

Producer members

Producers offer mainland UK coverage unless otherwise stated

Breedon Aggregates 01332 694000

www.breedonaggregates.com

CEMEX UK Materials Ltd 01932 568833

www.cemex.co.uk

CPI Mortars Ltd 0845 850 9090

www.euromix.com

Hanson 0845 845 6699

www.hanson.biz

Hugh King & Co 01294 557515

www.hughking.co.uk

John Carr (Liverpool) Ltd 0151 2070067

(Liverpool)

Premier Mortars 0845 603 3406

www.marshalls.co.uk/premiermortars

RTU 02890 851441

www.rtu.co.uk (Belfast)

Remix Dry Mortar Ltd 01329 231200

www.remixdrymortar.co.uk

Smiths Concrete Ltd 01295 278177

www.smithsconcrete.co.uk (Oxfordshire)

Tarmac Building Products 08701 116116

www.tarmacbuildingproducts.co.uk

Learning about mortars

The MIA has developed a series of learning texts to aid training in matters associated with the specification and use of mortars.

Subjects covered include an introduction to mortars, cementitious materials, aggregates admixtures and additives; brick and block manufacture; mortar specification, production and delivery; testing and quality assurance.

To download texts, go to www.mortar.org.uk/resources/learning_texts.php

Housing market on the up



New dawn for UK housing?

Experience of MIA producer members and hard statistics from the NHBC show that new house building is well underway again but commercial property development remains stagnant.

According to the NHBC, the number of new homes registered in the UK increased by 14% for the rolling quarter December to February compared to the same period last year.

In total 29,557 new homes were registered from December 2013 to February 2014, compared to 26,004 for the corresponding period 12 months ago.

However, the latest figures reveal that the February total of 9,484 registrations was slightly down on last February (10,538). This could be a knock on effect of the bad weather experienced at the start of the year.

NHBC's commercial director Richard Tamayo said: 'Although the results for February in isolation are not particularly strong, the rolling quarter shows that the

number of new homes being registered continues to increase.

'Our latest statistics show there is still a way to go before the country starts seeing figures on a par with pre-recession registration statistics, but the new measures revealed in the Budget show that the government remains committed to boosting the house-building sector.'

MIA marketing committee chairman, David Stewart, said: 'We welcome the upturn in the housing market which is good news for the country at last although the present level of new housing is still well behind the levels government stated we needed from a couple of years back. Then it was said we needed some 250,000 new houses built each year. We still can't be expecting to achieve 150,000 in 2014.

'We also have some concerns about the shortage in the UK of bricks and blocks and hope that manufacturers can bring back on line some of the production units mothballed as a result of the economic turnaround since 2008.'

RTU supplies Ravenhill, the home of Ulster Rugby



The Ravenhill ground

Ravenhill is the home of Ulster Rugby, but also hosts finals of club and school competitions from under 10 mini rugby to the senior clubs final. In August 2007 Ravenhill hosted its first senior Ireland international match in 53 years when Ireland took on Italy in a Rugby World Cup warm-up game on 24th August.

In 2010 Ulster Rugby submitted a business case to government, requesting funding from the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure to modernise the Ravenhill Ground by building new stands at the Aquinas and car park ends of the ground and to replace the existing grandstand. In

November 2012 £14.7 million of funding was secured.

Ulster Rugby appointed Gilbert-Ash NI Ltd to carry out the construction work. It began in November 2012 and will be completed by the summer of 2014. The project will see the existing stadium increase its capacity from 11,400 to 18,000 spectators. With the increased numbers that the new-look ground will be able to hold, Ravenhill will be capable of hosting a RaboDirect PRO12 final or a Heineken Cup quarter final.

RTU was delighted to be selected as a supplier of

ready-mixed mortar and concrete to this prestigious project. The RTU name is synonymous in Northern Ireland with consistency in product quality and service, offering flexible solutions to daily site requirements. RTU mortar is compliant with BS EN 998-2, the current European Standard, the most stringent specification in strength requirements whereas traditional methods offer no such assurance or consistency.

Ciaran Leahy, site supervisor of Gilbert-Ash NI Ltd, commented: "RTU provided an excellent service, accommodating the demands of the project whilst providing quality products."

Changes to Eurocode 6 - a summary

Changes have been made to the 2013 version of the UK national annex to Eurocode 6. Professor John Roberts (www.johnroberts.org.uk) gives Mortar News a summary.

A new version of BS EN 1996-1-1 (Eurocode 6) was produced in 2012 but there were no significant changes that affect UK design. In producing the UK national annex to BS EN 1996-1-1, however, the opportunity was taken to respond to the limited feedback on its use to date and address some issues which resulted in poorer design outcomes than had previously been achieved from design to BS 5628.

Key changes made include:

- Reinforced masonry is now restricted to M 6 or M 12 mortar (does not include bed joint reinforcement used to improve lateral load resistance, for example)
- Lower partial factors for the flexural strength of wall panels are permitted when the removal of the panel would not affect the overall stability of the building
- The partial factor for wall ties was reduced from 3.5 to 3.0
- Footnote A, paragraph b to table NA.1 was updated to

give more guidance on site-mixed mortar

- A new column was added to table NA.2 to show the environmental condition in which the mortar is suitable for use (P, M or S)
- The following sentence was added to the end of footnote A to table NA.2: *For Class 2 of execution control, site compressive strength testing is not required for these traditional mixes and checking of prescribed mortars should only be done by testing the proportions of the constituents.*
- Table NA.3 dealing with cements was updated
- Table NA.4 dealing with K values used in the calculation of the characteristic compressive strength of masonry was updated to give better design results for concrete blocks
- In clause NA.2.4, the limit on the mortar strength was modified to indicate that it should not exceed the normalised strength of the masonry unit and the design of collar jointed walls was clarified
- In table NA.5, the column four heading dealing with thin layer mortar was adjusted
- Table NA.8 was updated for steel types

- Clause NA.4 was updated with additional NCCI design guidance.

These changes have been incorporated in the three, free design guides available from www.eurocode6.org



essential materials
sustainable solutions

**mortar
industry
association**

Gillingham House
38-44 Gillingham Street
London, SW1V 1HU

Tel +44 (0)20.7963 8000
Fax +44 (0)20.7963 8001
info@mineralproducts.org
www.mortar.org.uk

MIA is part of the Mineral Products Association, the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, lime, mortar and silica sand industries