



BISON PRECAST

a Forterra brand

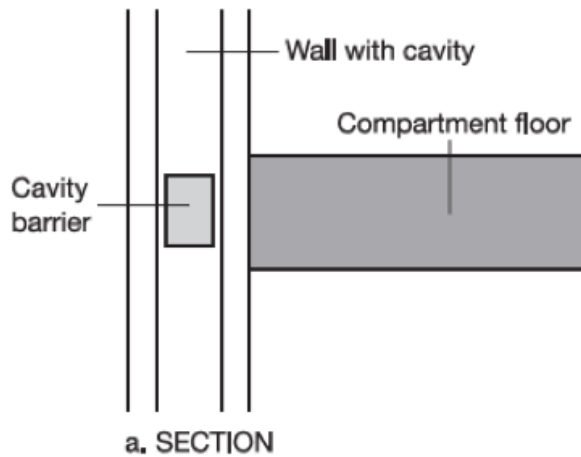
GUIDANCE NOTE

Solid ends to hollowcore - 18 May 2018

Throughout the industry it is standard practice to manufacture Hollowcore slabs without solid ends. Where the shear capacity has to be increased then solid ends can be formed either during manufacture or post manufacture. However, solid ends will not affect the fire resistance of the slab as this is determined by the axis distance to the prestressed tendons.

There is no requirement to provide solid ends for compliance against Building Regulations Part E nor Part B as cavity barriers which are required will perform the requirements for compartmentalisation. See extract of diagram 12 from Part B of the Building Regulations. To comply with Part B of the Building Regulations it is critical that any service holes through the unit are sealed to prevent the spread of fire.

Diagram 12 - Interrupting concealed spaces (cavities)



Whilst solid ends can be provided there is a downside in that water that is allowed to enter the cores, through service opening, during construction can get trapped. During the winter months this water can freeze causing the soffit of the hollowcore unit to break away. Or the trapped water will eventually migrate through the hollowcore and cause staining on the soffit of the ceiling. Weep holes can be provided but they are not always 100% effective.