SEPTEMBER 2013 EXTRA

Water remaining in concrete

The article regarding water retained in a concrete slab should read as follows: For buildings with 100 mm thick concrete floor slabs, there is approximately 17 litres that has to dry from the slab for every square metre of floor area when it is poured. One week after the pour, this will have reduced to around 11 litres/m^2. Under good drying conditions, the drying of remaining moisture so that the floor is dry enough for tiles or vinyl to be laid will take at least 4 months.

More on brick veneer mortar

With respect to brick veneer mortar, a key factor in veneer performance is the bond between the brick and the mortar. NZS 4210 specifies that the bond strength between masonry units and mortar must be more than 200 kPa when tested in accordance with Appendix 2B of NZS 4210. Mixes specified in Table 2.1 of the standard should achieve a bond strength in excess of 200 kPa. With respect to mortar compressive strengths, proprietary pre-mixed mortars are typically designed to give a mortar compressive strength of greater than 12.5 MPa.

Clarification on copper quaternary timber treatment

It is correct that Amendment 5 of NZS 3640 *Chemical preservation of round and sawn timber* confirmed the term 'copper quaternary' to describe preservatives based on copper and quaternary ammonium compounds (preservative code number 90), whereas the previous versions of the standard referred to 'alkaline copper quaternary' preservatives. Copper quaternary timber preservative has been around for over 10 years and is not a new treatment as inferred in the September Guideline. However, the revised standard is 'new'. Copper quaternary is a fixed waterborne preservative, and no new carrier system for copper quaternary preservatives was incorporated in Amendment 5. The standard does not use the CQ abbreviation as indicated in our article. Amendment 5 to NZS 3640 removes creosote as a treatment option and adds two additional copper-based waterborne treatments for hazard classes H3.2, H4 and H5:

- Micronised copper quaternary with a preservative code number of 89. In this treatment, the micro-sized copper particles are suspended (with the aid of a dispersant) in water rather than dissolved in water. The preservative uses a quat biocide system (known as MCQ), which is a variation of ammoniacal copper quaternary.
- Micronised copper azole with a preservative code number of 88.

Other changes include the following:

- Azoles for H3.1 were approved in a waterborne carrier (previously only in LOSP).
- Waterborne azoles were included in H1.2 (and the use of H1.2 treated timber for framing was clarified).
- A new low-aromatics solvent (D40) was approved for LOSP.
- A glue-line additive treatment was approved for LVL in H1.2.

New Building Basics YouTube clip

A YouTube clip on the Building Basics series of publications has just been uploaded to the BRANZmedia YouTube channel.

BRANZ Passive Design seminar

The dates for the two Wellington seminars have been changed from that notified in the September Guideline. Correct dates are 18 November Wellington and 20 November Upper Hutt. Registration should be available on the BRANZ website in the first week of October.