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8.3 BRICKS AND RELATED CLAY PRODUCTS

8.3.1 Process Description

The manufacture of brick and related products such as clay pipe, pottery and some types of refractory brick involves the mining, grinding, screening and blending of the raw materials, and the forming, cutting or shaping, drying or curing, and firing of the final product.

Surface clays and shales are mined in open pits. Most fine clays are found underground. After mining, the material is crushed to remove stones and is stirred before it passes onto screens for segregation by particle size.

To start the forming process, clay is mixed with water, usually in a pug mill. The three principal processes for forming brick are stiff mud, soft mud and dry press. In the stiff mud process, sufficient water is added to give the clay plasticity, and bricks are formed by forcing the clay through a die. Wire is used in separating bricks. All structural tile and most brick are formed by this process. The soft mud process is usually used with clay too wet for the stiff mud process. The clay is mixed with water to a moisture content of 20 to 30 percent, and the bricks are formed in molds. In the dry press process, clay is mixed with a small amount of water and formed in steel molds by applying pressure of 3.43 to 10.28 megapascals (500 to 1500 pounds per square inch). A typical brick manufacturing process is shown in Figure 8.3-1.

Wet clay units that have been formed are almost completely dried before firing, usually with waste heat from kilns. Many types of kilns are used for firing brick, but the most common are the downdraft periodic kiln and the tunnel kiln. The periodic kiln is a permanent brick structure with a number of fireholes where fuel enters the furnace. Hot gases from the fuel are drawn up over the bricks, down through them by underground flues, and out of the oven to the chimney. Although lower heat recovery makes this type less efficient than the tunnel kiln, the uniform temperature distribution leads to a good quality product. In most tunnel kilns, cars carrying about 1200 bricks travel on rails through the kiln at the rate of one 1.83 meter (6 foot) car per hour. The fire zone is located near the middle of the kiln and is stationary.

In all kilns, firing takes place in six steps: evaporation of free water, dehydration, oxidation, vitrification, flashing, and cooling. Normally, gas or residual oil is used for heating, but coal may be used. Total heating time varies with the type of product, for example, 22.9 centimeter (9 inch) refractory bricks usually require 50 to 100 hours of firing. Maximum temperatures of about 1090°C (2000°F) are used in firing common brick.

8.3.2 Emissions And Controls^{1,3}

Particulate matter is the primary emission in the manufacture of bricks. The main source of dust is the materials handling procedure, which includes drying, grinding, screening and storing the raw material. Combustion products are emitted from the fuel consumed in the dryer and the kiln. Fluorides, largely in gaseous form, are also emitted from brick manufacturing operations. Sulfur dioxide may be emitted from the bricks when temperatures reach or exceed 1370°C (2500°F), but no data on such emissions are available.⁴

