CLASS 35
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THE LANGUAGE OF BRICKS (CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS)

2026

CLASSIFICATION & STANDARDS

Welcome back to Class35. In our previous sessions, we covered the physical requirements of the trade—the rules of precision and the tools of the arsenal. Today, we move into the intellectual foundation of construction.

To communicate effectively on a professional site, you must speak the 'Language of Bricks.' This isn't just about common names; it is about understanding the legal and technical classifications defined by the National Building Regulations.

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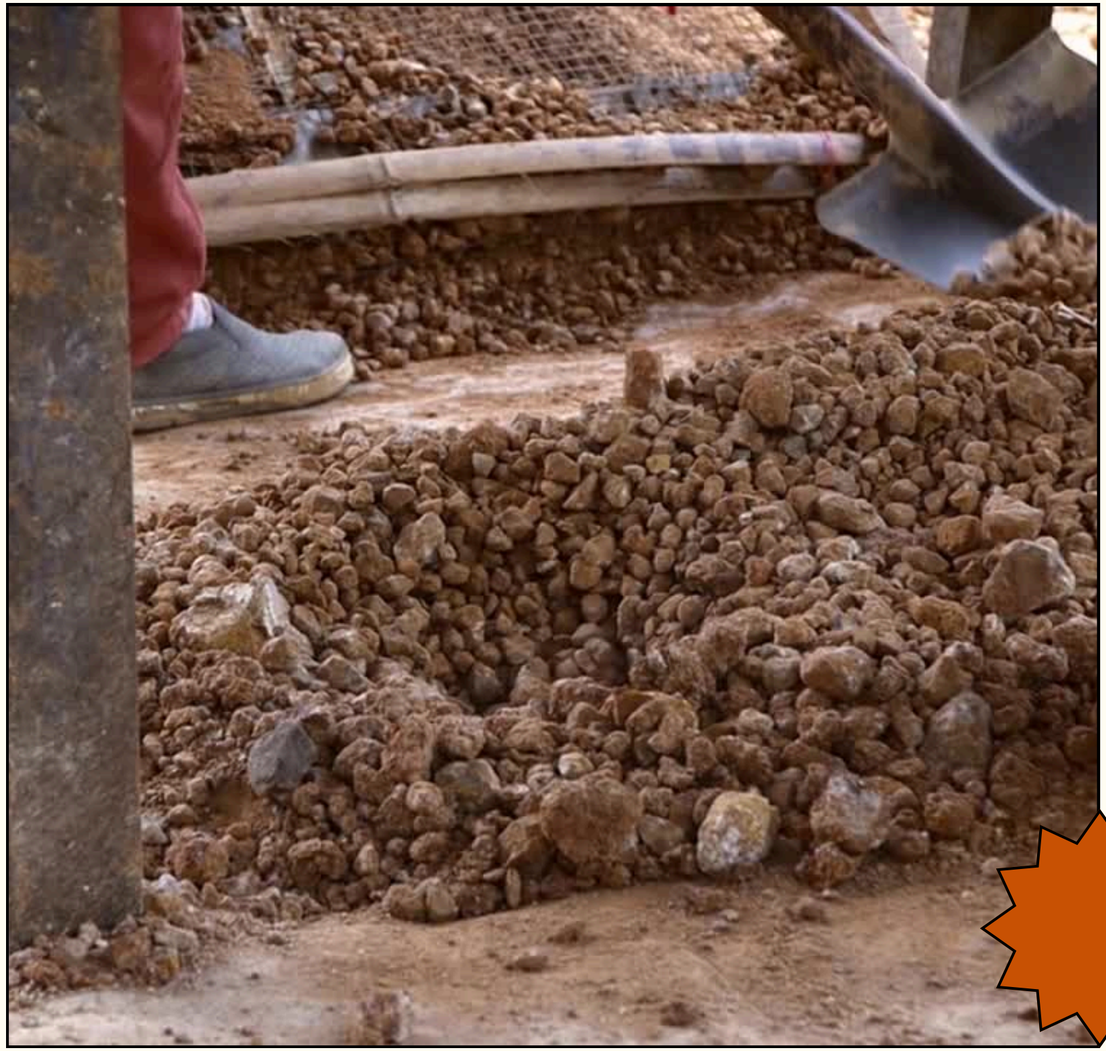
DEFINING THE UNIT: BRICK VS. BLOCK

In general conversation, people often use the terms 'brick' and 'block' interchangeably. However, as a professional student of Core Construction & Brickwork Technology, you must be more precise.

