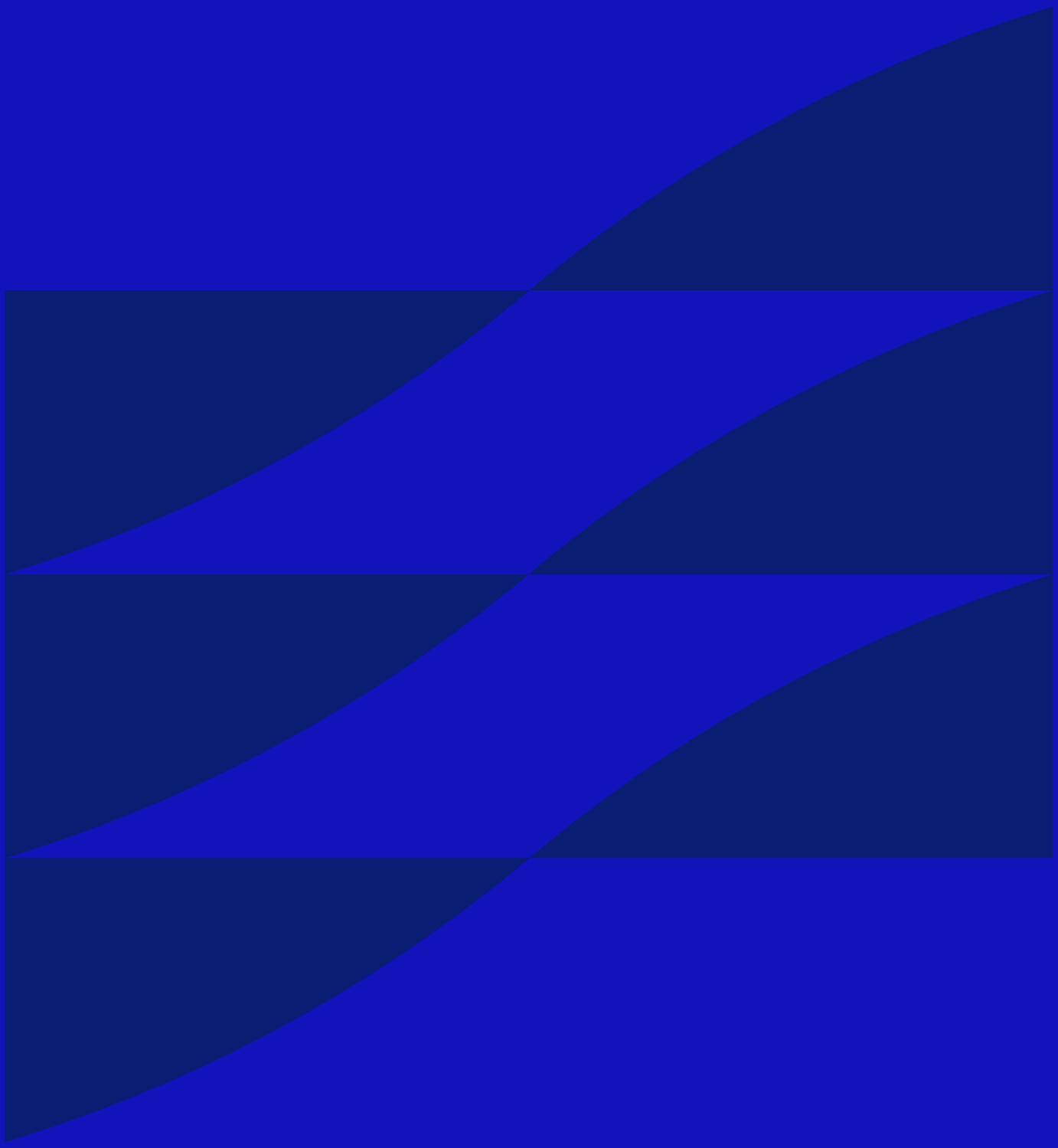
ACS

General Guidance

Masonry Support



Masonry Support

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Handling

Remove masonry support pallets from transportation vehicle in accordance with local site safety requirements (subject to HSE regulations). Be careful of potential sharp edges and pallet stability following transportation.

Consider if it is safer to move the pallet (as a whole) to a specific location within the site which is best suited to the general distribution of the individual pieces of support, or if it is safer to break the pallet up (into individual pieces of support) for distribution throughout the site.

