

## Grout Confinement – Grout Stop

Please Note: This technical Note is developed to clarify the proper material to use as grout stop.

### THE CODE

The MSJC “Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures” (ACI 530-99/ASCE 5-99, TMS 402-99) is the governing document for most masonry construction.

### Felt Paper Is Not Allowed

It has been noted that in some areas of the State that felt paper is used as a grout stop. This technical note will address that subject, as felt is not in the code and it should not be used. (Felt Paper is a bond breaker and should not be used under bond beam blocks to confine the grout.)

### Grout Confinement

The MSJC “Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures” (ACI 530-99/ASCE 5-99, TMS 402-99)

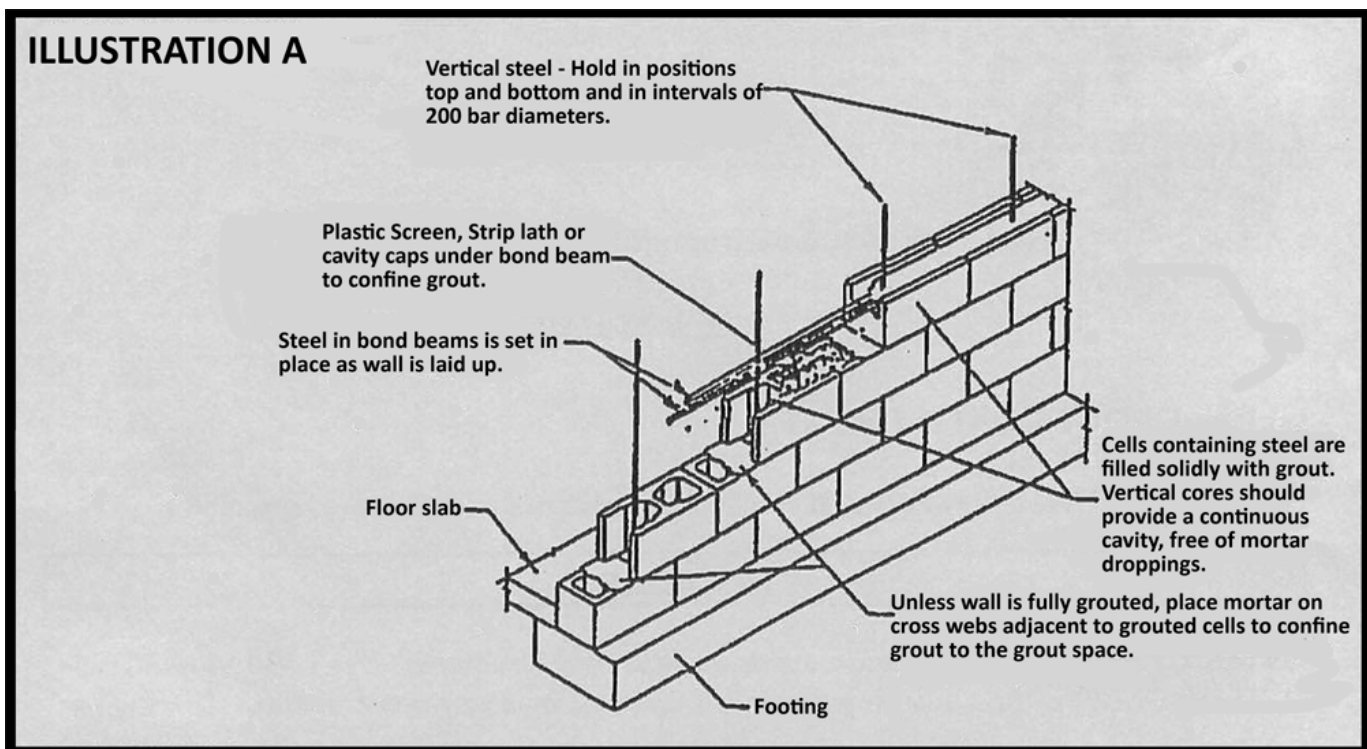
establishes standards for masonry construction. The standard has the following article:

**Confinement:** 530.1-3.5b – “Confine Grout to the areas indicated on the Project Drawings. Use material to confine grout that permits bond between masonry units and mortar.”

From the 530.1 commentary 3.5B “Cross webs adjacent to cells to be grouted can be bedded with mortar to confine the grout. Metal lath, plastic screening, or other items (*permitting bond*) can be used to plug cells below bond beams.” The italics are inserted for clarification, that the “*permitting bond*” is the governing clause.

Further: It is well established fact that felt paper is a bond breaker.

**Illustration A below:** Depicts where the grout stop is used.



The most common materials used throughout the country are strips of metal lath that are manufactured to the proper width for various width walls and plastic screening that is available in the proper width for differing wall widths. (Other items must be made to permit bond and would include such things as metal cavity caps built from bondable metal and/or the cavity caps made from metal lath).

All of the model building codes including SBCCI Standard Building Code and the South Florida Building Code recognize the MSJC *“Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures”* (ACI 530-99/ASCE 5-99, TMS 402-99)

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## **References**

1. **MSJC** *“Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures”* (ACI 530-99/ASCE 5-99, TMS 402-99) is the governing document for most masonry construction.