



KEEPING THE TRADE STRONG

ver.24.338

WALL CONSTRUCTION & COMPETITION RULES

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS & 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. In the event of an unusual circumstance or practice, inconsistent with industry standards and not specifically addressed in these rules, the judges will consult. If deemed unacceptable, a 100-brick deduction will be assessed to the competitor's final brick count.
2. The bricklayer must lift all his own bricks and trowels of mortar from no more than 5 mortar boards and 5 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 tender.
3. The mason tender must be provided by the bricklayer. No more than 1 tender will be allowed for each bricklayer.
4. **Any assistance from the mason tender, or others, in placing bricks or tools in the bricklayer's hand or transferring mortar from the mortar boards to the wall, will result in disqualification.**
5. **The Mason and tender must refrain from physically contacting another contestant's wall and tools. Any physical contact with another contestant's wall or tools will result in disqualification.**
6. The contestant's mason tender will set up each contestant's work area utilizing five mortar boards and five stacks of brick following the exact configuration of the competition layout.
7. Contestants can select location, orientation and size of brick stacks and location of mortar boards once the contest starts.
8. The bricklayer is responsible for raising his or her own line blocks and lines 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 story poles, levels marked for heights or stopped ends are to be excluded. Manufactured line blocks shall not exceed the equivalent height of 3 standard sized line blocks, 5" maximum.
9. Contestants must furnish their own tools for the competition. This includes all hand tools.
10. The day before the World Championship competition, contestants will be allotted ample time to build their starter courses of concrete block and starter course of brick.
11. Upon completion of the 60-minute bricklaying portion of the competition, competitors will be given a 5-minute rest period followed by 20-minute period to finish the entire competition wall. **Contestants must tool both sides and ends of the wall.** Competitors will be allowed to use any standard masonry tool to finish installed units. **Mortar joints must be tooled with a round (U) joint finish and the wall must be brushed.** Water and any other liquids or cleaning agents are not allowed to finish the wall.

MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION OF CONTEST WALL

1. Brick will be laid utilizing a running $\frac{1}{2}$ bond pattern with return ends. Brick will weigh no less than 3 lbs. All brick laid must be full length.
2. The wall will be approximately 8 inches wide, 26 feet 8 inches long, and constructed 2 bricks deep/wide laid in half-running bond pattern totaling 40 brick per side. The wall length is adjustable as needed based on the length of the brick utilized for the competition.
3. The 8-inch width of the wall can be slightly modified at the option of the contestant to accommodate for the width of the brick utilized for the competition.
4. The block starter courses will consist of two courses of 8" concrete block in stack bond pattern. The second course of block will be laid face shell up. The first course can be laid with the face shell up or out at the preference of the competitor.
5. One double wythe course of modular ($2\frac{1}{4}" \times 3\frac{5}{8}" \times 7\frac{5}{8}"$) brick will be placed on the starter block as a brick starter course. This course of brick will not be counted in the contest.
6. **Mortar must be cut flush during the bricklaying portion of the competition—not during the wall finishing session.** Conversely, there is no jointing or finishing the wall during the laying portion of the contest. Joints will be finished on the entire wall (both sides and ends) in the finishing portion of the contest.
7. Brick must be laid overhand on the back wall.
8. Mortar will be supplied by SPEC MIX. Other than retempering water, no mortar additives are allowed.
9. The wall must be completed so the final brick wythes are within 2 courses of the last fully completed double wythe to be counted in the final brick count. Units laid beyond this requirement will not be counted in the final brick count nor judged for quality standard deductions.

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP STANDARDS

1. The premise of the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 is to construct a finished quality wall containing as many units as possible in one hour while following the rules set forth in this document.
2. Entering your competition stall during the judging time will result in immediate disqualification.
3. The top surface of the last full double wythe course laid is to be checked for height. The height tolerance over the wall length will be $\pm \frac{1}{4}"$ 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 double wythe. 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 before the competition starts in the mortar joint under the starter course of brick. Judges will average the 3 height measurements. Each individual measurement cannot vary by more than $\pm \frac{1}{4}"$ from that average. **Failure to meet any or all height points within the tolerance laid out in this standard will result in a 100 brick deduction in the final brick count.**
4. Both ends and the face of the wall must be within $\frac{1}{4}"$ or less of being truly vertical. This will be judged using the competitor's level at 4 plumb points at each end of the wall and one plumb point in the middle of the working side of the wall for a total of 9 plumb points. The level will start at the first brick laid during the competition and the bubble must remain between the lines on the level. **A 50-brick deduction in the final brick count will be assessed for each plumb point failing to meet the plumb point tolerance (maximum 450-brick deduction).**

