

Selection and Sampling

Brick is subject to variations in color between production runs and occasionally within the same run. Modern manufacturing processes encompass the use of automatic equipment, which may also result in minor differences in color and texture of the brick.

The selection of the size, color, texture and type of brick is the responsibility of the owner and/or owner's representative. Usually, small samples are used for the preliminary selection and may not exactly represent the complete range of colors and textures encountered in production runs.

Sometimes, a small sample is sufficient for determining the final selection. However, when large quantities of brick are to be erected, the prudent owner, general contractor, mason contractor, distributor and/or manufacturer should direct or request that the final selection be made from a field panel (also known as a field sample or mock-up). A field panel is typically constructed as a freestanding element that will later be torn down when the project is complete. Usually, a quantity of brick equal to 100 modular-size brick (approximately 15 square feet) will be used for the construction of the freestanding field panel.

If an owner or the owner's representative requires the field panel, the distributor or manufacturer may not have control over the actual erection that is frequently performed by a mason contractor. The party or parties who have control over the work of the mason contractor (either by direct contract or by other powers) should take appropriate action during the erection of the field panel to assure that no additions or deletions are made to the brick supplied by the distributor and manufacturer, unless written approval has been received from the manufacturer for such a change. Field panels should be constructed from the production run that is intended for shipment to the project. In the event that the field panel has to be constructed for inspection and final selection before the production run for that project, the owner and the manufacturer should agree in writing upon such a use. The manufacturer may reserve the right to resample from the actual run before shipment commences. The owner or owner's representative should inspect and approve the new panel.

When the field panel has been formally approved, it is the manufacturer's responsibility to provide brick as represented in the field panel. A strap or control sample may be retained at the plant.

Typically, the general contractor and mason contractor are responsible for preserving and maintaining the integrity of the field panel which is considered the project standard for bond, mortar, workmanship and appearance and as the standard for comparison until the masonry has been completed and accepted by the owner or the owner's representative. If the owner or owner's representative elects not to have a field panel erected, the first 100 square feet of actual construction shall serve as the field panel.