

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

FACE FIXED RESTRAINTS STRAPS TO GABLE WALLS IN DWELLINGS

6.1/26 – March 2013

(First issue)

QUESTION

Is it acceptable to fix restraint straps to the face of gable walls in dwellings?

CONSIDERATIONS

- Consistency Matters 6.1/12 'Restraint straps to gable walls of garages', describes face fixing of restraint straps to single skin gable walls of garages and does refer to gable walls in dwellings.
- NHBC Standards clause 7.2 - S3 describes restraint straps hooked over the inner leaf of cavity gable walls. Face fixing is not described.
- The type of fixings and masonry strength directly affect the pull out strength of a face fixed restraint strap.

ANSWER

The preferred method of installing restraint straps is to hook the straps over the inner leaf of a cavity gable wall and this method should be used wherever possible.

The method of face fixing of restraint straps to garage walls, described in CM 6.1/12, should not be adopted for gable walls to dwellings without structural justification.

Where hook-over restraint straps cannot be provided and face fixed restraint straps are proposed instead, structural calculations should be provided to show adequate restraint can be achieved by face fixing. The calculations should be passed to an NHBC Engineer for approval.