

# PCMA MASONRY tip

## NEW CONCRETE BLOCK CONFIGURATIONS ALLOWED IN ASTM C90-11B

⊕ In response to the demand for more flexibility in concrete block, ASTM updated C90 for loadbearing concrete masonry units that allows the webs of the block to be substantially reconfigured. Units produced under this new standard can be manufactured using less material, are lighter making them easier to transport and install, and have the potential to increase the energy efficiency of concrete masonry construction by 2 to 3 times above conventional concrete masonry units.

### ⊕ BENEFITS:

#### MORE SUSTAINABLE

Fewer webs in the block allows for less material which reduces the weight, meaning less fuel for transport.

#### INCREASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

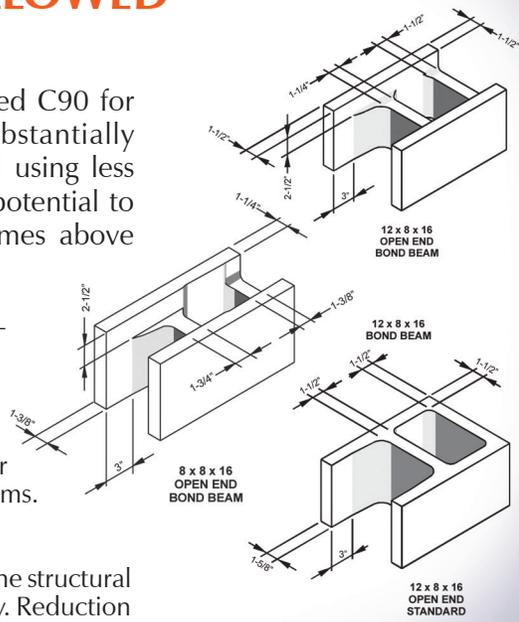
The allowance for reduction in the cross webs will improve the energy performance of single and multi-wythe wall systems by reducing thermal bridging that result from the cross webs. The modified units will achieve higher R-Values in the wall system.

#### IMPACT ON WALL COST

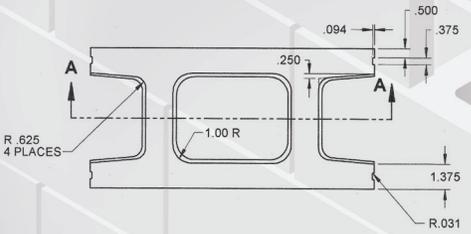
Lighter weight units can increase construction productivity and reduce worker fatigue. This can lead to lower costs for concrete masonry wall systems.

#### STRUCTURAL STRENGTH

This new allowance does not reduce the structural performance for load bearing masonry. Reduction in webs actually makes the block stronger. Also, larger cell areas reduce the reinforcement congestion and facilitates grout placement.



For more information, contact PCMA or NCMA.



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Recently ASTM C90, the material specification for hollow load bearing concrete masonry units was modified to allow for reduction of the cross webs equivalent thickness.

Technical information regarding concrete masonry is available through the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). You can access this information any time through the NCMA website [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org).

The PCMA website [www.pacma.com](http://www.pacma.com) features a listing of producer members located in Pennsylvania and their contact information along with the products each produces. You'll also find information on education opportunities, local publications and more.

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