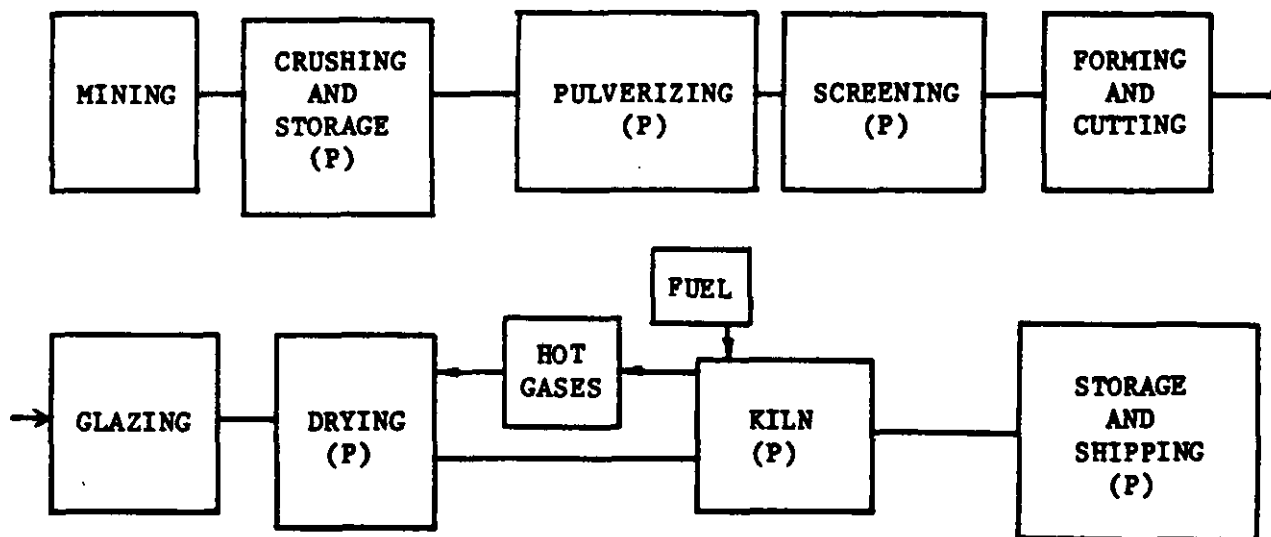


Figure 8.3-1. Basic flow diagram of brick manufacturing process.
(P = a major source of particulate emissions)

A variety of control systems may be used to reduce both particulate and gaseous emissions. Almost any type of particulate control system will reduce emissions from the material handling process, but good plant design and hooding are also required to keep emissions to an acceptable level.

The emissions of fluorides can be reduced by operating the kiln at temperatures below 1090°C (2000°F) and by choosing clays with low fluoride content. Satisfactory control can be achieved by scrubbing kiln gases with water, since wet cyclonic scrubbers can remove fluorides with an efficiency of 95 percent or higher.

Table 8.3-1 presents emission factors for brick manufacturing without controls. Table 8.3-2 presents data on particle size distribution and emission factors for uncontrolled sawdust fired brick kilns. Table 8.3-3 presents data on particle size distribution and emission factors for uncontrolled coal fired tunnel brick kilns.

TABLE 8.3-1. EMISSION FACTORS FOR BRICK MANUFACTURING WITHOUT CONTROLS^a

EMISSION FACTOR RATING: C

Process	Particulates kg/Mg	Sulfur oxides lb/ton kg/Mg	Carbon monoxide lb/ton kg/Mg	Volatile Organic Compounds				Nitrogen oxides lb/ton kg/Mg	Fluorides ^b lb/ton kg/Mg
				Nonmethane lb/ton kg/Mg	Methane lb/ton kg/Mg				
Raw material handling ^c									
Drying	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grinding	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Storage	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brick dryerd									
Coal/gas fired	0.006A	0.012A	0.55S	1.10S	-	-	-	0.33	0.66
Curing and firing ^e									
Tunnel kiln									
Gas fired	0.012	0.023	Neg	Neg	0.03	0.06	0.0015	0.003	0.006
Oil fired	0.29	0.59	1.98S	3.95S	0.06	0.12	0.0035	0.007	0.013
Coal fired	0.34A	0.67A	3.65S	7.31S	0.71	1.43	0.005	0.01	0.003
Coal/gas fired	0.16A	0.31A	0.31S	0.62S	-	-	-	-	-
Sawdust fired	0.12	0.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Periodic kiln									
Gas fired	0.033	0.065	Neg	Neg	0.075	0.15	0.005	0.01	0.02
Oil fired	0.44	0.88	2.93S	5.86S	0.095	0.19	0.005	0.01	0.02
Coal fired	9.42	18.84	6.06S	12.13S	1.19	2.39	0.01	0.02	0.005

^aExpressed as units per unit weight of brick produced. One brick weighs about 2.95 kg (6.5 pounds). Dash = No data.

A = 1 ash in coal. S = 1 sulfur in fuel. Neg = negligible.

^bReferences 3, 6-10.

^cBased on data from Section 8.7 on Ceramic Clay Manufacturing in this publication. Because of process variation some steps may be omitted. Storage losses apply only to that quantity of material stored.

^dReference 12.

^eReferences 1, 5, 12-16.