5. The wall will be allowed no more than 20 voids for the entire project. This will be judged using an S-Jointer. Upon visual inspection, if there appears to be a void, the judge will attempt to tool the head joint and bed joint. If the void can be reasonably filled, it will not be counted as a void. **Exceeding 20 voids will result in a 100-brick deduction in the final brick count.**
6. Brick in the wall must be laid face shell out. **Each brick not laid face shell out will result in a 50-brick deduction from the final brick count on either side of the wall.**
7. Brick with chips greater in size than 1/2" in diameter are not to be used in the competition. **Each brick containing a chip greater in diameter will result in a 50-brick deduction from the final brick count.**
8. Lipped brick in the wall must be less than 1/4". **Each brick determined to be lipped greater than 1/4" will result in a 50-brick deduction from the final brick count.**
9. Mortar joint thickness tolerance for bed joints is not less than 1/4" or greater than 5/8". If there are any bed joints measuring less than 1/4" or greater than 5/8", a 25-brick deduction will be assessed to the final brick count for each joint that does not meet this tolerance. Only one deduction can take place in a single joint for the length of the wall on either side. **The penalty can be assessed for each side of the wall separately, resulting in a potential 50 brick total deduction for a single bed joint on the front and back side of the wall combined.**
10. Mortar joint thickness tolerance for head joints is not less than 1/8" or greater than 3/4". **If there are any head joints exceeding 3/4" or less than 1/8", a 25-brick deduction in the final brick count will be assessed per occurrence (maximum deduction 250 brick). Only one deduction can take place at a single head joint.**
11. Mortar joints must be cut flush during the bricklaying portion of the competition. An infraction will be counted if there is a joint greater than 2" long that protrudes a 1/4" or more at any point. **Failure to cut all protruding mortar will result in a one-time 100-brick deduction.**
12. During the tooling/finishing portion of the contest, contestants must tool and brush both sides and ends of the wall. **If the wall is not completely tooled and brushed the competitor will be assessed a one-time 100-brick deduction.**
13. No foreign objects, tools, accessories or similar shall be laid in the competition wall above the starter course. Examples include but are not limited to line-bars, trigs/twigs or pins. **If any foreign objects are installed/embedded in the competition wall the competitor will be assessed a one-time 100-brick deduction.**
14. Each individual brick on both sides of the wall is to be laid level. Each brick that appears to be out of level or tipped will be judged using a Digital Level (Electronic Level Inclinator Model 40-6080) set to the inches per foot reading. The digital level will be lined up with either the top or bottom edge of a brick that appears to be tipped. **If the brick is out of level by more than 1/4", the competitor will be assessed a 25-brick deduction for each brick found on either side of the wall above the starter course (maximum deduction 250 brick).**
15. First, second and third place will be awarded to the masons who have laid the first, second and third highest brick count while meeting all quality workmanship standards, and after subtracting any deductions set forth in the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 competition rules.
16. The SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMANSHIP winner will be determined by first narrowing the field down to competitors who have laid at least 500 brick and have not had any quality standard deductions—no craftsmanship infractions. If there are no competitors who have laid at least 500 bricks, with no deductions, the total count will be dropped from 500 to 400 with no deductions to determine the TOP CRAFTSMAN winner. If there are no competitors with at least 400 brick and have no deductions, then the eligible contestants will be those who have laid 500 brick with one quality standard deduction. If there are no competitors with a minimum of 500 brick and only one quality standard deduction, the count will be dropped to 400 and one quality standard deduction to determine the eligible TOP CRAFTSMAN award contestants. Then a majority of judges will subjectively come to agreement on the wall that they believe is the best, most

sellable by way of visual inspection. The walls that qualify for the TOP CRAFTSMAN award must be tooled and brushed properly. If more than one eligible wall is determined to be equal in quality by the judges, the wall with the higher brick count will be awarded the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMANSHIP Award. **This is a “judge’s choice” award and their decision in determining the winner is final and is not disputable by the competitors or their representatives.**

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY:

**** NOTE:** Any mason that has competed as a bricklayer in the past two (2) consecutive SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship competitions is ineligible to compete, as a bricklayer, in the following year’s Regional Competitions. Eligibility will be restored after one (1) year of not competing. ******

The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Story:

Established in 2003 to showcase the skill, pride and passion of masons across North America, we created the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500.

