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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Subject: Testing the Waterproofing of Membranes

There are several methods available to test the waterproofing of roofing membranes.

The best known method is flood testing the roof upon completion. However, **SOPREMA** does not recommend this technique, because it has several disadvantages and may compromise the durability of the waterproofing system. Flood testing significantly increases the load on the roof in terms of weight, which must be calculated in advance by an expert to avoid damaging the supporting structure. Furthermore, with a properly installed vapour barrier in place, it is possible for the water used in flood testing to penetrate and further compromise an improperly installed roofing system without any signs of infiltration being evident inside the building. Consequently, **SOPREMA** shares the opinion of the Canadian Roofing Contractors Association (CRCA) on this subject (see "Flood Testing" advisory bulletin).

Fortunately, there are alternative, non-destructive testing methods available that are just as effective as flood testing, but that do not pose any risk to the roofing system. These include infrared thermography, nuclear moisture testing, electrical capacitance (impedance) testing and electric field vector mapping. For these last two methods – electrical capacitance testing and electric field vector mapping – the required wiring must be installed in advance. But once installed, these two systems can be used at any time to identify infiltration zones that may appear after installation of a **SOPRANATURE** system.

SOPREMA believes that hiring a reputable roofing inspection firm to oversee the installation of the waterproofing system is another effective means of ensuring the satisfactory performance of a roof covered by a **SOPRANATURE** system.

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