

A NEW SPECIFICATION SYSTEM FOR A NEW RANGE OF LINTELS

Why a new specification System?

We offer the largest range of standard lintels in the UK. This is important for stainless steel lintels because there is no point mixing stainless and galvanised steel in the same external wall in one project, so we need a complete range of solutions in stainless steel.

We are a 'Manufacture to Order' company, using 'just-in-time' manufacturing processes to deliver within days of an order. This enables us to offer a huge range of products without having huge amounts of stock.

But a huge range of lintels could mean greater difficulty for our customers to work out what they want!

So we've put considerable effort into a new, simple specification system...

How our specification system works:

We carefully designed all our lintels from scratch so that variations of the same lintel would all have similar or the same load capacity. Other manufacturers (and indeed our galvanised range) require a separate load table for each variation of the same lintel!

This means for example a particular cavity wall lintel could come in any of 21 variations (in our case) depending on the inner leaf and cavity size of the installation. Other manufacturers would require 21 different load tables, one for each; we only have one - the same for all 21 configurations!!

You specify the lintel, then add the wall construction you need.

So how does this help?

Simple: there are far less load tables to wade through, in spite of having far more lintels!

You go directly for the type of lintel and capacity you want without worrying about the leaf and cavity dimensions, because all the lintels are available in the full range of possible leaf and cavity dimensions, with the same load capacity!

How do I specify a Lintel

There are two example diagrams at the bottom of the page showing example specifications, there are 3 parts to a typical lintel specification, but only the first part is really important:

Part 1 The first two letters and numbers, e.g. 'CA20' designate the section type and size, which define the load capacity and wall type (i.e. a cavity, solid, double wall etc). The letters have a meaning, listed below, and the number is roughly the depth of section in cm; deeper = stronger in the same lintel type.

Part 2 Is the wall construction dimensions from outer leaf to inner leaf in mm, separated by a '/'. E.g. a cavity wall with a 120mm cavity and 140mm inner block would be - '100/120/140'.

Part 3 Are abbreviations added on the end to specify extra features, such as steps, or flat bases (no plaster key). Details and examples are given on each catalogue page with the lintel details.

Part 1 is the most important, and specifications usually comprise a list of part 1 lintel specifications with quantities and lengths and the wall construction for the project noted separately at the top or bottom of the page.

What are the advantages of the system?

Apart from greatly reducing the number of load tables, the system offers other advantages:

- Architects and Engineers need only put part 1 on their drawings (e.g. 'CA20') and if the wall thickness changes during the design phase, there is no need to alter the lintel specification (unless the load dramatically alters). The contractor advises the wall construction at the time or order.
- The naming convention is intuitive, enabling clients to virtually invent their own lintel, and we will be able to make it!
- You can see the lintel height and width by the specification, enabling an immediate rough check of suitability, minimising errors!

Examples of the meaning of the Letters in the lintel designation

- CA** = Cavity 'A' Shape Lintels
- CC** = Cavity 'C' Shape Lintels
- CD** = Cavity 'D' Shape Section
- CI** = Cavity 'I' Beam Lintels
- SL** = Single wall 'L' Shape Lintels
- SLB** = Single wall 'L' Shape Bolted (a brick support shelf)
- SC** = Single wall 'C' Shape Lintels
- SB** = Single wall Box Lintels
- DL** = Double wall 'L' Shape Lintels
- DC** = Double wall 'C' Shape Lintels
- DB** = Double wall Box Lintels
- EB** = Eaves Box Lintels

- OL** = Outer Leaf 'L' Shape Lintels
- OLH** = Outer Leaf 'L' Shape, Hollow
- OS** = Outer Leaf 'S' Shape Lintels
- OSH** = Outer Leaf 'S' Shape, Hollow
- OC** = Outer Leaf 'C' Shape, Hollow

The Specification system for arches and other special lintels is similar. Pages 4 & 5 in our catalogue provide a pictorial contents page showing all the different lintel types.

