

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

MIA sponsors architects' category in Brick Awards

MIA is sponsoring the 'Architect's Choice' category of the annual Brick Awards organised by the Brick Development Association..

The 2014 awards presentation ceremony will take place in London in November.

'This category is especially relevant to the mortar industry because of the aesthetic effect factory-produced mortar can have on a project which is very much the architect's province,' said MIA marketing group chairman David Stewart.

Demonstrating environmental credentials



Market pressure seems one of the main driving forces behind acceptance of the increasing number of requirements to define construction products' environmental credentials.

That is the view expressed recently at a meeting of the MIA's executive committee when discussing the industry's need to develop environmental product declarations (EPDs).

Under the European standard EN 15804, EPDs are defined as 'environmental declarations which provide quantified environmental data using predetermined parameters – based on life cycle assessment – and, where relevant, additional environmental information'. BRE has likened them to the nutritional information found on food products, although they are not primarily aimed at consumers and so far are voluntary. But that could change with EU legislation. EPDs could become effectively mandatory under the Construction Products Regulation's Basic Requirement for Construction Works no 7, 'Sustainable use of natural resources'. Indeed, the March 2013 version of the Green Construction Board 'Carbon routemap to 2020' already suggests generic EPDs could become compulsory after 2017.

But what will the market demand be for EPDs on factory-produced mortar?

Construction products are already widely covered by environmental reporting. BRE's 'Green guide' draws on EPD-style information and, in turn, BRE's BREEAM and the civil engineers' CEEQUAL both award credits based on that guide.

However, specifiers may struggle to understand how to use EPDs and to compare and assess the significance of the 24 parameters covered. Some industry experts balance this by saying more tools and methods will become available to help. In particular, a wider use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) as it develops is being suggested. BIM is already being used by some design teams and major contractors on projects but BIM will become even more widely used following a government mandate requiring all large public sector contracts from 2016 to be BIM-enabled.

In short, will market demand ultimately dictate the need for the factory-produced mortar industry to supply generic EPDs? With no initial agreement on the way forward it is a question for debate by MIA members over the coming months.

Premier Mortars provides load-bearing support for affordable housing



St Teresa's Court, Perry Barr, Birmingham

The load bearing properties of factory-produced mortar from Premier Mortars came to the fore in the recent construction by Walsall-based Bullock Construction of the St Teresa's Court apartment complex in Perry Barr, Birmingham.

St Teresa's, which sits next to a Roman catholic church of the same name, has been built by the Trident Social Investment Group in conjunction with Cornerstone Regeneration, a charity that handles developments for the Roman catholic church. The complex has 42 apartments. Of these,

16 one-bedded and 21 two-bedded are available to people over the age of 55 at affordable rents, while a further five two-bedded apartments are being offered for shared ownership.

The structure consists entirely of load-bearing walls and only a very small amount of structural steel has been used in the building and even this was supported by concrete block walls rather than steel columns. The integrity of the walls - through the M4 specification mortar, ties and expansion joints - was therefore key to building the structure which also employed precast concrete planks in the

construction. These varied in weight, with the heaviest being approximately 4.0 tonnes.

Bullock Construction site manager, Aidan Roberts, said: 'The construction programme called for a delivery of the precast planks approximately every 15 working days. This required walls being built and cured within this period. This was tight due to site constraints and weather conditions. Premier Mortars supplies to site were paramount to maintain progress and meet plank deliveries. Generally, Premier Mortars provided a good service to site.'

Mortar learning texts revamped

The MIA learning text package has been relaunched in a new format for use by colleges and for company induction purposes.

Thirteen texts are now available designed to guide a user through the whole process of mortar use and production, from its origins 10,000 years ago to the application of the modern factory-produced materials that are so widely used on building sites today. MIA director, Brian James said: 'We believe the contents of the texts are as relevant to an apprentice bricklayer as to a seasoned specifier. The texts range from an introduction to mortar, through properties of masonry mortar and from production to quality assurance.

'The redesign makes the text more readable and the fact they are sitting on our website for free download means they are highly accessible too.'

As added learning aids, each text contains a glossary of terms, a bibliography and a set of self-assessment questions and answers.

The full list of learning texts is:

- Part 1 Introduction to mortar
- Part 2 Cementitious materials
- Part 3 Aggregates
- Part 4 Admixtures, additives and water
- Part 5 Brick and block production
- Part 6 Properties of masonry mortar
- Part 7 Production, delivery and storage of mortar
- Part 8 Mortar testing
- Part 9 Specifications
- Part 10 Quality assurance
- Part 11 Construction
- Part 12 Properties of rendering mortar
- Part 13 Best practice - potential site problems

Link to the learning text page on the MIA website is http://www.mortar.org.uk/technical_information/learning_texts.php



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

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