



ACEI

**Association of Consulting
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Important Notice

15th May, 2014

INTERIM ADVICE NOTE RE: MASONRY BLOCKS AND APPARENT PYRITE CONTENT

It has come to the attention of the Association of Consulting Engineers that there have been recent instances of apparent pyrite content in concrete blocks provided by block manufacturers.

In cases reported the affected blocks were noted to have a brown discoloration. The physical strength characteristics diminished over short period of time, particularly when exposed to moisture.

The ACEI are concerned about these occurrences and recommend all member firms request assurance from suppliers that materials are free of deleterious materials and that a representative sample of blocks be tested for pyrite content by chemical analysis.

We will endeavour to keep members informed and would appreciate any feedback on members experience in relation to this matter.