TABLE 8.3-2. PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION AND EMISSION FACTORS FOR UNCONTROLLED SAWDUST FIRED BRICK KILNS^a

EMISSION FACTOR RATING: E

Aerodynamic particle diameter (μm)	Cumulative weight % $\leq$ stated size	Emission factor ^b (kg/Mg)
2.5	36.5	0.044
6.0	63.0	0.076
10.0	82.5	0.099
Total particulate emission factor		0.12 ^c

^aReference 13.

^bExpressed as cumulative weight of particulate $\leq$ corresponding particle size/unit weight of brick produced.

^cTotal mass emission factor from Table 8.3-1.

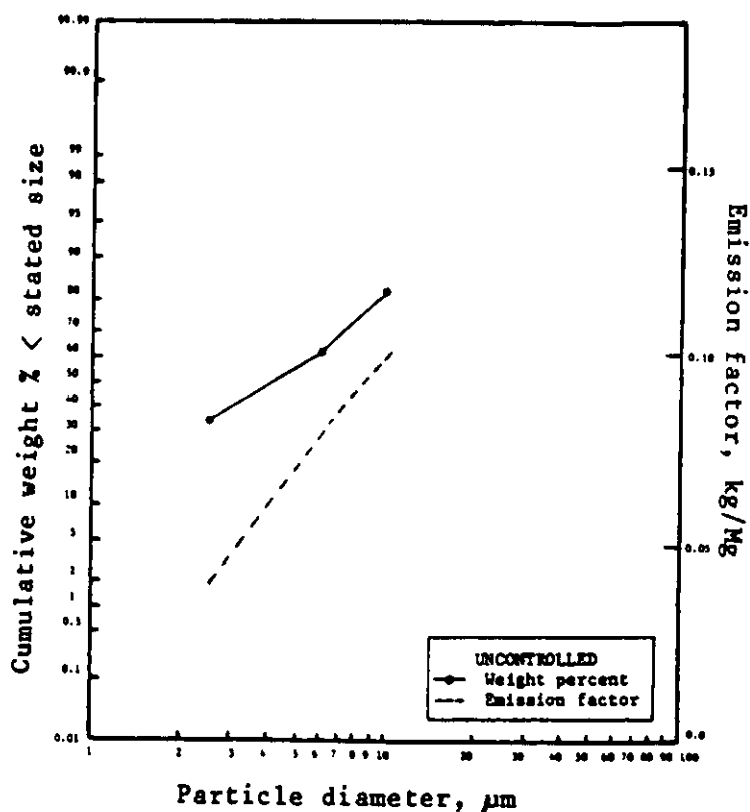


Figure 8.3-2. Cumulative weight percent of particles less than stated particle diameters for uncontrolled sawdust fired brick kilns.

TABLE 8.3-3. PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION AND EMISSION FACTORS FOR UNCONTROLLED COAL FIRED TUNNEL BRICK KILNS^a

EMISSION FACTOR RATING: E

Aerodynamic particle diameter (μm)	Cumulative weight % $\leq$ stated size	Emission factor ^b (kg/Mg)
2.5	24.7	0.08A
6.0	50.4	0.17A
10.0	71.0	0.24A
Total particulate emission factor		0.34A ^c

^aReferences 12, 17.

^bExpressed as cumulative weight of particulate $\leq$ corresponding particle size/unit weight of brick produced. A = % ash in coal. (Use 10% if ash content is not known).

^cTotal mass emission factor from Table 8.3-1.

