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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Relates to: 07 52 00 Modified Bituminous Membrane Roofing

Subject: Adhesion of SOPREMA roofing membranes on wood

Related subjects: Self-adhesive membranes, membranes adhered with hot asphalt, membranes adhered with cold adhesive

The adhesion of SBS modified asphalt membranes is excellent on wood surfaces. However, it is very important to follow the recommendations below in order to avoid problems that could arise under certain conditions.

Wood plank:

In no case should membranes be laid directly on wood plank. The planking used for decks is most often some type of softwood, and the sap that it exudes actually dissolves the asphalt and severely deteriorates the membranes. It also leads to tarry drips under the decking. The consequences of laying membrane directly on softwood decking can be quite damaging, and a full rebuild of the membrane is often required, not to mention the decking as well, in some cases. Moreover, if old wood is used to cover the deck, the resulting surface is usually rough and there is a strong chance of an old nail or screw perforating the membrane.

To prevent any problems generated by this type of substrate, roofers must install a mechanically fastened overlay before any attempt to lay down the membrane. If **SOPRABOARD** asphaltic board is used for the overlay, a non-bituminous separator sheet needs to be sandwiched between the decking and the support board.

Plywood decking:

Although plywood poses little risk in terms of sap seepage and is generally free of old mechanical fasteners, some delamination or folding of the membrane may occur where the panel seams are. Such folds will usually appear soon after membrane installation, when the moisture is released from the panels themselves or the roof space. To prevent this setback, roofers are strongly recommended to mechanically fasten an overlay on top of the plywood before laying down the membrane. This preventive measure is generally not required for the plywood cladding of parapet walls or upstands waterproofed with self-adhesive membrane.

Note: This technical bulletin was prepared by SOPREMA Inc. for architects, engineers, building owners, and contractors, as a reference guide in designing, selecting and constructing roofing, and/or waterproofing and/or air/vapour barriers utilizing SOPREMA Inc. products. SOPREMA Inc. reserves the right to change, or modify, at our discretion, without prior notice, any information, recommendations, or specifications contained in this technical bulletin.

Pressure-treated wood:

The wood used in Soprema waterproofing systems does not have to be pressure-treated. If treated wood is used anyway, the following recommendations apply:

Self-adhesive membranes or membranes applied with hot asphalt or adhesive can be laid directly on pressure-treated wood. For safety reasons, however, we do not recommend heat-sealing membranes directly on treated wood. If a self-adhesive membrane is laid down on pressure-treated wood, the surface must first be coated with **ELASTOCOL STICK**, as usually stipulated by Soprema. If a membrane is being adhered with hot asphalt (oxidized or SEBS) or with an adhesive (**COLPLY**), the surface must first be coated with a bituminous primer or with **ELASTOCOL 500**.

Surface-treated wood (i.e. with a preservative treatment brushed or rolled on) is not an acceptable substrate, regardless of the type of membrane installation used. This type of treatment reduces the adhesion of membranes to wood. On the other hand, it is acceptable to paint this type of surface treatment onto the cut ends of pressure-treated wood.

Heat-welded membrane:

No heat-welding of any type is to be done directly above a wood surface. When this technique is used, non-combustible underlay and fire baffles must be used to prevent any flame from contacting combustible materials.

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