

CROSS

Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety

601 Fixing systems for gravestones

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Report Overview

This report is about the safety of pins used to hold headstones in place.

Report Content

This report is about the safety of pins used to hold headstones in place and representations have been made to ICE and IStructE to publicise the matter through CROSS. There is a standard pin which is widely used in the monumental masonry industry but which, when tested independently, failed when gravestones were pushed from behind or from the front. Discussions have been held with BSI who have, according to the reporter, concluded that a certain type of pin does not comply with BS 8415/2012. As the health and safety aspects of this matter are urgent BSI will reportedly publish an amendment to their standards.

Comments

Yet another example of the general problem with fixings, from suspended ceilings, fireplaces, balconies, and now gravestones. Engineers involved with such monumental masonry should apply basic engineering principles to ensure stability under normal use and also consider the possibility of vandalism.

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E: alastair.soane@structural-safety.org