moisture approx. 485 kg/m³.

**YTONG 7,3 Hi-Strength Blocks** - available in the range of strength, can be applied in internal and external leafs of cavity walls, solid walls, separating walls, partitions and flanking walls but

also in block and beam flooring systems and are fit for soil conditions D S1, D S2, D S3.

**YTONG Foundation Blocks** - are commonly used in a range of thicknesses for use below the ground level. Offering beneficial thermal performance, load bearing features for the support of cavity walls and solid walls, framed construction, suspended floors incl. beam and block floors. Very resistant to water penetration. These can be laid below DPC level without mortared perpend

and are fit for soil conditions DS-1, DS-2, DS-3. Ytong Foundations blocks can be used also above ground for solid walls.

**YTONG Coursing Units** - allow for design and build consistency and are used to finish off the wall openings with no need to use indifferent material.

When selecting a suitable mortar, it is important to ensure that the composition is compatible in strength with the blocks selected for the project.

YTONG 3,6 STANDARD BLOCKS

Density	Compressive strength	Size	Thickness	Thermal conductivity	Block weight	Blocks/pack
kg/m³	N/mm²	mm	mm	W/mK	kg	
450 - 480	3,6	440 x 215	50**	0,11	2,3	128
			100*	0,11	4,6	72
			140*	0,11	6,5	48
			215*	0,11	10,0	32
450 - 480	3,6	600 x 215	100*	0,11	6,3	72
			140**	0,11	8,8	48

YTONG 7,3 HI-STRENGTH BLOCKS

Density	Compressive strength	Size	Thickness	Thermal conductivity	Block weight	Blocks/pack
kg/m³	N/mm²	mm	mm	W/mK	kg	
			100**	0,18	7,3	72
			140**	0,18	10,3	48
			215**	0,18	15,8	32
680 - 750	7,3	600 x 215	100**	0,18	10,0	72

YTONG FOUNDATION BLOCKS

Density	Compressive strength	Size	Thickness	Thermal conductivity	Block weight	Blocks/pack
kg/m³	N/mm²	mm	mm	W/mK	kg	
approx. 620	4,0	440 x 215	300*	0,15	18,2	24
approx. 620	4,0	440 x 215	350*	0,15	21,2	24
680 - 750	7,3	440 x 215	300*	0,18	22,0	24

COURSING UNITS

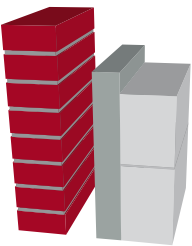
Density	Compressive strength	Size	Thickness	Thermal conductivity	Blocks/pack
kg/m³	N/mm²	mm	mm	W/mK	
450 - 480	3,6	215 x 65	100*	0,11	468
680 - 750	7,3	215 x 65	100*	0,18	468

Extract from Ytong Aerated Concrete Product Guide

Examples of External Wall Constructions and U-values

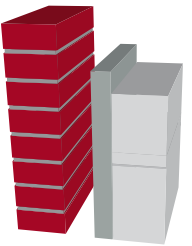
Partial fill cavity:

Brick outer leaf wall  
Clear cavity 50 mm  
Kingspan TW50, 50 mm  
Ytong block 440 x 215 x 100 mm



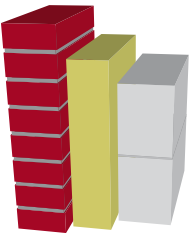
Partial fill cavity:

Brick outer leaf wall  
Clear cavity 50 mm  
Kingspan TW50, 40 mm  
Ytong block 440 x 215 x 100 mm



Full fill cavity:

Brick outer leaf wall  
Rockwool Dri Therm 32, 90 mm  
Ytong block 440 x 215 x 100 mm



3.6 Standard block	4.0 Standard block	7.3 Hi Strenght block
Total U-value 0,25 W/m²K	Total U-value 0,26 W/m²K	Total U-value 0,27 W/m²K
Total U-value 0,28 W/m²K	Total U-value 0,30 W/m²K	Total U-value 0,31 W/m²K
Total U-value 0,27 W/m²K	Total U-value 0,28 W/m²K	Total U-value 0,29 W/m²K

Extract from Ytong Aerated Concrete Product Guide p.6





# Building with Ytong Blocks

## Single Leaf Wall

Estimation conditions

- estimated cost for 50m² single leaf wall (thickness 215mm)

NOTICE!

