

Beyond Blocks and Bricks

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Save a package label

Why? The information on a package label should include the lot number of the product that was delivered to the job site.

One part of many initial product submissions is a test report. Test reports help show compliance with the requirements of the contract documents. Since the time between initial submission and delivery is often great, these test reports very rarely describe the actual lots of materials that are delivered to the job. Also, these test reports may describe the results of testing of lots of materials produced months or years before initial product submissions are delivered to the designer.

Most times, there is little concern that a test report does not describe the lot delivered to the site. When a system fails, however, the qualities of the lots actually delivered to the job become very important. Confirming that parts of systems meet the requirements of the contract documents helps narrow the investigation of a failure so that “What went wrong?” and “How do we fix that?” are more obvious.

Did we get what we requested?

Only tests of the lots delivered to the site can show that these lots meet the requirements of the contract documents. When there is no record of a lot number, identifying the test results associated with the lot delivered to the site may be difficult. Absent the lot number, there is always the concern that a proffered test report may not describe the goods delivered to the site.

Although an option, removing products from the construction for testing is messy and the rebuilding of areas where samples were drawn may impossible to hide. Further, testing products removed from the construction may not be allowed by certain ASTM standard specifications—C216, for instance—which state that the standards are not to be used to gauge the quality of products removed from construction.

Obtaining test results for the lots delivered can be much easier, and more believable, if submission of package labels is made a formal requirement of the contract documents.

The next step

Still, even with the package label in hand, it may not be possible to obtain an associated test report because testing of all lots of all products is uncommon.

For projects using larger amounts of a product, *The next step* is requiring submission of a report of testing of the lot actually delivered to the site. Then, there is no question of compliance with the contract documents.