

Who should read this: Anyone with an interest in alternatives to quarried stone profiles and finishes.

INTRODUCTION

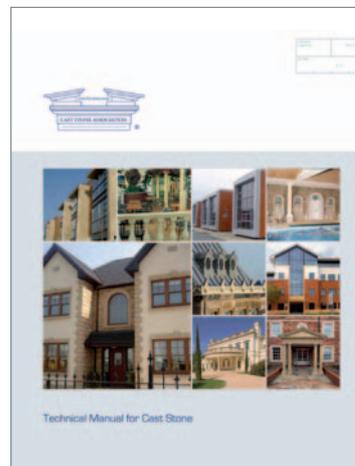
Not all cast stone manufacturers are the same. Quality assurance is important, as is undertaking adequate product testing and working to proper standards. According to the UK Cast Stone Association (UKCSA) this may not be the case for all manufacturers.

GUIDANCE

Cast stone is a much-used and cost-effective alternative to quarried stone. It is used for enhancing entrances, openings and gables, and for ashlar masonry. Readily available, long-lasting and durable, it can add character and kerb appeal to elevations and boundary walls.



The material is recognised in NHBC Standards and the use of features made from cast stone should minimum comply with the latest version of BS 1217 or the higher standard adopted by members of the UKCSA.



While supporting BS 1217, the UKCSA recognises that durability and weathering characteristics are key issues for cast stone. In order to reduce the risk of problems associated with poor product performance and site handling, the UKCSA has produced its own standard, with a minimum mix design of 35 MPa.

This is at least 40% above the British Standard and ensures strong cast stone with outstanding durability. The UKCSA standard includes a rigorous regime of product testing and third-party verification, the results of which must be logged with UKCSA.

NHBC is pleased to see a fully revised and extended edition of the standard reference for cast stone, UKCSA's *Technical Manual for Cast Stone* which can be viewed or downloaded from www.ukcsa.co.uk. It provides everything house builders need to know about the manufacture, design, specification and use of this attractive and versatile material.

YOU NEED TO...

When specifying or using features made from cast stone, ensure they comply with BS 1217:2008. The UKCSA's revised *Technical Manual for Cast Stone* will help you achieve this.