

Measurement Of Building Works With Worked Examples

Measurement of building works with worked examples is a fundamental aspect of construction project management, cost estimation, and contractual documentation. Accurate measurement ensures that all parties involved in a project have a clear understanding of the scope of work, quantities of materials, and labor requirements. This article provides a comprehensive overview of how building works are measured, including practical worked examples to illustrate key concepts.

Understanding the Importance of Accurate Measurement in Building Works

Accurate measurement is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Cost Control:** Precise quantities help in preparing accurate bills of quantities and cost estimates.
2. **Contractual Clarity:** Clear measurements prevent disputes between clients, contractors, and suppliers.
3. **Material Planning:** Knowing exact quantities aids in procurement and minimizing wastage.
4. **Progress Monitoring:** Measurement provides benchmarks for assessing work completion.

Without accurate measurement, projects risk budget overruns, delays, and legal complications. Therefore, mastering measurement techniques is essential for quantity surveyors, architects, engineers, and construction managers.

Basic Principles of Measurement in Building Works

Measurement in building works involves quantifying the various elements involved in construction projects. These elements include:

Types of Measurements

1. **Preliminary measurements:** Initial assessments during the planning phase.
2. **Detailed measurements:** Precise calculations used for tendering, procurement, and contract administration.
3. **Progress measurements:** Regular updates during construction to track work completed.

Measurement Units and Standards

Standard units of measurement vary depending on the element:

1. Length: meters (m), centimeters (cm)
2. Area: square meters (m²)
3. Volume: cubic meters (m³)
4. Count: units, number of items

Adherence to national or international standards, such as the Standard Method of Measurement (SMM) or the New Rules of Measurement (NRM), ensures consistency and clarity.

Common Techniques for Measuring Building Works

Different elements of building works require specific measurement techniques. Here are some common methods:

Measuring Walls and Partitions

- Measure the length of the wall in meters. - Measure the height from floor to ceiling. - Calculate the area: Length × Height. - For example, a wall 10 meters long and 3 meters high has an area of 30 m².

Measuring Floors and Ceilings

- Measure the length and width of the floor/ceiling. - Calculate the area: Length $\times$ Width. - For example, a room 5 meters long and 4 meters wide has an area of 20 m².

Measuring Volumes for Concrete and Fillings

- Measure the length, width, and thickness of the slab or fill. - Calculate volume: Length $\times$ Width $\times$ Thickness. - For example, a concrete slab 6 meters long, 4 meters wide, and 0.2 meters thick has a volume of 4.8 m³.

Measuring Openings and Fixtures

- Measure the size of doors, windows, and other openings. - Record the number and dimensions for quantity calculations.

Worked Examples of Building Works Measurement

To illustrate the measurement process, here are detailed worked examples covering different elements:

Example 1: Measuring Brickwork

Suppose you need to estimate the quantity of bricks for a wall. Details: - Wall length: 12 meters - Wall height: 3 meters - Thickness: 0.2 meters - Brick size: 0.2 m $\times$ 0.1 m $\times$ 0.05 m (length $\times$ width $\times$ height) - Mortar joint: 10 mm (0.01 m) Steps: 1. Calculate the wall area: - Area = 12 m $\times$ 3 m = 36 m² 2. Calculate the volume of brickwork: - Volume = Wall area $\times$ thickness = 36 m² $\times$ 0.2 m = 7.2 m³ 3. Determine the volume of one brick including mortar: - Brick volume = 0.2 m $\times$ 0.1 m $\times$ 0.05 m = 0.001 m³ - Add mortar joint volume; assume mortar fills gaps, so total volume per brick increases slightly, but for simplicity, use brick volume. 4. Calculate the number of bricks: - Number of bricks = Total volume of brickwork / volume per brick - Number of bricks = 7.2 m³ / 0.001 m³ = 7200 bricks Result: Approximately 7200 bricks are needed, considering wastage factors (say, 5%), total bricks required = 7200 $\times$ 1.05 $\approx$ 7560 bricks.

