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Spring 2008

Blue Circle Cement (CEM II)

Blue Circle Cement is a CEM II class general purpose packed cement suitable for most applications.

Blue Circle Cement is a quality-assured BS EN 197-1 CEM II cement, based on Portland cement clinker with independent third party certification and carries CE marking. It is produced using sustainable cement technology and a range of formulations with comparable performance (see below):

- **Portland-limestone cement (CEM II/A-L 32,5R)**

Blue Circle Cement to this formulation will be available from our Aberthaw, Cauldon, Hope (CEM II /A-L 42,5N)¹ and Westbury Works. The cement is slightly lighter than CEM I Portland cement from the same Works.

- **Portland-fly ash cement (CEM II/A-V 42,5N)**

CEM II Blue Circle Cement to this formulation is available from our Dunbar Works. The cement is slightly darker than CEM I Portland cement. In most respects, its performance is comparable to Portland cement, but in cold weather, extended setting time and reduced early strength development may be observed.

Applications

Blue Circle Cement is a general purpose CEM II cement that is suitable for use in concrete, mortars, renders, screeds and grouts.

Reference should be made to the following documents:

BS 8500 Concrete: *Complementary British Standard to BS EN 206-1.*

BS 5628: *Part 3: Use of Masonry.*

BS EN 13914-1: *Design, preparation*



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and application of external rendering and internal plastering.

Blue Circle Sulfacrete should be used where increased resistance to sulfates is required.

For more specialised structural concrete applications, the use of Blue Circle Procem (CEM I Portland cement) should be considered.

Properties

- Based on sustainable cement technology.
- Grey in colour.
- Consistent strength meeting all the conformity criteria in BS EN 197-1.
- Compatible with admixtures such as air-entraining agents and workability aids.
- Can be used in most applications where CEM I Portland cement is used.
- Trial mixes are recommended to determine the optimum mix proportions.

Availability

Blue Circle Cement is available in 25kg bags throughout the United Kingdom. It is supplied on pallets, 1.2m x 1.0m, 10 bags per layer, 6 layers high. Weight 1.5 tonnes per pallet.

Storage

This product should be stored in unopened bags clear of the ground in cool dry conditions and should be stacked in a safe and stable manner.

Information on the maximum storage period can be found on the bag.

Note: ¹Also CEM II/A-LL

Conditions of Use

- Blue Circle Cement may be used in the range of traditional nominal mixes as for traditional Portland cement.
- To achieve optimum performance from Blue Circle Cement in concrete or other products, it is essential that it is correctly specified and used.
- Recommended mixes are given in the Blue Circle Builders' Guide, available from the contacts below.
- As with other cements in building work, there is no substitute for good practice and workmanship. It is essential to use the correct materials, proportion and mix the materials properly, add the correct amount of water, compact, cure and protect as appropriate.
- Normal hot and cold weather practice should also be followed.
- The final finish quality of this material will depend upon the operative having the required skills and a familiarity with the material and its application methods.
- Lafarge Cement UK cannot be held responsible where workmanship has not been carried out in accordance with good practice.
- Manual handling should comply with The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992.
- Blue Circle Cement is manufactured from natural products, and slight shade variations may occur. Blue Circle Cement will also have shade variations from differing manufacturing centres.

Technical Support

Further information or specification advice on Blue Circle Cement and the full range of Blue Circle cements can be obtained through the contacts listed below.

Health and Safety

Contact between cement powder and body fluids (eg, sweat and eye fluids) may cause irritation, dermatitis or burns.

Cement is classified as an irritant under the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging) Regulations.

For further information, including control of soluble hexavalent chromium, refer to the Blue Circle Health and Safety information sheet for Portland cement products.

For further information

Technical helpline

Tel: 0845 812 6232

E-mail: info@lafargecement.co.uk

Customer services

Tel: 0845 812 6300 Fax: 0845 812 6250

E-mail: customerservice@lafargecement.co.uk

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