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BCA PUBLISHES GUIDE TO MATERIALS FOR MASONRY MORTAR

The British Cement Association (BCA) has just published a new guide to materials for masonry mortar. '*BCA guide to materials for masonry mortar*' describes mortar as, essentially, a mixture of Portland (CEM I) cement with sand and water, but it can also be based on other cement/binder types and contain other materials such as lime or air-entraining admixtures.

Masonry mortar is used specifically for jointing and pointing units (bricks, blocks, stone etc), to provide pliable bedding material, bond together the masonry units and seal joints between units.

Dr Pal Chana, BCA's Technical Director, said: "We trust that the guide will be a great help to builders in selecting the most appropriate mortar for various applications. It highlights the properties of materials for use in masonry mortars and the British/European Standards that describe them." The guide further discusses the types of masonry mortar most commonly encountered: cement-sand mortar; cement-sand (plasticized) mortar; masonry cement-sand mortar; cement-lime-sand mortar and hydraulic lime mortar.

The specification of factory-made masonry mortars is described in BS EN 998-2. The BCA has carried out a comprehensive research programme to examine the equivalence of traditional prescriptive mortar designations and BS EN 998-2 strength grades using a wide range of materials. The research indicates that for binders produced by the BCA member companies, equivalent mortar mixes can be described.

Copies of the *BCA guide to materials for masonry mortar* (ISBN 0 7210 16049), £7.00, are available from the Concrete Bookshop, telephone 01276 608778, fax 01276 37369 or email

enquiries@concretebookshop.com.

For further information:

Liezel Tipper, Press Officer at the British Cement Association. Telephone 01276 608707, mobile 07870 179769, email ltipper@bca.org.uk

Notes to editors:

The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Lafarge Cement UK and Rugby Cement) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

The cement industry has an annual turnover of £750 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,500 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.