



CITY OF CHICAGO

# DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

## CODE MEMORANDUM

To: Department of Buildings Plan Examiners and Inspectors

From: Judith Frydland   
Commissioner

Date: April 4, 2016

Re: **Masonry Reference Standards**

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Code section **13-140-010 Ordinary masonry** requires masonry construction to be in accordance with provisions of ACI 530-92/ ASCE5-92/TMS 402-92. The reference documents dated 1992 were the most current references available at the time of the adoption of this code. The Department of Buildings interprets this code to mean the most recently created reference documents are in effect. Therefore, the 2013 versions of the above listed documents are to be used for masonry construction. In summary, the reference documents to be used for masonry construction are ACI-530-13/TMS402-13/ASCE 5-13. To additionally clarify, the specification documents TMS602-13/ACI 530.1-13/ASCE 6-13 are also incorporated through reference in the original standards.

Code section **13-140-100 Stress Limitation based upon net section** states masonry construction be designed to outmoded standards and use methodology which is no longer industry standard. The referenced standards (SCPI 1969 and NCMA 1970) are no longer published nor available to the public. The Department of Buildings will not require the use of these standards in the design of masonry construction.

Code section **13-140-150 Minimum temperature to be maintained** provides the prescriptive standards for cold weather masonry construction. The current masonry construction reference documents detail more specific construction practices in addressing adverse weather conditions. The more specific requirements of the reference documents ACI-530-13/TMS402-13/ASCE 5-13 and TMS602-13/ACI 530.1-13/ASCE 6-13 shall take precedence over the code language in this section.