

Cladding Works

This practice note amalgamates Practice Notes for Authorized Persons and Registered Structural Engineers (PNAP) 59 and 256 in respect of cladding works. PNAP 256 is withdrawn with immediate effect.

2. Cladding means a facing or architectural decoration additional to the external walls of building: e.g. aluminium or metal cladding, polished granite slabs or limestone cladding, marble facing and the like. Cladding should comply with the performance requirements stipulated in the Building (Construction) Regulation 39 in respect of material type, fixings, strength and durability.

3. Cladding shall be provided with sufficient permanently flexible joints horizontally and vertically to cater for differential movement in the cladding and in the structure to which it is attached. All external anchors, dowels and fixings should be of stainless steel or other corrosion resistant materials. Any metal dowels and fixings securing the cladding panels should be suitable, permanent and adequately protected from corrosion. For testing of anchors and cladding panels, see paragraphs 9 to 15 below.

Submission of Cladding Plans

4. Where cladding is to be affixed to any part of the exterior of a building, details such as the location and material should be shown in the general building plan for approval by the Building Authority. When the cladding to be installed is above 6 metres from the adjoining ground level, in addition to the building plans, details such as the thickness, strength, durability, and type of the cladding, material of fixings and sequence of support should also be shown in the structural plans. Failure to do so may result in delay or refusal to give approval to the cladding submission. As regards the fixings of stone cladding, sand/cement bedding and/or epoxy bonding alone is not considered a suitable and permanent fixing.

5. The following details are required to be included in the structural plans for cladding for submission to the Building Authority for approval:

- (a) structural framing and details of structural elements excluding any unnecessary shop fabrication details;
- (b) elevations including location of expansion joints;
- (c) anchors and support details;
- (d) design standards and codes of practice;

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- (e) material specifications for structural steel, aluminium alloy, granite/marble and anchors;
- (f) workmanship specifications for welding, galvanization and measures to overcome bi-metallic effects; and
- (g) structural calculations comprising design check on the parent structure, analysis on the structural adequacy and stability of the proposed cladding system, element design for granite/marble, aluminium or metal cladding and deflection check on major load carrying members, if applicable.

Separate Registered Structural Engineer

6. In view of the speciality of cladding works, a separate Registered Structural Engineer (RSE) may be appointed to prepare the design and to supervise the carrying out of such works. Under such circumstances, the specified Forms BA4 and BA5 indicating the appointment of the separate RSE and the scope of works for which he/she is responsible are required to be submitted together with the plans submitted for approval. Upon completion of the works, the separate RSE so appointed is required to certify satisfactory completion of the works in accordance with Building (Administration) Regulation 25(3).

7. When structural details for cladding works are submitted by the separate RSE, the submission should be accompanied by an assessment report prepared by him/her giving an account of the effect of the proposed works to the parent structure. The assessment report should be appended with a statement signed by the project RSE to confirm that he/she is fully aware of the connection details and the effect of the works on the parent structure.

8. The separate RSE who is appointed for the cladding works shall be responsible for the supervision of the construction of such works, including the installation of any cast-in anchorage e.g. anchor plates, cast-in embeds and through bolts, etc., in the parent structure except in the event where the cast-in anchorage has been pre-installed in the parent structure prior to his/her appointment. For such cases, the structural details and layout of the pre-installed parts should be given in the superstructural plans to be submitted for approval by the project RSE who shall then be responsible for the supervision of the installation of such parts. The separate RSE should refer to the pre-installed connection details when designing the cladding works and should co-ordinate with the project RSE for necessary amendment if different connection details are to be used.

Tests on Anchors

9. On-site strength tests should be carried out on a representative number of each type and size of drilled-in anchors for those parts of the cladding above 6 metres from the adjoining ground level. Such tests are necessary to verify the performance and workmanship of the anchors installed and should be carried out under the direction of the RSE or Authorized Person (AP).

10. Each representative anchor should be tested by pull-out test to demonstrate that its pull-out capacity is not less than 1.5 times the recommended tensile load as specified by the anchor manufacturer. The tested anchor should be considered satisfactory if it does not show any signs of separation, plastic deformation or deleterious effect during the test.

Tests on Stone Cladding Panels

11. Stone cladding is a natural material. The mechanical properties, physical properties and chemical properties can vary considerably between different types and grades of stones. Tests on stone cladding panels are required to be carried out to verify the characteristic strengths adopted in the design and to form part of the quality assurance during construction. The characteristic strengths shall be not less than three times that of the designed strengths used.