According to SANS 227:2007—the South African National Standard for burnt clay masonry—a unit is officially classified as a brick only if it stays within specific dimensions. Those dimensions are

- A length of no more than 300 mm
- A width of no more than 130 mm
- And a height of no more than 120 mm

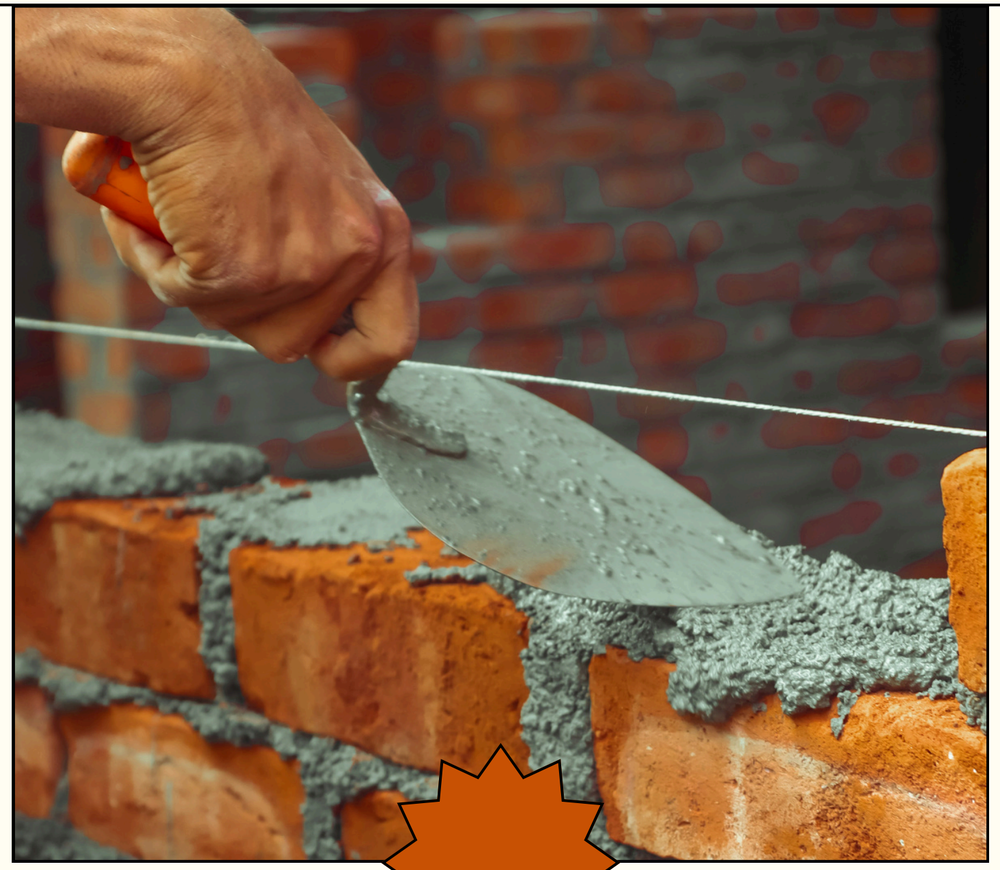
If a masonry unit exceeds any of these measurements, it is technically classified as a block. While the National Building Regulations focus on whether a unit is solid or hollow, SANS 227 is your guide for manufacturing and identification.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SANS STANDARDS

- Why does this classification matter? Because different units have different load-bearing capabilities and thermal properties.

- When you are reading site plans—which we will cover in the next chapter—the specifications will often refer to these standards. We also look to SANS 1575:2007, which specifically governs burnt clay paving units. Understanding these codes ensures that the materials delivered to your site are exactly what the engineer or architect specified.



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BRICKWORK TECHNOLOGY

In construction, precision starts with your vocabulary. If you call for a brick but the dimensions require a block, you compromise the integrity of the design.

Log in to your Class35 portal and review the classification table provided in your Chapter 3 notes. Familiarize yourself with these dimensions, as they are the basis for our upcoming calculations on material volumes.

In our next session, we will put this language to use as we learn to interpret Chapter 4: Working Drawings and Plans.