

TR13-177

R. 574

COMALCO, RED MUD TAILINGS FOR  
COLOURING CLAY BRICKS

Sample

A sample of red mud tailings was supplied by Comalco Aluminium (Bell Bay) Pty. Ltd. for tests aimed at colouring clay bricks.

Summary

Clay in use at local brickworks was mixed with various proportions of the above red mud tailings, the resultant mix being both extruded and pressed. The material served well as an extender, and even in proportions as high as 20%, had no deleterious effect on the processing of the clay.

Dried brick specimens, fired at a range of temperatures, 850°/1,050° showed no significant change in the colour from the normal fired clay. In this respect alone the material was regarded as unsatisfactory and, coupled with the pronounced efflorescence caused by the high proportion of soluble salts present in the red mud, the material is deemed to be unsuitable for this particular application.