

PRELIMINARY STUDIES OF PRICE, COMPOSITION, TYPE AND INDEX PROPERTIES OF COMMON CONSTRUCTION BRICKS FROM SELANGOR AND FEDERAL TERRITORY

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More than 260 million bricks were produced from 63 brickworks in 1979. The brick industry, basing on general apparent colour, grades the bricks qualitatively into red (first grade), black-head (second grade) and white (third grade). The price differential of the first (red) and the third (white) grade bricks in 1980 was about 20 percent.

In trying to determine the quantitative basis of the above classification, and also to study the variation in properties of the bricks produced, a few bricks from each of the 63 brickworks were collected for laboratory tests. The properties determined were Shore schleroscope hardness, cylinder strength, dry density, effective porosity, chemical composition, dimensions and weight. Results of 54 bricks from 30 brickworks were analysed.

The bricks show wide variation in properties. Definite correlations can be made among the cylinder strength, dry density, Shore schleroscope hardness and effective porosity. However, there is no conclusive quantitative basis to show that the red bricks are more superior in 'quality' than the white bricks.

Most of the white bricks are produced by brickworks in the Federal Territory, Ulu Langat, Petaling and Gombak districts. The raw clay material comes mainly from the surrounding tin mining areas. Most of

the red bricks, on the other hand, are produced by the brickworks in the Kuala Selangor, Kelang and Sepang districts.