12. When stone cladding is to be used, the following tests are required to be carried out for each type of stone:

- (a) flexural strength test of dimension stone to ASTM C880 – Standard Test Method for Flexural Strength of Dimension Stone or to BS EN12372 – Natural Stone Test Methods, Determination of Flexural Strength under Concentrated Load or to other appropriate equivalent standards; and
- (b) strength test of individual stone anchorage to ASTM C1354 – Standard Test Method for Strength of Individual Stone Anchorages in Dimension Stone or to other appropriate equivalent standards.

13. As limestone is highly susceptible to acid rain and may deteriorate quickly when being used as exterior cladding material, in addition to paragraph 12 above, aged strength testing to simulate weathering due to extreme temperature change and extreme moisture content change should be carried out for limestone cladding to demonstrate that the residual flexural and anchorage capacities are not less than 80% of those obtained in the standard tests specified in paragraph 12 above. The aim of aged strength testing is to simulate the conditions in which limestone panels are fully saturated and return to their driest conditions and to simulate the critical temperature changes during their intended life.

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14. At least 5 test specimens are selected at random from batches of stone delivered to site for each of the test specified in paragraphs 12 and 13 above.

15. The test should be carried out by or under the direction and supervision of a testing agency independent of the supplier of the stone cladding. The test results should be certified by the testing agency, and endorsed by the AP/RSE to confirm that the test results have reached the required characteristic strengths adopted in the design. No consent for the commencement of the stone cladding works will be given until the test reports specified in paragraphs 12(a), 12(b) and 13 above for each type and grade of stone, selected randomly from the first batch of stone delivered to site, have been submitted and found to be satisfactory by the Building Authority. However, if there are difficulties in arranging test specimens to be delivered to site, specimens may be selected from the blocks of stones at the quarry that are to be used on the proposed project.

Design and Construction Standards

16. Standards commonly used for the design and construction of cladding works, which are acceptable to the Building Authority, are given in Appendix A.

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**Standards Commonly Used for the
Design & Construction of Cladding Works
Acceptable to the Building Authority**

Reference Standards

The standards listed in this appendix are intended to provide reference information only for the purpose of design and construction of cladding works. It should be noted that:

- (a) the standards listed are not meant to be exhaustive;
- (b) national standards and codes of practice of various countries, though similar in major aspects, do not have exact equivalence to one another;
- (c) should a certain design standard be adopted, it should be applied to the design consistently; and
- (d) Building Regulations shall always take precedence over other design standards should there be a conflict between them.

A. Material & Workmanship

Material & Workmanship	Standard	Title
Steel	Hong Kong Code of Practice	Code of Practice for the Structural Use of Steel 2005
Aluminium	BS 1161:1977(1991)	Specification for aluminium alloy sections for structural purposes
	BS 1470:1987	Specification for wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys for general engineering purposes: plate, sheet and strip
	BS 1473:1972(2002)	Specification for wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys for general engineering purposes – rivet, bolt and screw stock

Stainless Steel	BS 1474:1987	Specification for wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys for general engineering purposes: bars, extruded round tubes and sections
	BS 3571:Part 1:1985	Specification for MIG welding of aluminium and aluminium alloys
	BS 8118-2:1991	Structural use of aluminium – Specification for materials, workmanship and protection
	BS 1449:Part 2:1983	Specification for stainless and heat-resisting steel plate, sheet and strip
Sealant	BS 6105:1981	Specification for corrosion-resistant stainless steel fasteners
	BS 7475:1991	Specification for fusion welding of austenitic stainless steels
	BS 6213:2000	Selection of construction sealants. Guide

B. Design

Design	Standard	Title
Steel	Hong Kong Code of Practice	Code of Practice for the Structural Use of Steel 2005
Aluminium	CP 118:1969	The structural use of aluminium
	BS 8118-1:1991	Structural use of aluminium – Code of practice for design
Natural Stone	BS 8298:1994	Code of practice for design and installation of natural stone cladding & lining

/C. Testing

C. Testing

Testing	Standard	Title
Sealant	BS 3712: Part 1:1991(1996) Part 2:1973(2000) Part 3:1974(2000) Part 4:1991(1996)	Building and construction sealants: Methods of test for homogeneity, relative density and penetration Methods of test for seepage, staining, shrinkage, shelf life and paintability Methods of test for application life, skinning properties and tack-free time Method of test for adhesion in peel
Anchors	BS 5080: Part 1:1993 Part 2:1986(1993)	Structural fixings in concrete and masonry: Method of test for tensile loading Method for determination of resistance to loading in shear

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