



General Instructions & Guidelines

1. During the competition, the competitors' work methods in the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® shall be as close as possible to an actual jobsite situation.
2. The bricklayer must lift all his own bricks and trowels of mortar from no more than 5 mortar boards and 5 stacks of bricks placed as seen fit on the working side of the wall. These stacks of boards must be set out along the length of the wall in usual working fashion by the bricklayer's tender.
3. The tender must be provided by the bricklayer. No more than 1 tender will be allowed for each bricklayer.
4. Any assistance from the tender or others in placing bricks or tools in the bricklayer's hand or transferring mortar from the mortar boards to the wall will result in disqualification.
5. The contestant's tender will set up each contestant's work area utilizing five mortar boards and five stacks of brick following the configuration of the contest exactly.
6. Contestants can select location, orientation and size of brick stacks and location of mortar boards once the contest starts.
7. The bricklayer is responsible for raising his own line blocks and lines at each end of the wall; securing line and pins/corner blocks, and for running each course of bricks. The use of metal, timber or other profile posts, prepared story poles, levels marked for heights or stopped ends are to be excluded.
8. Contestants will need to furnish their own tools for the competition. This includes all hand tools.
9. Contestants will be allotted ample time prior to the competition to place the starter courses of block and starter course of brick.
10. Upon completion of the competition, competitors will have a 5 minute rest period followed by 20 minutes to finish the entire competition panel (both sides and ends). Competitors will be allowed to use any standard masonry tool to finish the working side of the wall. Mortar joints must be tooled with a round (U) joint finish and the wall must be brushed. Water and any other liquids or cleaning agents are not allowed to be used to finish the wall.
11. Length of the contest will be 60 minutes followed by a 5 minute rest period and 20 minute tooling period.

Materials & Construction of Contest Wall

1. Brick will be laid utilizing a running $\frac{1}{2}$ bond pattern with return ends.
2. The wall will be approximately 8" wide, constructed 2 brick deep. The width of the wall can be slightly modified at the option of the contestant to accommodate for the depth of the brick utilized for the competition.
3. The block starter courses will consist of two courses of 8" block in stack bond pattern. The second course will be laid face shell up. The first course can be laid with the face shell up or out at the preference of the competitor.
4. One double wythe course of modular (2 1/4" x 3 5/8" x 7 5/8") brick will be placed on the starter block as a brick starter course. This brick will not be counted in the contest.
5. Brick will weigh no less than 3 lbs.
6. Length of the wall will be 26 ft. 8 in. laid on 1/2 running bond (40 brick long per side), adjustable as needed based on the length of the brick utilized for the competition.
7. Mortar will be cut flush. There is no jointing during the laying portion of the contest. Joints will be finished on the entire wall (both sides and ends) in the finishing portion of the contest.
8. Brick must be laid overhand on back wall.
9. Mortar will be supplied by SPEC MIX, Inc.
10. The wall must be completed so the final brick wythes are within 2 courses of each other to be counted in the final brick count. Units laid beyond this requirement will not be counted in the final brick count.

Quality Standards

1. The top surface of the last full double wythe course laid is to be checked for height. The height tolerance over the wall length will be +/- 1/4" or less and will be measured by taking a height measurement on each end and in the middle of the wall on the working side to the last completed double wythe. Competitors will set a pin to mark the points of measure for judging on each end and in the middle on the working side of the wall before the competition starts in the mortar joint under the starter course of brick. Judges will average the 3 height measurements. Each individual measurement cannot vary by more than +/- 1/4" from that average. Failure to meet any or all height points within the tolerance laid out in this standard will result in a 100 brick deduction in the final brick count.
2. Both ends and the face of the wall must be within 1/4" or less of being truly vertical. This will be judged using the mason's level at 4 plumb points at each end of the wall and one plumb point in the middle of the working side of the wall for a total of 9 plumb points. The level will start at the first brick laid during the competition and the bubble must remain between the lines on the level. A 50 brick deduction in the final brick count will be assessed for each plumb point failing to meet the plumb point tolerance (maximum 450 brick deduction).
3. All mortar bed and head joints must be cut flush on both sides of the double wythe wall during the 60 minute bricklaying portion of the contest. Failure to make an honest attempt to cut the mortar joints flush as laid out in this standard will result in a 100 brick deduction in the final brick count.

4. The wall will be allowed no more than 20 voids for the entire project. This will be judged using an S-Jointer. Upon visual inspection, if there appears to be a void, the judge will attempt to tool the head joint and bed joint. If the void can be reasonably filled, it will not be counted as a void. Exceeding 20 voids will result in a 100 brick deduction in the final brick count.
5. Brick in the wall must be laid face shell out. Each brick not laid face shell out will result in a 50 brick deduction from the final brick count on either side of the wall.
6. Brick with chips greater in size than 1/2" in diameter are not to be used in the competition. Each brick containing a chip greater in diameter will result in a 50 brick deduction from the final brick count.
7. Lipped brick in the wall must be less than 1/4". Each brick determined to be lipped greater than 1/4" will result in a 50 brick deduction from the final brick count.
8. Mortar joint thickness tolerance for bed joints are not less than 1/4" or greater than 5/8". If there are any bed joints measuring less than 1/4" or greater than 5/8", a 25 brick deduction will be assessed to the final brick count for each joint that does not meet this tolerance. Only one deduction can take place in a single joint for the length of the wall on either side. The penalty can be assessed for each side of the wall separately, resulting in a potential 50 brick total deduction for a single bed joint on the front and back side of the wall combined.
9. Mortar joint thickness tolerance for head joints are not less than 1/8" or greater than 3/4". If there are any head joints exceeding 3/4" or less than 1/8", a 25 brick deduction in the final brick count will be assessed per occurrence (maximum deduction 250 brick). Only one deduction can take place at a single head joint.
10. Each individual brick on both sides of the wall are to be laid level. Each brick that appears to be out of level or tipped will be judged using a Johnson Digital Level (Electronic Level Inclinometer Model 40-6080) set to the inches per foot reading. The digital level will be lined up with either the top or bottom edge of a brick that appears to be tipped. If the brick is out of level by more than 1/4", the competitor will be assessed a 25 brick deduction for each brick found on either side of the wall and in any course. (maximum deduction 250 brick)
11. Entering your competition stall during judging will result in immediate disqualification.
12. The premise of the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 is to construct a finished quality wall containing as many units as possible in one hour following the rules set forth in this document.
13. First, second and third place will be awarded to the masons who have laid the first, second and third highest brick count in the contest meeting the quality standards and after subtracting any deductions set forth in the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 competition rules.
14. The SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMANSHIP winner will be determined by first narrowing the field down to competitors who have laid at least 500 brick and have not had any quality standard deductions. If there are no competitors who have laid at least 500 brick with no deductions, the total count will be dropped from 500 to 400 with no deductions to determine the craftsmanship winner. If there are no competitors with at least 400 brick and have no deductions, then the eligible contestants will be those who have laid 500 brick with one quality standard deduction. If there are no competitors with a minimum of 500 brick and only one quality standard deduction, the count will be dropped to 400 and one quality standard deduction to determine the eligible craftsmanship award contestants. Then a majority of Judges will subjectively come to agreement on the wall that they feel is the most sellable through visual inspection. The walls that qualify for the craftsmanship award must be tooled and brushed properly. If more than one eligible wall is determined to be equal in quality by the judges, the wall with the higher brick count will be awarded the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMANSHIP Award. This is a subjective award and the Judges decision in determining the winner is final and is not disputable by the competitors or their representatives.