



**Guidelines For Transition from Batch Certification to Factory Assessment  
for Certification of Concrete Blocks under Local Order 44/1990  
Dubai Central Laboratory- Inspection and Certification Section**

Doc. Ref : RD-DP21-2088(IC)

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Rev. No.: 1

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Issue Date	Rev. No.	Summary Of Amendments
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**1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

1.1 Since 1991, the "Batch Certification" system for concrete blocks as per Local order 44/1990 has been in place and the construction industry has become familiar with its regulatory procedures and requirements. Implementation of these [Batch Certification] procedures and requirements involves the participation of several parties including the:

1.1.1 block factories;

1.1.2 DM-DCLD certification body;

1.1.3 contractors, consultants and project engineers of construction projects;

1.1.4 accredited testing laboratories;

1.1.5 Building Department inspectors;

1.2 With the implementation of "Factory Assessment" system in 2011 and the updated Dubai Municipality Standard (DMS) specifications, there are major changes in the procedures and requirements that will affect all parties that are mentioned in clause [1.1]. Accordingly, there is a need to issue clear guidelines in order to avoid confusion in the construction industry.

1.3 Currently, both systems are in place and equally accepted, with some block factories having shifted to the "Factory Assessment" system while other factories remain under the "Batch Certification" system.

**2. SCOPE AND APPLICATION**

2.1 These guidelines cover all issues related to the certification of concrete blocks under Local Order 44/1990, and shall apply to all parties mentioned in clause [1.1].

2.2 These guidelines cover blocks that are certified under (1) Batch Certification system and (2) Factory Assessment system. The list of block factories producing certified blocks shall be published in DCLD webpage.

**3. GUIDELINES**

3.1 Concrete blocks shall be certified by Dubai Municipality-Dubai Central Laboratory Department (DCLD) through one of the following certification system:

a. Batch Certification [*current practice since 1991*];

b. Factory Assessment [*started in 2011 and will eventually replace the current practice*].

3.2 Factory Assessment Certification is granted only to block factories when all concrete block products (covered by regulations) comply with the certification requirements. A block factory is not allowed to implement both systems simultaneously;

3.3 Concrete blocks certified under "Batch Certification" conforms to the specifications given in Local Order 44/1990; whereas concrete blocks certified under "Factory Assessment" conforms to the updated Dubai Municipality Standard (DMS 1) specifications for concrete blocks.

3.4 In terms of compliance with Dubai Municipality regulations, there is no distinction between blocks certified under Batch Certification and blocks certified under Factory Assessment. Blocks certified under both systems are equally acceptable in construction sites within the Emirate of Dubai.

3.5 Dubai Municipality Building Department Inspectors (as well as other Dubai Government construction site inspectors) shall consider concrete block certified under both systems as having complied with DM regulatory requirements.

3.6 For concrete blocks certified under the Batch Certification system, current practice, current procedures, and current requirements shall remain the same.

3.7 For concrete blocks certified by DCLD under the Factory Assessment system, the following shall be implemented:

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- a. Block factories shall continue to implement the following:
  - a.1 Factory identification mark on the blocks *(as previously approved under batch certification)*;
  - a.2 Lot numbering system with maximum 20,000 blocks per lot;
  - a.3 Block register and sales records *(as previously implemented under batch certification)*;
- b. Conformity of the product with the DMS Specification and other certification requirements shall be indicated by the application of the DCL Conformity Mark on the tags attached to the bundles of the product. Under the terms and conditions of the certification system, block factories are authorized to apply the DCL Mark on the product covered under the Scope of Certification;
- c. In addition to the DCL Conformity Mark, the tags shall also show the block factory name (and logo) and the Lot Number for traceability purposes;
- d. In addition to the DCL Conformity Mark, the block factory has the option to issue a Certificate of Conformity (under the authority of DCLD and using the DCLD-authorized format) for the particular lot delivered to the factory customer;
- e. Construction sites shall continue to maintain Site Block Register in the same format as previously approved under Batch Certification;
- f. Delivery Receipt (DR) shall indicate the Factory Assessment Certification License Number in addition to the other information. The factory may apply the DCL Conformity Mark on the DR Form.

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