- The below estimation is only the proposal, you can use it at your own risk
- All products are available at IBB; prices before discounts

## Main works and tasks

No	Name	Netto value	Gross value
1	EXTERNAL WALLS	£2,840.80	£3,408.96
1.1	Brick/Block walls	£2,840.80	£3,408.96
1.1.1	Solid brick or block wall	£2,651.08	£3,181.30
1.1.1.1	Lightweight aircrete block walls	£2,651.08	£3,181.30
1.1.1.1.1	Ytong	£2,651.08	£3,181.30
1.1.2	Allowance for window openings	£137.16	£164.59
1.1.3	Fitting lintels	£119.21	£143.05
1.1.3.1	Precast concret lintels	£119.21	£143.05
1.1.4	Fixing other wall accessories	£36.32	£43.58
1.1.4.1	Fixing wall starters	£36.32	£43.58

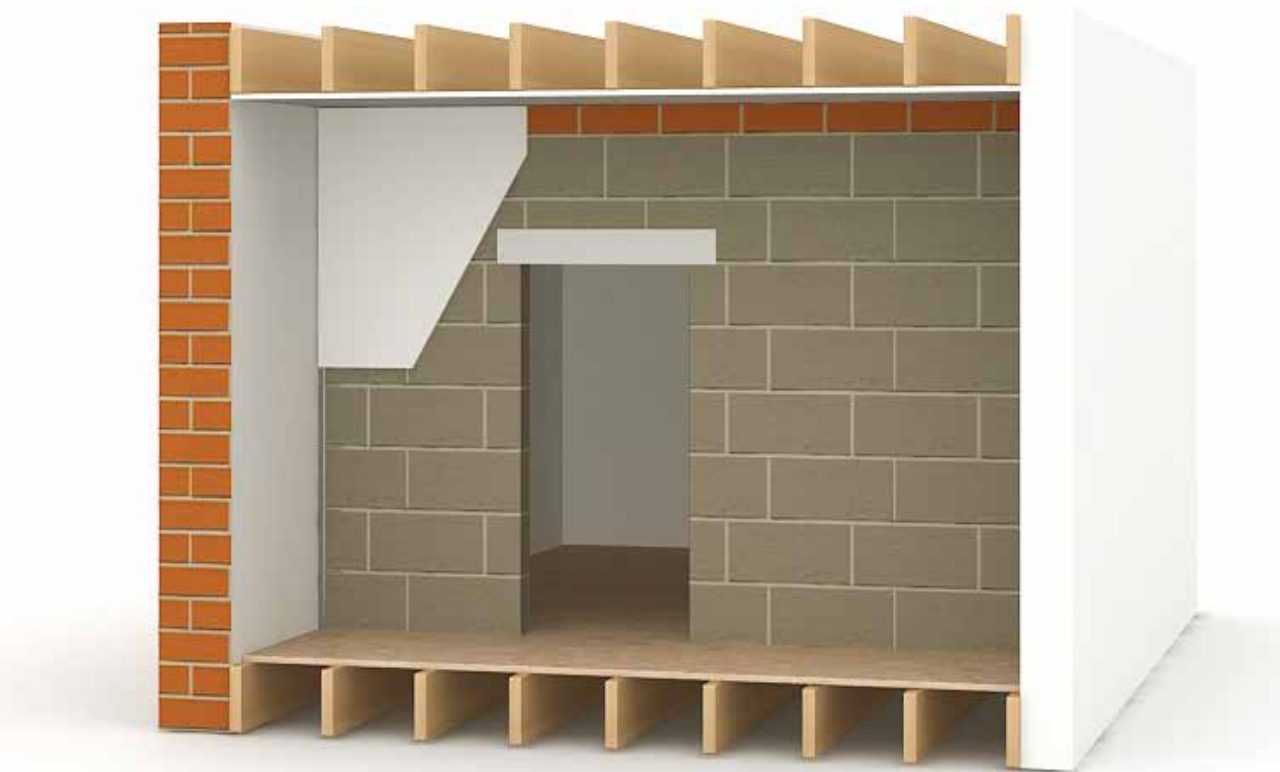


## Material

No	Name	Feature	Dimension	Weight [kg]	Qty	[unit]	Total
1.	lightweighth aircrete block	Ytong, Hi-strength, 7.3N/mm2	600*215*100mm	7850.000	500.000	pcs	£1,665.00
2.	masonry mortar	Silmur M 15	bag=25kg	400.000	16.000	bag	£200.00
3.	wall starter	Ancon 36/8	2@1200mm	4.000	2.000	pcs	£14.48
	Total			8254.000			£1,879.48
Total net:							£1,775.58
VAT:							£375.89
Total gross:							£2,255.38

## Labour

No	Name	Rate	Qty	[unit]	Costs	Total
1.	Bricklayer	£12.00	38.808	lh	£465.70	£847.57
2.	Bricklayer mate	£6.00	19.932	lh	£119.59	£217.66
	Total		58.740	lh	£585.29	£1,065.22
Total net:						£1,065.22
VAT:						£213.04
Total gross:						£1,278.27



Disclaimer!

Our norms and rates should be taken as a guide only and there are no obligations for anybody to adhere to them. You have to take sole responsibility and apply your own rates to your quotations. Cost of materials can vary from prices shown. We cannot accept any responsibility for anyone using this information – you must make your own checks.



