

Terracotta brick: installation using thin joint mortar now covered by the NF certification

Since 2007, terracotta brick has established itself as the most used small element masonry product in the collective housing segment. Its installation using thin joint adhesive mortar is now certified by AFNOR Certification, through the NF 554 mark, in order to provide visibility and confidence to craftsmen, masonry companies and project owners.

Recognized as a traditional technique, this device – terracotta brick and thin joint adhesive mortar – is used in 120,000 homes per year on average¹. It represents 32% share of use of construction solutions². **The NF “masonry of terracotta bricks mounted with a thin joint” certification meets the requirement for validation of the mechanical performance of the assembly for access to the collective housing market.** It provides proof of reliability of the system and meets insurance needs. The construction system, now certified NF 554, is set to become a major asset for masonry companies and craftsmen seeking to position themselves in this sector.

The certification reference system was developed with the assistance of the expertise of manufacturers, the French Federation of Tiles and Bricks, the Union of Masonry and Structural Work, the Technical Center for Natural Construction Materials, and construction offices. It concerns, on the one hand, the compatibility of the rectified terracotta brick and the thin joint mortar designated and applied with the defined tools and, on the other hand, on the mechanical performance of the masonry (compressive resistance f_k and/or modulus of elasticity E). The certified systems thus comply with the requirements of NF DTU 20.1 “Masonry structures of small elements – Walls and walls” and Eurocode 6 (NF EN 1996). Finally, this certification makes it possible to offer users a coherent set complementary to NF046 “Terracotta bricks”. To date, 2 manufacturers are certified: Bouyer Leroux (5 sites, 15 models of masonry system, Bio'Bric brand) and Wienerberger (4 sites, 7 models, Porotherm brand)

To find out more about the NF certification “Masonry of clay bricks mounted with thin joints”:
<https://certification.afnor.org/qualite/maconnerie-brique-terre-cuite>

About AFNOR Certification

AFNOR Certification is the leading activity of the AFNOR group in France thanks to its certification and evaluation services for systems, services, products and skills. A subsidiary of the AFNOR association, AFNOR Certification offers a local service through 39 agencies on five continents and 14 regional representations in France. It mobilizes 1,850 qualified auditors to meet the needs of its clients on nearly 60,000 sites around the world. AFNOR Certification runs the NF certification system and offers several signs of confidence such as AFAQ certification, the Committed CSR, Diversity and Professional Equality labels. <https://certification.afnor.org/>

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¹<https://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/publicationweb/254>

²Source: new construction observatory (Axiome Media)