



BISON PRECAST

a Forterra brand

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE NOTE

Partition allowance on beam & floors - 20 November 2017

This note gives advice on designing a beam & block floor which supports movable partitions.

When designing the foundations or supporting masonry walls of buildings, it is common practice to use a partition allowance to check the structure. However, on a beam and block floor the design checks must take into account where the partitions occur as these types of floors do not allow for lateral distribution of the loads due to the lack of a structural topping. Guidance on designing for partitions and the allowance to use is given in BS EN 1991-1 cl6.3.1.2(8) which states that provided a floor allows for lateral distribution of loads, the self-weight of movable partitions may be taken into account by a uniformly distributed load.

If a floor is designed using only the recommended partition allowance then there is a risk that the floor will be underdesigned in the area where the partitions occurs as it is not uncommon to use double beams under partition walls.