# Light Block Foundation

Estimation conditions

- estimated cost for 40m² foundations

NOTICE!

- The below estimation is only the proposal, you can use it at your own risk
- All products are available at IBB; prices before discounts

Main works

No	Name	Netto value	Gross value
1.	FOUNDATIONS, CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION	£5,074.03	£6,088.84
Total:		£5,074.03	£6,088.84

Material

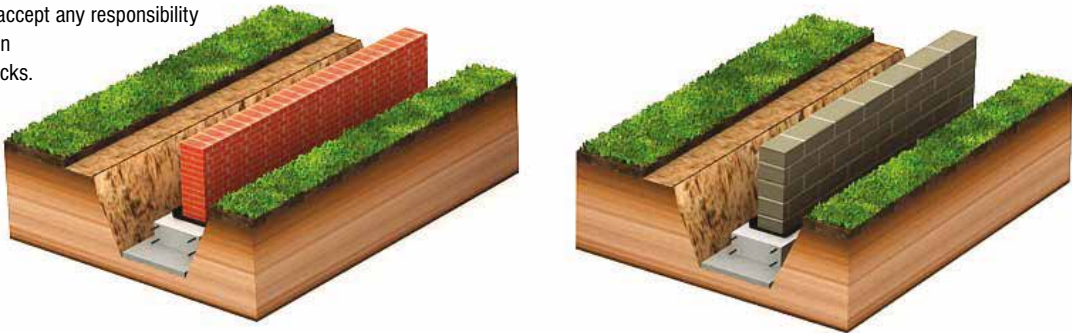
No	Name	Feature	Dimension	Weight [kg]	Qty	[unit]	Total
1.	lightweigh aircrete block	Ytong, foundation, 4.0N/mm2	440*215*300mm	7240.000	400.000	pcs	£2,640.00
2.	masonry mortar	KT 28 masonry mortar	bag.=25kg	7200.000	288.000	bag	£1,346.40
Total				14440.000			£3,986.40
Total net:							£3,986.40
VAT:							£797.28
Total gross:							£4,783.68

Labour

No	Name	Rate	Qty	[unit]	Total
1.	Bricklayer	£12.00	36.000	lh	£786.24
2.	Bricklayer mate	£6.00	27.600	lh	£301.39
Total			63.600	lh	£1,087.63
Total net:					£1,087.63
VAT:					£217.53
Total gross:					£1,305.16

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Mission: accomplished

# Piotr Graban leaves IBB Polonia London

**He worked for two seasons in London and in this time won 4 medals in the English Volleyball league. Two victories and two second places; and to this ninth place in the CEV Challenge Cup in 2017 made that year the most successful in IBB Polonia's history. Piotr Graban talks about his adventure and his future plans for 2018/19 working with Andrea Anastasi in Trefl Gdansk.**

(Ed): I am sure some people wondered why you went to London. Now you are making your next big step in your career; how do you sum up your time in the UK?

