Screeds, bases and in situ floorings —

Part 1: Concrete bases and cementitious levelling screeds to receive floorings — Code of practice
British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee B/507, Paving units, kerbs, screeds and in situ floorings, to Subcommittee B/507/6, Screeds and in situ floorings, upon which the following bodies were represented:

Association of Concrete Industrial Flooring Contractors
Association of Lightweight Aggregate Manufacturers
British Cement Association
Concrete Society
Contract Flooring Association
Federation of Plastering and Drywall Contractors
Federation of Resin Flooring Formulators and Applicators
Mastic Asphalt Council
Mortar Producers Association Limited
National Federation of Terrazzo-Marble and Mosaic Specialists
National Specialist Contractors Council
Quarry Products Association
Society of Chemical Industry
Co-opted members

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This part of BS 8204 has been prepared by Subcommittee B/507/6.


The start and finish of text introduced or altered by Amendment No. 1 is indicated in the text by tags [a] [b]. Minor editorial changes are not tagged.

This part gives recommendations for the design and laying of concrete bases and cementitious levelling screeds to receive in situ floorings.

The main changes from the 2002 edition are the following.

a) The specification for materials has been updated to include the European Standard specifications for aggregates and concrete.

b) The length of the straightedge, used in the determination of surface regularity, is changed from 3 m to 2 m. In doing so, it brings BS 8204 in line with BS 5385.

[5] The term “fine aggregate” is used throughout this document in accordance with European Standards, although common usage within the United Kingdom is to use the term “sand”. In most cases these terms are interchangeable.

The other parts of BS 8204 are as follows:

— Part 2, Concrete wearing surfaces — Code of practice.
— Part 6, Synthetic resin floorings — Code of practice.

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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**Summary of pages**

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 40, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This part of BS 8204 gives recommendations for constituent materials, design, work on site, inspection and testing of concrete bases that are to receive in situ wearing screeds of the following types:

a) concrete (see BS 8204-2);
b) polymer modified cement (see BS 8204-3);
c) terrazzo (see BS 8204-4);
d) mastic asphalt (see BS 8204-5);
e) synthetic resin (see BS 8204-6);
f) magnesium oxychloride;
g) pumpable self-smoothing screeds (see BS 8204-7);
and for bases and levelling screeds that are to receive flexible floor coverings such as:

h) textiles;
i) linoleum;
j) polyvinyl chloride;
k) rubber;
l) cork;
and rigid floorings such as:
m) wood block and strip;
n) laminate floor coverings;
o) ceramic tiles;
p) natural stone.

It applies to ground-supported and suspended concrete floor bases.

This part of BS 8204 includes the use of concrete and levelling screeds made with lightweight aggregates conforming to BS EN 13055-1. Where the recommendations differ from those for normal weight aggregates, these are given in Annex A.

Recommended methods for the assessment of levels and surface regularity and for the determination of in situ crushing resistance (soundness) are given in Annex C, Annex D and Annex E.

This part of BS 8204 is not intended to provide guidance on the structural design or related construction of concrete ground-supported floors or suspended slabs. Information on these aspects is given in BS 8110-1 and reference [4]. The specification of concrete for base slabs is given in BS 8500-2. The recommendations in this code of practice relate to those other aspects of design and construction of concrete slabs that affect the performance of the overlying levelling or wearing screed.

NOTE BS 8110-1 is obsolescent and will be superseded by BS EN 1992-1-1:2004 in March 2010.

See Part 3 for polymer modified cementitious levelling screeds.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Text deleted

BS 1370, Specification for low heat Portland cement.

Text deleted

BS 4027, Specification for sulfate-resisting Portland cement.

Text deleted


BS 4551:2005, Mortar — Methods of test for mortar — Chemical analysis and physical testing.

BS 6100-9, Building and civil engineering — Part 9: Vocabulary — Work with concrete and plaster.