



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 906 [2016]

SPAPANEL WALL LINING SYSTEM

Appraisal No. 906 [2016]

Amended 04 August 2020



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for building and construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Spapanel is a pre-finished wall lining that incorporates panels finished with high pressure decorative laminates.

Scope

- 2.1 Spapanel has been appraised for use as a non-structural wall lining in new or existing buildings, for the following:
 - wet areas such as bathrooms, showers or laundries where moisture-resistant materials are required; and,
 - domestic hygiene areas where easy-to-clean surfaces are required; and,
 - other areas where low maintenance pre-finished wall lining systems are specified.
- 2.2 When the Wet Area Solutions [W.A.S.] installation system is used, the Spapanel Wall Lining System must be installed by certified installers, approved by AB Building Products.

Building Regulations

Building Code of Australia [BCA]

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Spapanel, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet or contribute to meeting the following provisions of the National Construction Code [NCC].

NCC 2019 Building Code of Australia - Volume One [NCC Volume One]

Part F1 - Damp and waterproofing. Performance FP 1.7. Spapanel meets this requirement. See Paragraph 12.1-12.2.

NCC 2019 Building Code of Australia - Volume Two [NCC Volume Two]

Part 2.4 - Health and Amenity. Performance P2.4.1 Spapanel meets this requirement. See Paragraph 12.1-12.2.



Product Information

Description

4.1 **Spapanel Wall Lining System** - is an adhesive fixed, decorative high-pressure laminate finished panel with Hydrolock joints and aluminium jointers for lining wet areas and other areas where an easy clean hygienic finish is required.

Spapanel Panels - are plywood cored panels with a decorative high-pressure laminate finish on one side and a plain laminate on the rear. The panels are 2400 mm x 1200 mm x 11 mm thick with an effective cover of 1181.5 mm.

Soudal Silirub 2/S Silicone Sealant - is a neutral cure, elastic one-component silicone based sealant. It is supplied in 300 ml cartridges, coloured white and clear.

Soudal 'FixAll High Tack' 220 MS Sealant - is a high performance MS based adhesive sealant. It is supplied in 425 gm cartridges or 600 ml sausages, coloured white.

Soudal Soudaseal 240 FC - is a neutral cure elastic, single component joint and adhesive MS sealant. It is supplied in 290 ml cartridges, coloured white.

Screws - Stainless steel or yellow passivated counter sunk 3.5 mm x 25 mm woods screws.

Accessories - Spapanel Aluminium Joints Sections:

- Type A - Internal corner
- Type B - External corner
- Type C - End cap
- Type D - Mid joint
- Type X - Base profile

Accessories - Spapanel PVC Sections:

- Base Seal Trim
- W.A.S. Installation System:
 - W.A.S. Hidden Aluminium Flashings
 - W.A.S. Aluminium Profile [W Moulding]
 - Soudal 'Fixall High Tack' 220 MS Sealant
 - Soudal Silirub 2/S Silicone Sealant

Handling and Storage

5.1 Spapanel panels are supplied for shipping strapped on pallets overwrapped with a waterproof covering.

5.2 Long-term storage of Spapanel panels must be under cover, away from direct sunlight and high temperatures, on evenly spaced bearers to keep them flat and dry. Panels must be lifted and not dragged off the stack.

Technical Literature

6.1 Refer to the Appraisal listing on the BRANZ Website for details of the current Technical Literature for Spapanel. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained within the scope of this Appraisal and the Technical Literature must be followed.

Design Information

General

- 7.1 Spapanel panels are impervious to moisture and are resistant to water. The panels are primarily intended for use as wall linings in wet areas and domestic kitchens. The minimum requirements for wet areas are set out in AS 3740 which must be followed for the applicable Class buildings as defined in the BCA.

Installation Information

- 7.2 Spapanel can be fixed directly over:
- new timber framing;
 - existing timber framing (after removal of existing linings);
 - new or existing linings;
 - timber battens fixed over new or existing concrete or masonry.

Framing and supports

- 7.3 Timber framing studs must be at 450 or 600 mm maximum centres noting that panel joint centres are 1180 mm.
- 7.4 Nogs/dwangs must be at 600 mm maximum centres. Double blocking of 100 x 50 mm is required at the base of walls to support waterproofing, flashing and flooring upstands. Timber battens shall be fixed to concrete and masonry walls at the same centres as for timber framing.
- 7.5 A combination of Spapanel jointers and adhesive are used to hold the panels in place. Mechanical fasteners are generally not required to fix the panels. Continuous support must be provided at all panel edges, including around 'cut-outs' for plumbing fixtures and other services. Wall fixtures must only be fixed directly to the underlying supports.

Structure

Mass

- 8.1 The mass of Spapanel panels is approximately 7.6 kg/m².