(Piotr Graban) I think each step we take is important; for me self-development is a priority. I learnt a huge amount in England. I had to overcome very challenging and new situations that had never existed in Polish volleyball. I am, as a result, a better coach, a better person and I also speak better English!

(Ed) So now you have a season in Gdansk, next to one of the top coaches in the World: Andrea Anastasi. What are the plans for you and your new team?

(PG) I'm very excited to be returning to my home town, to my home and my loved ones. To be the assistant coach for Andrea is an amazing opportunity to develop yet further before my next step in my career. Our aims will always be the same: to do everything possible. I know all the teams in PlusLiga are strengthening, this depends on team budgets, and I'm sure we too aim to be amongst the best.

(Ed) One of your aims was to develop volleyball in England. Apart from leading IBB Polonia London, you led workshops for coaches. Will you continue with this important work?

(PG) I will do everything possible to share my knowledge. There is a lot of thirst for knowledge

in the UK and it continues to grow the time. The great results of IBB Polonia London show that more and more people are keen to find out from me how to improve the sport. I'm working on a book, that will help coaches to develop their careers.

(Ed): So how has IBB Polonia changed during your two-year tenure?

(PG) When I moved from a fully professional club to a semi-professional club two years ago, the beginning was quite an eye-opener for me. I had to introduce my philosophy step by step; sometimes big changes were needed, at other times small details, but when the changes bore fruit, it became easier to instil yet further change. I consider the biggest change to be the change in attitudes during training sessions, where more professional behaviours of the players were required. I'm really pleased that I leave the team in a much better situation in terms of their approach

to sport. I keep my fingers crossed that the development will continue in the right direction.

(Ed): What changes must be brought into England so that they eventually catch up with Europe?

(PG) The most important issue is to learn from other countries. There are many players, organisations and coaches who could be much better if they could only see how their roles look overseas. I tried to develop the education of volleyball during my time in London; I attempted to awaken the desire to be better. There is a response, albeit smaller than I had anticipated; if the development continues in the same manner then England really has a chance of rapidly moving forward in volleyball.

Piotr Graban: born in 1986; Polish Volleyball Coach. One of the most decorated young coaches in Poland. Graduated from AWFIS Gdansk.





# IBB Polonia London

## win silver in Championship of England

**The finals of the season took place in the weekend of the 5th and 6th May. It was the closing event of the Super 8 being played in the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering.**

The players had two matches to play against Team Northumbria and lost the first encounter on Saturday 3:1 (22:25; 25:23; 25:22; 25:20), and on Sunday 3:0 (25:17; 25:18; 25:12). The players

from the North fought tooth and nail won the gold medals. Piotr Graban's charges managed to smile after the winning point as they were awarded the silver medals. The encounter was televised live by BBC Sport's website; the media giant.

IBB Polonia London was unbeatable over the previous two seasons and went home as gold medal winners on both occasions. The desire to beat the best team in England was the inspiration for Team Northumbria, who have a number of top young English players in their ranks. Their performance was spectacular and played exceptionally

well over both legs. On Saturday, the match was incredibly tightly contested, and on Sunday with teams gave everything they had on court, but sadly Graban's players could not stem the flow from the other side of the net.

"Of course I am disappointed, because we have been so dominant over the last two years. I am displeased with the Saturday game, because we should have won that game. We had our chances, but simply didn't take our opportunities that we were presented with. We gave 100%: we really did! This is a good lesson and motivation



for the future. We want to win back the gold medals next season." commented captain Bartosz Kisielewicz.

"Maybe we wanted to win too much. We had our chances on Saturday, but there were a series of mix ups with the score and the referees during the match knocked us out of our rhythm and we never regained our composure. Team Northumbria approached the game on Sunday with total concentration, and showed a level of volleyball that we simply couldn't match: they deserved the win. Big congratulations to them! I would like to thank my team; coaching staff, support staff and of course the fans. They have been fantastic this season. I feel as though we have become World Champions together this season and believe the season has been a success. I am very proud of them all, because everyone worked so hard. We

gave everything of ourselves." commented Head Coach of IBB Polonia London, Piotr Graban.

