

Fall 2011

## Testing and Specifications for ThinBrick - out of square

### The Importance of Choosing the Right Brick

Many tests are required and standards set to ensure the success of thin brick used in commercial construction. ASTM C-1088 is the standard specification for thin veneer brick units made from clay or shale used as exterior grade thin brick.

One type within this category is TBX. In this article we will look at the importance of using type TBX thin brick for many commercial applications. We will also look more specifically at the importance of meeting the out of square standard for type TBX.

### Types of Thin Brick

Under ASTM C-1088, there are three categories or 'types' of thin brick, type TBS (standard), type TBA (architectural) and type TBX (select). Type TBX is the focus of this discussion. It is also the standard METROBRICK® meets and exceeds.

Type TBX thin brick conforms to a 'higher degree of precision and lower permissible variation in size' than permitted for the other categories. As stated, type TBX is sometimes referred to as 'Select'.

TBX is the thin brick 'type' that should be used for commercial projects where uniformity is essential. In concrete forms it is imperative that the brick fit snugly into the liner to prevent slurry from seeping to the front of the panel, for example. It may also be an important aesthetic that there is consistency throughout the design - another example.

### Out of Square Standard

ASTM C-67 Out of Square standard is used for determining whether or not a thin brick meets the dimensional variation requirements of Type TBX or falls into another less stringent category.

In order to meet TYPE TBX the thin brick must have a dimensional variance no greater than **Plus or Minus 1/16 in.**

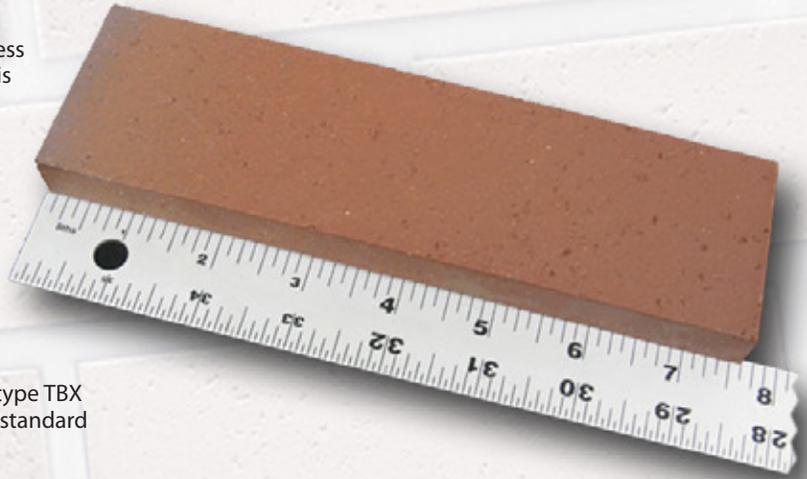
### A Step Further

METROBRICK® not only meets the standard for TBX thin brick, but goes beyond the standard to produce modular thin brick with the even more exacting variance requirement of **Plus 0 to Minus 1/16 in.**

They do this to ensure that METROBRICK® will be the best kiln fired thin brick option for any form liner in the industry. And, they do so without grinding the bricks which in turn would compromise the body. In other words, they manufacture METROBRICK® to specifications of +0 to minus 1/16" for modular brick.

### Why Plus Zero

METROBRICK® goes to the extreme step of manufacturing modular thin brick to a tolerance of +0 because they know that for thin brick in concrete panel construction, it is imperative that the bricks fit snugly and 'lock' into a liner system.



METROBRICK® specializes in producing brick for concrete panel construction and they know that any size variance on the plus side will affect how the brick 'sets' in the form.

The bricks need to set correctly to prevent them from popping out during pour, vibrating and curing of the concrete. If the bricks are even slightly too large, they may pop out, causing a need for costly repairs to the panel.

### Conclusion

When selecting thin brick be sure to select the type of thin brick for your particular application.

As has been discussed, size variation is one important aspect to consider. For some commercial applications it may not be too important, for other applications it may be critical. ■



How the thin brick fits into the liner during panel production can directly affect the look of the finished project.



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