

TM-2016-02

Date: 10/19/16

Technical Memorandum

Subject: Minor chips on non-exposed block surfaces

Technical Information:

Chips and other minor defects can occur during production and handling of large precast concrete retaining wall units. Minor chips and defects do not impact the integrity or durability of the wall unit should be acceptable for installation.

All units should be free of chips, cracks, or other defects that interfere with the proper placement of the unit.

Chips within the face or other exposed surfaces (top surface may be partially exposed by unit batter) are primarily aesthetic issues. Within the face, a chip smaller than 1½ in. (38 mm) in its largest dimension is judged acceptable. Other voids or inconsistencies in the exposed face smaller than ¾ in. (19 mm) are acceptable. Larger chips or voids may be acceptable if patched in a manner that is not visible at a distance of 10 ft. (3 m) from the wall face.

On the un-exposed back, side, and interior surfaces of the block, minor chips with a depth that does not extend more than 15 percent through the section and that cover no more than 36 sq. in. (230 sq cm) of surface area should be judged acceptable. Deeper or larger chips may be cause for rejection, but can be accepted if they do not impact the integrity of the unit in the judgment of the responsible engineer. Larger chips may be judged in the context of placement location within the finished retaining wall. For example, top units that have a chipped or broken rear wing will not impact the stability of the top course, and should generally be accepted for installation into the finished wall.

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Distribution: All Dealers, wall designers

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