"I am proud and am happy with the medal. I know we will win the gold medal next year. I want to congratulate the opponents today who became Champions of England." added Club Chairman of IBB Polonia London Bartek Luszcz.

As always, the fans of IBB Polonia London were the loudest in the entire arena. They supported with all of their strength and urged their players to even greater action. This was the final effort of the season and there will be time now to draw breath and to make our own conclusions for the season. There is a lot of evidence of how much work has gone into building this team this season and of the changes taking place in our sport in England.

"We finished the season strongly, and consider it as a very successful one. We are right at the

top of the pecking order in English volleyball and have been the top team in the country over the last few years as a total. We focussed a lot of attention in our development of the business side of our club and this has been an enormous success. We are the pioneers of the marketing of volleyball in England and one of our aims is to popularise volleyball in the UK. Our games were broadcast by the very best sports television channel, we sold many shares to investors in our Club, we gained many new sponsors, and this is evidence that on a day to day basis are getting closer to realising the ambitions that we set out at the start of the season." added Chairman of IBB Polonia London, Bartek Luszcz.

IBB Polonia London is the five time Champion of England (1985-86, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2016-17).





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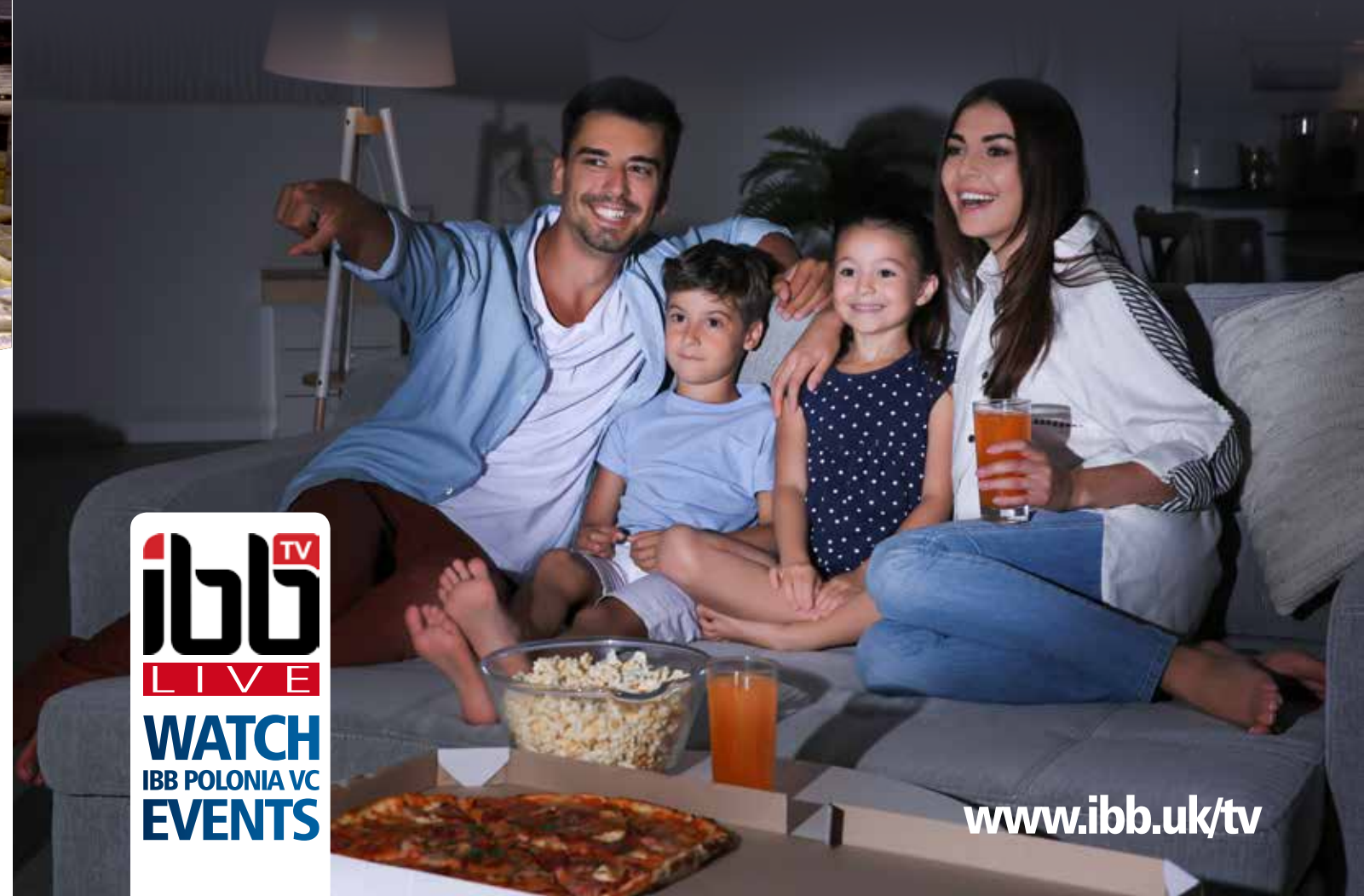
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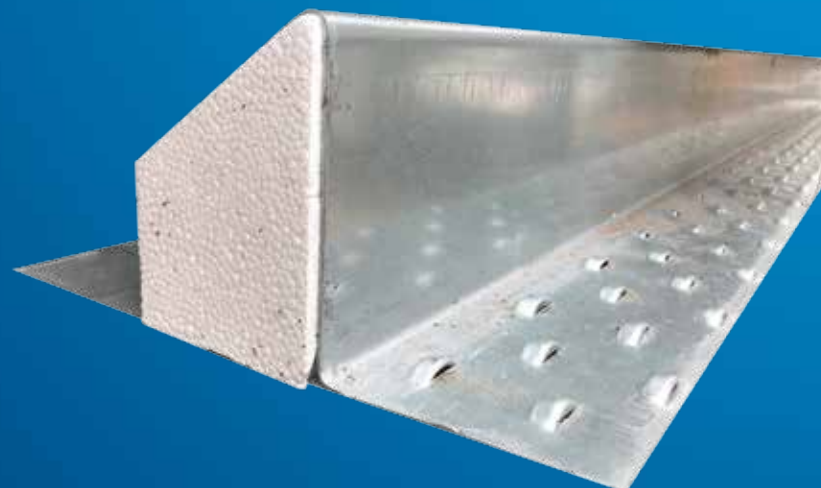