As the story goes, in the summer of 2002, while sitting in a tavern sipping on a couple of beers, a couple SPEC MIX sales reps were having an in-depth discussion about all the incredibly talented bricklayers they’ve worked with over the years. The conversation eventually turned to how troubling it is that these amazing craftsmen are rarely recognized or applauded for the skills. Knowing the masons themselves are too humble to speak up or request notoriety, the two SPEC MIX “Mudslingers” decided something had to be done. Subsequently, their thoughts and general game plan for the makings of a world-class bricklaying competition were jotted down on cocktail napkins, and SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 was born. And thankfully, the moment the competition’s concept was shared with the masonry industry, it was embraced with open arms and this masonry craft promotion has flourished to this day.

Now, after 21 exciting years of establishing what is indisputably the world’s greatest display and test of masonry craftsmanship, the focus of the event evolved into a bigger mission: Workforce development. To capitalize on the energy and momentum of the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500, the goal is to seek and establish the generation of bricklayers willing to rise-up and claim their spot masonry’s biggest stage. And to ensure the quest to be named “World’s Best Bricklayer” continues for years to come, SPEC MIX has partnered with event sponsors, masonry instructors and associations, as well as mason contractors to connect with high school and vocational students on the opportunities in masonry. In 2019 the JR. SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 competition originated for one main reason, give prospective masons a chance to have some fun and test their skills. Even though it’s an abbreviated version of the SMBL500, the competition is wildly popular with masonry students and apprentices in training.

The rich legacy of masons and the craft itself started taking shape centuries ago and today it continues to gain value. Whether it’s the craftsmen that built The Coliseum in Rome, or the 26-foot walls built every year at the World of Concrete, every unit is precisely placed because the passion and pride in a mason’s workmanship always prevails. It’s the cornerstone of the masonry industry, and we’re very pleased the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 is the greatest masonry promotion ever.

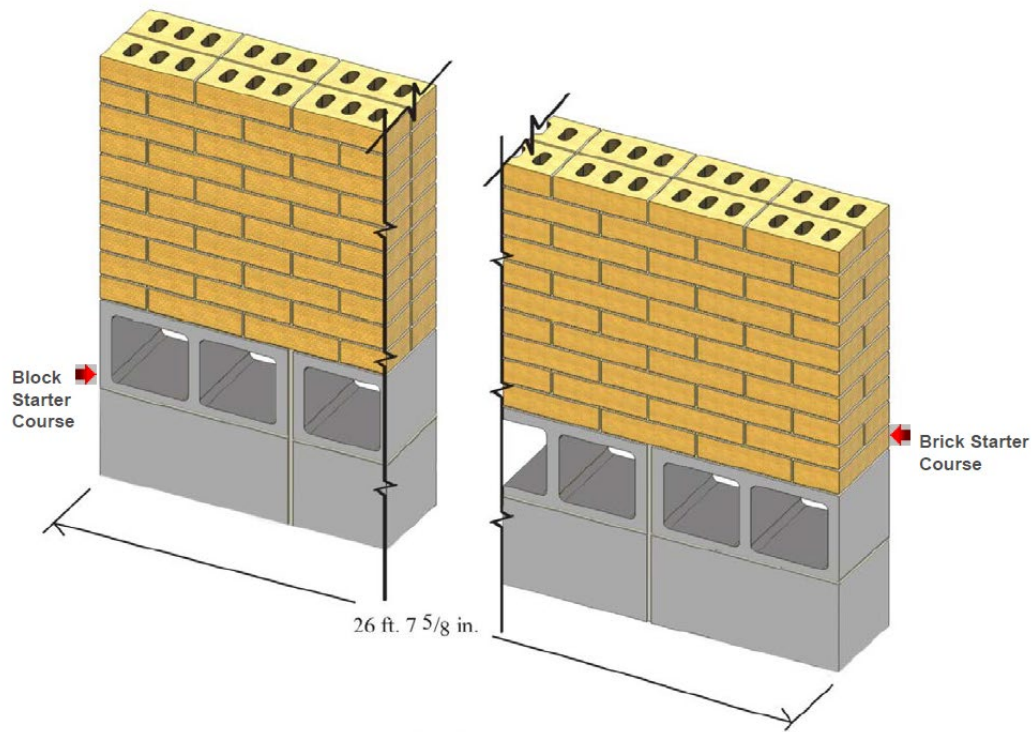
For that we thank all the masons and mason tenders that have supported and competed in a Regional Series or World Championship competition. As we all know, without MASONS, there wouldn’t be MASONRY.

I HAVE RECEIVED, READ, AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES LISTED ABOVE:

PRINT NAME: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____ **DATE:** _____

APPENDIX (Competition Diagrams)

1. Wall Construction



2. Competitor Stall Layout