Example 2: Measuring Concrete for a Foundation

Details: - Foundation length: 10 meters - Width: 0.8 meters - Depth: 0.5 meters Steps: 1. Calculate volume: - Volume = Length $\times$ Width $\times$ Depth - Volume = 10 m $\times$ 0.8 m $\times$ 0.5 m = 4 m³ 2. Include allowances for waste, say 10%: - Total concrete needed = 4 m³ $\times$ 1.10 = 4.4 m³ Result: Approximately 4.4 cubic meters of concrete are required for the foundation.

Example 3: Measuring Roofing Material

Suppose a flat roof measures 15 meters by 8 meters. Steps: 1. Calculate area: - Area = 15 m $\times$ 8 m = 120 m² 2. Determine the quantity of roofing membrane or tiles: - For tiles, if each tile covers 0.25 m²: - Number of tiles = 120 m² / 0.25 m² = 480 tiles - Add 10% wastage: - Total tiles = 480 $\times$ 1.10 = 528 tiles Result: 528 tiles are needed for the roof.

Recording and Presenting Measurement Data

Proper documentation of measurements is vital. Use standardized formats like Bills of Quantities (BOQ) or measurement sheets. Include:

1. Description of work element
2. Unit of measurement
3. Quantity calculated
4. Rate per unit
5. Total cost (Quantity $\times$ Rate)

Accurate and well-organized data facilitate transparency, effective cost management, and smoother project execution.

Common Challenges and Tips for Accurate Measurement

Challenges: - Incomplete or inaccurate drawings - Variations in site conditions - Human error in calculations - Changes during construction Tips: - Always verify measurements on-site. - Use calibrated tools and measuring devices. - Follow standardized

measurement techniques. - Cross-check calculations. - Keep detailed records of assumptions and adjustments.

Conclusion

Measurement of building works with worked examples provides practical insights into the process of quantifying construction elements. Mastery of measurement techniques is essential for accurate cost estimating, effective project management, and contractual clarity. By understanding fundamental principles, applying appropriate methods, and practicing with real-world examples, professionals can improve accuracy and efficiency in construction projects. Continuous learning and adherence to standards ensure that measurements remain reliable, fostering successful project delivery from inception to completion.

Measurement of Building Works with Worked Examples: A Comprehensive Guide for Construction Practitioners In the realm of construction, accurate measurement of building works is fundamental to successful project delivery. It forms the backbone of cost estimation, tendering, progress tracking, and contractual claims. The process of measurement involves quantifying the various components of a building project in a systematic and standardized manner, ensuring that all stakeholders have a clear understanding and agreement on the scope and scale of work involved. This article provides a detailed exploration of the measurement of building works, elucidating core principles, methodologies, and practical examples to enhance comprehension and application for professionals in the industry.

Understanding the Importance of Measurement in Building Works

Measurement acts as the bridge between design intent and real-world execution. It allows quantity surveyors, contractors, and clients to:

- Determine the scope of work accurately
- Prepare precise bills of quantities (BOQs)
- Facilitate transparent tender processes
- Monitor progress and control costs
- Resolve disputes through clear documentation

Without reliable measurement, projects are susceptible to cost overruns, delays, and conflicts. Therefore, mastering measurement techniques is essential for maintaining control and achieving project success.

Fundamental Principles of Measurement

Before diving into specific methods, it is crucial to grasp the foundational principles that underpin effective measurement:

- Standardization: Use of recognized standards, such as the New Rules of Measurement (NRM) or the Standard Methods of Measurement (SMM), ensures consistency.
- Clarity: Measurements should be unambiguous, with clear descriptions and units.
- Completeness: All relevant elements of the work must be included.
- Accuracy: Measurements should be as precise as possible within practical limits.
- Consistency: Applying uniform measurement conventions across the project.

Key Techniques and Methodologies in Building Measurement

Measurement techniques vary based on the nature of the work, project scope, and contractual requirements. The primary methods include:

1. Elemental Measurement

Breaking down the building into discrete components or elements (e.g., walls, floors, roofs) and quantifying each separately.

2. Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)

Dividing the project into manageable sections or packages, facilitating systematic measurement and management.

3. Measurement of Quantities

Involves calculating the volume, area, length, or count of items using drawings, specifications, and site measurements.

Standard Components of Measurement

When measuring building works, certain key parameters are typically quantified: - Area (m²): For surfaces like walls, floors, and ceilings. - Volume (m³): For elements such as concrete, excavation, or fill. - Length (m): For linear elements like beams, pipes, or foundations. - Count or Units: For items like doors, windows, fixtures. Accurate calculation depends on clear drawings, detailed specifications, and correct interpretation of the scope.

Worked Examples of Measurement in Practice

To illustrate these principles, consider the following practical examples, which demonstrate step-by-step measurement procedures.

Example 1: Measuring a Brick Wall

Project Details: - A brick wall measuring 4 meters long, 3 meters high, with a thickness of 0.2 meters. - The wall has a door opening 1 meter wide and 2 meters high. - Bricks are standard modular size: 190 mm x 90 mm x 90 mm. - Mortar joints are 10 mm thick. Objective: Calculate the number of bricks required, considering the opening, and estimate the brickwork area and volume. Step 1: Calculate Gross Area - Area = Length x Height = 4 m x 3 m = 12 m² Step 2: Calculate Opening Area - Opening width x height = 1 m x 2 m = 2 m² Step 3: Net Area of Brickwork - Net area = Gross area - Opening area = 12 m² - 2 m² = 10 m² Step 4: Calculate the Volume of Bricks - Wall thickness = 0.2 m - Volume = Area x Thickness = 10 m² x 0.2 m = 2 m³ Step 5: Determine Brick Quantities - Volume of one brick including mortar joint: - Bricks are laid with mortar joints; the face size is 190 mm x 90 mm x 90 mm. - Considering mortar joints, the effective size per brick (with joints) is: - Length: 0.19 m + 0.01 m (joint) = 0.20 m - Height: 0.09 m + 0.01 m (joint) = 0.10 m - Number of bricks per square meter: - Area of face brick including joints: - Number of bricks across length: 1 / 0.20 m = 5 bricks - Number of bricks across height: 3 / 0.10 m = 30 bricks - Total bricks per m² = 5 x 30 = 150 bricks - Total bricks needed: - Bricks per m² x net area: - 150 x 10 = 1,500 bricks Step 6: Add Waste and Overlaps - Typically, an allowance of 5-10% is added for wastage and cutting: - Wastage = 10% of 1,500 = 150 bricks - Total bricks = 1,500 + 150 = 1,650 bricks Summary: - Brickwork area: 10 m² - Volume of brickwork: 2 m³ - Approximate number of bricks: 1,650

Example 2: Measuring Reinforced Concrete Slab

Project Details: - A reinforced concrete slab measuring 6 meters x 4 meters, with a thickness of 0.15 meters. - Reinforcement bars are specified as 12 mm diameter, spaced at 200 mm centers in both directions. Objective: Calculate the volume of concrete needed and the approximate weight of reinforcement. Step 1: Calculate Concrete Volume - Volume = Length x Width x Thickness - $6 \text{ m} \times 4 \text{ m} \times 0.15 \text{ m} = 3.6 \text{ m}^3$ Step 2: Calculate Reinforcement Weight - Area of reinforcement: - Number of bars in length direction: - Number of bars = (Length / Spacing) + 1 = $(6 / 0.2) + 1 = 30 + 1 = 31$ bars - Number of bars in width direction: - $(4 / 0.2) + 1 = 20 + 1 = 21$ bars - Total number of bars: - (Number of bars in length + width directions) x number of bars per direction, but since reinforcement is in both directions, total bars: - $31 + 21 = 52$ bars - Length of each bar: - For bars in length direction: 6 m - For bars in width direction: 4 m - Total length of reinforcement: - (Number of lengthwise bars x length) + (number of widthwise bars x length): - $(31 \times 6 \text{ m}) + (21 \times 4 \text{ m}) = 186 \text{ m} + 84 \text{ m} = 270 \text{ m}$ - Weight calculation: - Cross-sectional area of bar = $\pi/4 \times d^2 = 3.1416/4 \times (0.012 \text{ m})^2 \approx 1.13 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$ - Volume of reinforcement = total length x cross-sectional area = $270 \text{ m} \times 1.13 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2 \approx 0.0305 \text{ m}^3$ - Density of steel $\approx 7850 \text{ kg/m}^3$ - Weight = volume x density $\approx 0.0305 \text{ m}^3 \times 7850 \text{ kg/m}^3 \approx 239.7 \text{ kg}$ Summary: - Concrete volume: 3.6 m^3 - Reinforcement weight: approximately 240 kg

