Key Inspection Points for Masonry Construction

1. The inspector needs to be completely familiar with the plans and specifications.
2. Do masonry units, mortar, grout, and reinforcing steel meet specifications?
3. Are dowels properly placed? Will the length of the dowel provide adequate lapping?
4. Are the head joints and bed joints full? Are the head and bed joints filled to at least the thickness of the face shell? Are the widths of the mortar joints within specifications?
5. When the grout pour exceeds 5 ft. in height, cleanouts shall be provided in the bottom course of masonry in each grout pour. Are cleanouts provided? Is the spacing of cleanouts adequate? Are cleanout openings adequately sized?
6. Verify grout slump. Are cells …that are to be filled…free of excessive mortar fins?
7. Before grouting, verify that the reinforcing steel is properly placed and lapped according to specifications.
8. When grouting, is the grout properly consolidated? Is reconsolidation necessary?
9. Are the walls level and plumb within tolerances?
10. In columns and pilasters, is the reinforcing steel properly tied at the specified spacing? Is the proper gauge column tie being used (ties are not required in pilasters)?
11. Verify the proper embedment of reinforcing steel, bolts, ties, etc.