The effective bearing is the lesser of:

a)   The actual bearing length

b)   Half the bearing length + 100mm

c)   600mm

A = Bearing length
B = Bearing width
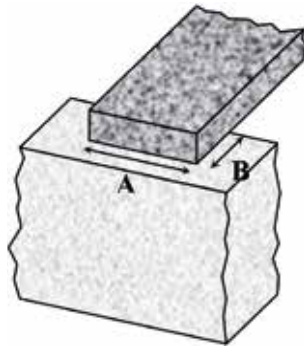
Nominal bearing width =	+ Net bearing width
	+ Spalling allowance
	+ Construction tolerances allowance
	+ Manufacturing tolerances

$$\text{Net bearing width} = \frac{\text{Ultimate support reaction}}{\text{Bearing length} \times \text{ultimate bearing stress}}$$

| Minimum net bearing width = | 40mm for slabs (non-isolated members) |
| | 60mm for beams (isolated members) |

The ultimate bearing stress is based on the weaker of the bearing surfaces

- Dry Bearing on concrete	$0.4 \times f_{cu}$
- Bedded bearing on concrete	$0.6 \times f_{cu}$
- Cast in steel bearing plate	$0.8 \times f_{cu}$
- Bearing on masonry	$0.36 \times f_{k}$

For masonry:

f_k = 3.5 N/mm² (Crushing strength of 3.5 N/mm²)

f_k = 6.4 N/mm² (Crushing strength of 7.0 N/mm²)

f_k = 8.2 N/mm² (Crushing strength of 10 N/mm²)

Allowances for spalling at support:

- Steel	0 mm
- Concrete grade 30 or over	15 mm
- Concrete below grade 30	25 mm
- Brick/masonry	25 mm
- RC <300 mm deep at outer edge	Not less than cover to reinforcement at outer face of support
- RC where vertical loop reinforcement > 12 mm Ø	Cover plus radius of bend.

Allowances for construction tolerances:

up to 3m length ± 6mm
up to 4.5m length ± 9mm
up to 6m length ± 12mm
additional deviation for every subsequent 6m ± 6mm

For masonry buildings over 4 storeys bedded bearing should be used.