Common Challenges and Best Practices in Measurement

While measurement may seem straightforward, practitioners often face challenges such as: - Ambiguous drawings or specifications - Overlapping or hidden elements - Changes in scope during construction - Inconsistent measurement conventions Best practices to mitigate these issues include: - Cross-referencing drawings with specifications - Using standardized measurement methods - Conducting site measurements regularly - Documenting assumptions and clarifications - Employing digital tools and BIM (Building Information Modeling)

Technological Advances in Measurement

Recent developments have transformed traditional measurement techniques: - Digital Photogrammetry and 3D Scanning: Rapidly capture complex geometries with high accuracy. - BIM (Building Information Modeling): Integrates design data into a 3D model, enabling automatic quantity extraction. - Measurement Software: Tools like Bluebeam, PlanSwift, and CostX

streamline measurement processes, reduce errors, and improve efficiency. These technologies not only enhance accuracy but also facilitate real-time updates and collaboration.

Conclusion

Mastering the measurement of building works is an essential skill for construction professionals. It requires a combination of technical

Questions & Answers About measurement of building works with worked examples

No	Question	Answer
1	What is the purpose of measuring building works in construction projects?	Measuring building works helps determine the quantity of materials and labor needed, facilitates accurate cost estimation, and ensures proper project planning and control.
2	How do you measure the area of a wall for surface treatment in building works?	To measure a wall area, multiply its length by its height (Area = Length $\times$ Height). For example, a wall 5 meters long and 3 meters high has an area of 15 square meters.
3	What are the common units used in the measurement of building works?	Common units include square meters (m ²) for area, cubic meters (m ³) for volume, linear meters (lm) for length, and number of units for items like bricks or tiles.
4	Can you provide an example of measuring concrete volume for a slab?	Yes. For a concrete slab measuring 4 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 0.15 meters thick, the volume is $4 \times 3 \times 0.15 = 1.8$ cubic meters.
5	How do you account for wastage when measuring building materials?	Wastage is usually added as a percentage to the calculated quantities. For example, if wastage is 5%, and the calculated material quantity is 100 units, then the adjusted quantity becomes $100 + (100 \times 0.05) = 105$ units.

6	What is the method for measuring the quantity of brickwork?	Brickwork is typically measured in cubic meters. Calculate the volume by multiplying the length, height, and thickness of the wall. For example, a wall 6m long, 3m high, and 0.2m thick has a volume of $6 \times 3 \times 0.2 = 3.6 \text{ m}^3$.
7	How do worked examples help in understanding measurement of building works?	Worked examples illustrate step-by-step calculations, clarifying measurement procedures, and ensuring accuracy in estimating quantities for different building components.
8	What are the key steps involved in measuring building works from drawings?	Key steps include reviewing drawings, identifying components, taking measurements directly or using scale, calculating quantities, and applying wastage factors where necessary.
9	How do you measure for tiling works in a bathroom floor?	Measure the floor's length and width, multiply to find area (e.g., $4\text{m} \times 3\text{m} = 12\text{m}^2$). Add wastage percentage, say 10%, resulting in approximately 13.2m^2 of tiles needed.
10	Why is it important to verify measurements with actual site inspection?	Site verification ensures measurements are accurate, accounts for site-specific conditions, and helps identify discrepancies between drawings and actual conditions, leading to better estimates.

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