



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® RULES AND GUIDELINES

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SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® RULES

General Rules & Guidelines

1. During the competition, the competitors' work methods in the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 shall be as close as possible to an actual jobsite situation.
2. The bricklayer must lift all his own bricks and trowels of mortar from no more than 5 spot boards and 4 stacks of bricks placed as seen fit on the working side of the wall. These stacks of boards must be set out along the length of the wall in usual working fashion by the bricklayer's helper. No more than 1 helper will be allowed for each bricklayer and must be provided by the bricklayer. Any assistance from the helper or others in placing bricks or tools in the bricklayer's hand or transferring mortar from the spot boards to the wall will result in disqualification.
3. The contestant's helper will set up each contestant's work area utilizing five mortar boards and four stacks of brick following the configuration of the Toughest Tender Contest exactly.
4. Contestants can select location and size of brick stacks and spot boards once the contest starts.
5. The bricklayer is responsible for raising his own quoins at each end of the wall; securing line and pins/corner blocks; and for running each course of bricks. The use of metal, timber or other profile posts, prepared brick quoins or stopped ends are to be excluded.
6. Contestants will need to furnish their own tools for the competition. This includes all hand tools.
7. Contestants will have no more than 60 minutes before the start of the speed contest to temper and adjust their mortar.
8. Contestants will be allotted ample time prior to the competition to place the starter course of block and starter course of brick.
9. Upon completion of the competition, competitors will have a 5 minute rest period followed by 5 minutes to finish the working side of the wall. Competitors will be allowed to use an S Jointer and brush only.
10. Length of the contest will be (60) sixty minutes followed by the 5 minute striking period.

Materials & Construction of Contest Wall

1. Wall will be running bond with return ends.
2. Wall will be a 3" double wall.
3. Two courses of block will be used as base course with the top course laid face shell up.

4. One course of modular (2 1/4" x 3 5/8" x 7 5/8") brick will be placed on the starter block as a brick starter course. This brick will not be counted in the contest.
5. Brick will weigh no less than 3.8 lbs.
6. Length of the wall will be 26 ft on bond (39 brick long per side).
7. Brick will be cut flush – no jointing during the laying portion of the contest and will be finished on the working side of the wall in the finishing portion of the contest.
8. Brick must be laid overhand on back wall.
9. Mortar will be supplied by SPEC MIX, Inc.
10. Wall must be completed so each wythe is within 2 courses of each other. Units laid beyond this tolerance will not be counted in the final brick count.

Quality Standards

1. The top surface of the last course laid is to be checked for true alignment. The level tolerance over the wall length will be 1/4" or less and will be measured by taking a height measurement on each end and in the middle of the wall on the working side to the last completed course from the top of the brick starter course. Competitors will set a pin to mark the points of measure for judging on each end and in the middle on the working side of the wall.
2. Both ends and the face of the wall must be within 1/4" or less of being truly vertical. This will be judged using the mason's level at 4 plumb points at the ends of the wall and one plumb point in the middle of the working side of the wall.
3. All mortar bed and head joints must be cut flush on both sides of the double wall. Failure to do so results in a disqualification.
4. The wall will be allowed 20 voids for the entire project. This will be judged using a striking iron. Upon visual inspection, if there appears to be a void, the judge will attempt to tool the head joint and will bed joint. If the void can be filled reasonable, it will not be a void.
5. Brick in wall must be laid face out. Chipped brick are not to be used in the competition. Lipped brick are not allowed, tolerance is 1/4".
6. Mortar joint thickness tolerance for bed joints are 3/8" +/- 1/8"
7. Mortar joint thickness tolerance for head joints are not less than 1/4" or greater than 3/4".
8. The premise of the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 is to construct a finished quality wall containing as many units as possible in one hour following the rules set forth in this document. Failure to achieve these quality standards will result in a disqualification.
9. First, second and third place will be granted to the masons who have laid the first, second and third most brick in this contest without being disqualified.
10. The Craftsmanship winner will be determined by first narrowing the field down to competitors who have laid at least 500 brick and have not been disqualified. Then the judges will subjectively come into agreement on the wall that they feel is the most sellable through visual inspection.