The pallet of masonry support should be placed in the correct location for distribution. Remove individual items from the pallet using mechanical equipment if necessary. Move the individual pieces of support safely to their installation location with mechanical assistance if needed. If not, check the lifting guidelines in line with HSE regulations to determine the number of individuals required to move them safely. It must be ensured that masonry support stored adjacent to their installation location should not pose a hazard to site operatives. If it is safer to break up the pallet into individual pieces of support for distribution, follow the same process to move them safely.

Storage and transportation

ACS approved haulier should ensure that the load is safe and secure for the journey, and pallets are unloaded and reloaded at the distribution centre in a considered, safe and orderly fashion.

ACS recommends that all pallets should be inspected immediately following the (on site) off-loading process, for any obvious signs of damage.

Installation

To ensure safe and secure installation, we recommend the following:

— A trained operative should be responsible for the installation, working in accordance with current HSE manual handling legislation.

— Prior to positioning the masonry support, it is crucial to determine its precise location (subject to ACS drawings), and ensure that all operatives involved in the installation understand it.

— Please follow installation instructions in product literature for the support itself ensuring guidance around shims is correctly followed.

— If there are any doubts when installing the product, stop work immediately and seek further guidance.

— Ensure wall ties are installed within 300mm vertically of the support level.

— For fixings, please refer to the anchor manufacturer's installation data, displayed on the manufacturer's packaging, and follow the instructions provided.

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Guidance for interface with other products

It is expected that all issues of interface with other products should be fully addressed by the project design team (Architect, structural engineer, facade engineer etc.) through the design and approval process. If clashes are apparent on site, please stop work immediately and consult project design team.

Guidance to achieve stated performance

In order to achieve the loading performance stated on our drawings masonry support must be installed in strict accordance with the approval drawing detail, and without the use of grouts and packers, utilising ACS shims as identified in the product literature.

Specialist equipment and tools

Most masonry support systems can be installed using a general construction workers toolkit (including a torque wrench). An exception to this will be with concrete post fix anchors which will require specialist tools to ensure that the fixing capacities are achieved through the cleaning of the drilled hole.

Specific competence required

Whilst the skill set required for the installation of a typical product would be covered by those of a general (construction industry) fitter, ACS recommend the Association of Brickwork Contractors or similar short courses.

Implications for maintenance warranties, guarantees and insurance

All warranties, guarantees and insurances are null and void if the products are incorrectly installed. There are no maintenance requirements for ACS products. Please refer to ACS product warranty and insurance documents for full details of specific coverage.

Inspection, testing, commissioning, and record keeping requirements

Inspection and record keeping requirements would be as specified within the building's 'operation and maintenance' manual, insofar as it is concerned with the general fabric of the building.

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Sequencing of works

Masonry support must be installed prior to any brickwork that will subject load upon it is built above, so that load is correctly distributed throughout the system.

Generally this is completed floor by floor running up the building, however it can be completed by elevations ensuring that support is stopped at vertical movement joints.

Maintenance requirements and schedule

Masonry support is designed to be maintenance free and therefore require no scheduled maintenance.

Legal requirements

While ACS exercise a duty of care with regard to our products and supporting professional services, and all ACS masonry support is fully warrantied regarding its performance, it remains the responsibility of the project engineer to ensure the masonry panel is designed to withstand all applied loads. The primary structure should also be designed to ensure it can sufficiently withstand the eccentric loads applied via the masonry support system. As such ACS cannot be held responsible for any wall/panel failures or primary structural failures which may arise from errors in this process. The design and placement of movement joints remains the responsibility of the project design team (architect, structural engineer etc.) to determine.

It is the responsibility of installation contractors and sub-contractors to ensure that their work is carried out to the required industry standards. ACS cannot be held responsible for any failures arising from incorrect installation.

Limitations of use

Masonry support is a bespoke product and as such should only be use on the building where it has been designed for, as well as the specific location on said building. The product will have a specified design capacity which should be checked by the project design team (structural engineer/ facade engineer etc.) to ensure this is sufficiently to withstand all applied dead loads. Masonry support is designed to take the dead load applied by the masonry only. Any loads such as wind or crowd loading should be withstood with other products such as wall ties.

End of life

As a material, stainless steel is generally fully recyclable. At such as a time that the product reaches its end of life, generally at the decommissioning stage of the building cycle, ACS can help to advise on product material make up to assist with recycling. Please contact us at this stage and we will be happy to help.

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