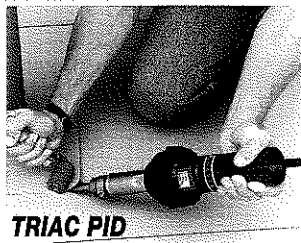


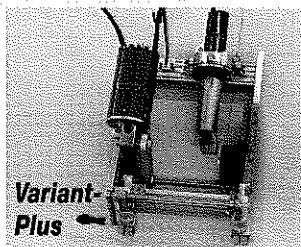
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One Consultant's Opinion

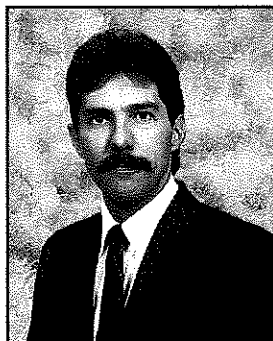
Tech Tip

Lightweight Decks & FMRC Approvals

by Phil Dregger, PE, RRC, Technical Roof Services, Inc.



Due to recent changes in the Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FMRC) Approval Standard for lightweight (L/W) insulating concrete decks, roof professionals must make sure to reference the 1996 FMRC Approval Guide rather than the 1995 Guide, when specifying roofs involving new L/W decks.



As of October 1, 1995, FMRC required re-examination of all L/W approvals, including uplift resistance testing on their 12' by 24' test frame. According to George A. Smith, manager, Materials Section, FMRC, "None of the

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previously tested assemblies obtained the same level of wind uplift resistance," when tested on the larger test frame. He noted that some previously classified 1-90 assemblies may now only obtain a 1-60 wind resistance classification.

Previous tests, conducted on a 5' by 9' test frame, while offering a fair comparison between roof coverings, were quite limited in their ability to evaluate the wind uplift resistance of the L/W materials and the decks they were cast on.

The 1996 FMRC Approval Guide currently contains only a limited number of listings involving attachment into L/W decks. However, specific manufacturers should be contacted regarding additional approvals which may have been granted since publication of the document.

As always, particular care must be taken when an FMRC classified roof assembly is required, to comply with specific installation criteria (fastening patterns, types of base sheets) contained in the individual FMRC approval listing. For example, perimeter sealing is often required to obtain one of the higher wind resistance classifications. (Note: FMRC now offers approvals in Class 1-60, 1-90, 1-120, 1-150, and 1-180).

If the property is insured by a company that requires FMRC approved assemblies, local FMRC representatives can help clarify requirements or assist in obtaining approvals for non-standard conditions.

roofing systems. Together with John Fotopoulos, Seal-Dry's Western regional sales manager, they presented a solution to conform with Ralston-Purina's needs.

Ralston-Purina manufactures animal food, so one of maintenance coordinator Steve Scholstrom's concerns was to continue manufacturing without shutting down the plant. When the many advantages of a non-asphalt product were pointed out, Scholstrom was very interested.

"One of our major concerns was that asphalt fumes could be absorbed into the product," explained Scholstrom. "This caused all kinds of red flags to go up. Animals have a superior sense of smell. If they reject our product, we're in trouble." It was this major issue that convinced Ralston-Purina to entertain single ply bids.

Kelly and Fotopoulos went on numerous roof walks with the Ralston-Purina's engineers, highlighting the distinct advantages of the mechanically attached system.



When confronted with the asbestos issue in tear off removal, Mile-Hi once again responded to the call.

ABS, Inc., an asbestos removal contractor, was called in, and they detailed exactly what their intentions were in an asbestos tear-off and removal. "With Ralston-Purina being a high profile company, there is no room for asbestos problems. We will work hand-in-hand with safety officers and OSHA, if need be, to insure a healthy environment," said Jim Pulner of ABS, Inc.

When Mile-Hi Single-Ply was awarded the job and ABS, Inc. was subcontracted, the people at Ralston-Purina were comfortable they were receiving the best installation possible. All questions were answered and any details provided.

"Both the manufacturer and roofing contractor were available every step of the way. Mile-Hi was not the lowest bid, but we will continue to hire contractors that have the ability to service our company well," said Scholstrom when asked about his hiring decision.

Seal-Dry and Mile-Hi have currently installed over 75,000 square feet of membrane and are presently preparing to close an additional 56,000 square feet.

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