Impact

- 8.2 Spapanel panels will withstand typical soft body impacts normally expected in areas where the product will be used. The panels may be damaged by hard body impacts such as hammer blows.

Durability

- 9.1 Spapanel when subject to normal conditions of environment and use, is expected to have a serviceable life of at least 15 years. This statement assumes that mouldings and flanges to wall mounted plumbing or sanitary fixtures are detailed to minimise the passage of moisture behind the panels, especially in critical areas such as around baths, shower trays, wash basins and sinks.

Maintenance

- 10.1 Cleaning must be carried out using a soft cloth lubricated with non-abrasive mild detergent or soap solutions. Solvents may be used to clean any stains, but must be washed off immediately. Abrasive cleaners must not be used. See the Technical Literature for more information.
- 10.2 Mouldings, flashings and sealants used around baths, urinals, shower trays, wash basins, sinks or domestic hygiene areas must be maintained in a serviceable condition in order to ensure joints are impervious to moisture.

Spread of Fire

- 11.1 Spapanel panels will meet the requirements of NCC Volume 1, Section C1.10 (a) (ii).

Internal Moisture

- 12.1 Spapanel panels are impervious to moisture, and can be easily cleaned, therefore meets Part F1 – Damp and waterproofing, FP1.7 and Part 2.4 – Health and amenity, P 2.4.1.
- 12.2 Spapanel panels can be used to prevent water splash from penetrating to concealed places and therefore meets Part F 1 – Damp and waterproofing, FP 1.7 and Part 2.4 – Health and amenity, P 2.4.1. are impervious to moisture, and can be easily cleaned, therefore meets Part F1 – Damp and waterproofing, FP1.7 and Part 2.4 – Health and amenity, P 2.4.1
- 12.3 Spapanel panels are a water-resistant surface material as intended by AS 3740, Clause 2.4.3 [a][i] “Thermo setting laminated wall sheet”. Spapanel panels can provide water-proof panel joints as required by AS 3740, Clause 3.9 Junctions and Appendix A 3.4.

Installation Information

General

- 13.1 Installation must be in accordance with the instructions given in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature.
- 13.2 Installation of the W.A.S. Installation System must be completed by W.A.S. certified installers approved by AB Building Products.

Preparation

- 13.3 Existing linings maybe removed or, if sound, retained. If the linings are removed, damaged framing must be replaced and vertical supports provided at maximum 400 mm centres where they do not exist.
- 13.4 All supporting substrates [concrete, masonry, new framing or existing framing and linings] must form a basis for providing a true and level surface for Spapanel. The procedures for fixing Spapanel are the same for both new and retro-fitting applications.

System Installation

- 13.5 It is recommended that the installer dry fit each sheet before final fixing to ensure good fit.
- 13.6 It is critical to allow expansion clearance between the extrusion and the panel being installed to allow for future movement. See the Technical Literature for details.
- 13.7 If the panel needs holding in place while the adhesive cures, a screw can be installed through the “groove” edge of the Hydrolock joint.

Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out.

Tests

- 14.1 A series of tests has been carried out on Spapanel panels by others for durability and material properties. These have been reviewed by BRANZ and found satisfactory.
- 14.2 The water penetration resistance of the Spapanel Hydrolock Joint has been tested by BRANZ. Tests exposed joints in different orientations to 3000 wetting and drying cycles in a Q-Panel Q-Fog salt spray chamber.

Other Investigations

- 15.1 An assessment of the durability of Spapanel Wall Lining System has been made by BRANZ technical experts.
- 15.2 Site inspections of Spapanel have been undertaken by BRANZ.



Quality

- 16.1 The quality of the manufacture of the Spapanel panels has been assessed as meeting the requirements of ISO 9001 certification. This has been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 16.2 Quality of materials, components and accessories supplied by AB Building Products is the responsibility of AB Building Products.
- 16.3 The quality of installation on site of components and accessories supplied by AB Building Products is the responsibility of the installer.

Sources of Information

- AS 3740 Waterproofing of domestic wet areas.
- AS/NZS 3837: 1998 Method of testing for heat and smoke release rates for materials and products using an oxygen consumption calorimeter.
- National Construction Code, Building Code of Australia 2019, Australian Building Codes Board.

Amendments

Amendment No. 1, dated 27 July 2017.

This Appraisal has been amended to add the W.A.S. Installation System, and update the Appraisal Holders details.

Amendment No. 2, dated 11 December 2017.

This Appraisal has been amended to update Framing and Support and the cover image.

Amendment No. 3, dated 04 August 2020.

This Appraisal has been amended to update references to align with the updates in NCC 2019.



In the opinion of BRANZ, the **Spanpanel Wall Lining System** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **AB Building Products**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **AB Building Products:**
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions.
 - d) Warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **AB Building Products**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **AB Building Products** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

12 April 2016