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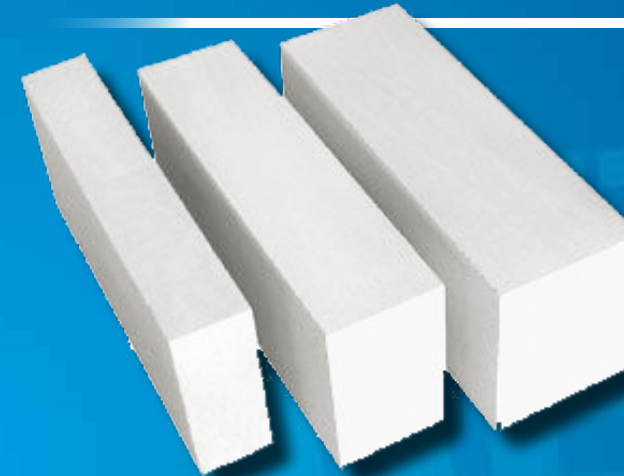
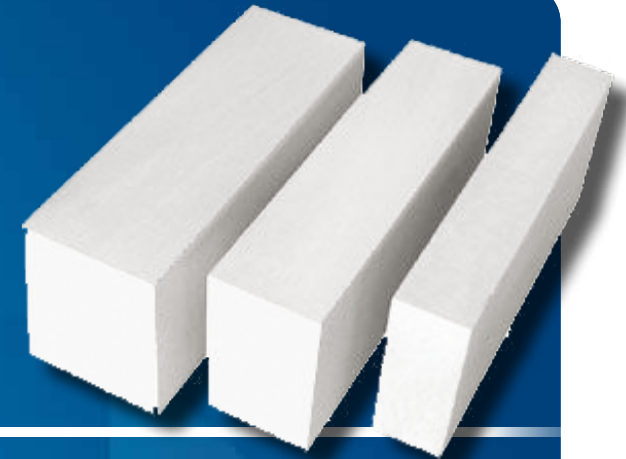
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