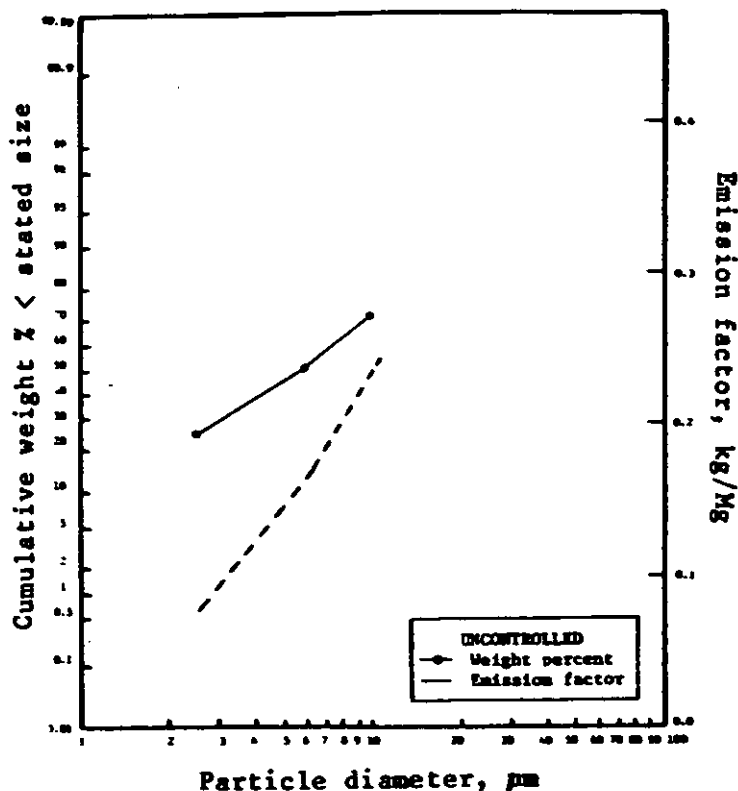


Figure 8.3-3. Cumulative weight percent of particles less than stated particle diameters for uncontrolled coal fired tunnel brick kilns

TABLE 8.3-4. PARTICLE SIZE DISTRIBUTION AND EMISSION FACTORS FOR
UNCONTROLLED SCREENING AND GRINDING OF RAW MATERIALS
FOR BRICKS AND RELATED CLAY PRODUCTS^A

EMISSION FACTOR RATING: E

Aerodynamic particle diameter (μm)	Cumulative weight % $\leq$ stated size	Emission factor ^b (kg/Mg)
2.5	0.2	0.08
6.0	0.4	0.15
10.0	7.0	2.66
Total particulate emission factor 38 ^c		

^aReferences 11, 18.

^bExpressed as cumulative weight of particulate $\leq$ corresponding particle size/unit weight of raw material processed.

^cTotal mass emission factor from Table 8.3-1.

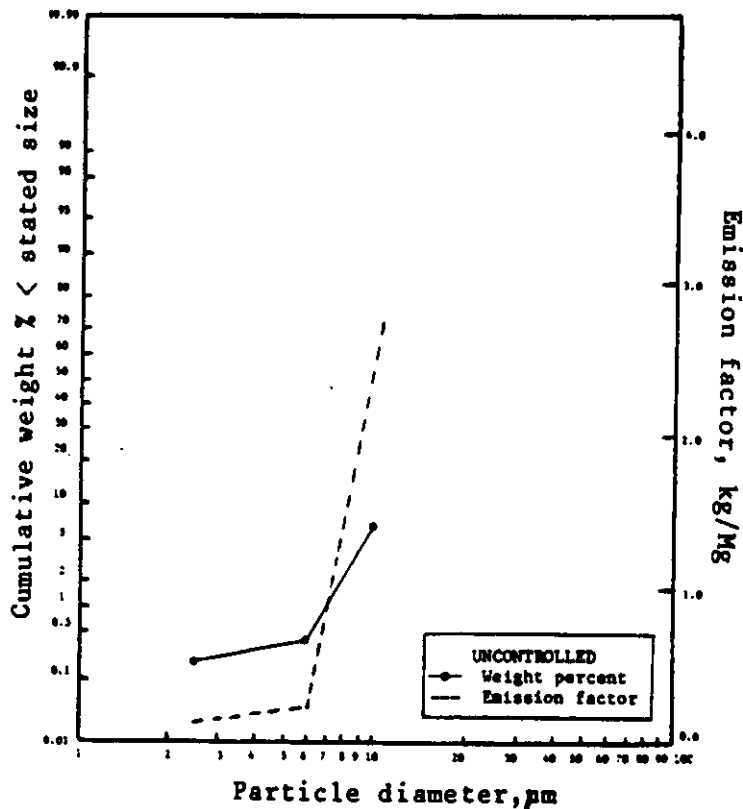


Figure 8.3-4. Cumulative weight percent of particles less than stated particle diameters for uncontrolled screening and grinding of raw materials for bricks and related clay products.

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