

Permavent Limited

11 Cumberland Drive
Granby Industrial Estate
Weymouth
Dorset DT4 9TB

Tel: 01305 766 703

e-mail: enquiries@permavent.co.uk

website: www.permavent.co.uk



Agrément Certificate

22/6247

Product Sheet 3

PERMAVENT BREATHER MEMBRANES

FOR USE IN TIMBER-FRAME, STEEL-FRAME, SIP PANEL AND MASONRY CONSTRUCTIONS

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet⁽¹⁾ relates to Permavent Breather Membranes, flexible three-layer flexible polypropylene sheet materials for use in external walls of timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry constructions with a cavity and a masonry outer leaf, weatherboarding or tile/slate cladding.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.



KEY FACTORS ASSESSED

Weathertightness — the products will contribute to protecting a wall against water penetration (see section 6).

Condensation — the products are low water vapour resistance and can contribute to reducing the risk of interstitial condensation (see section 7)

Strength — the products have adequate strength to resist the loads associated with the construction of the walls (see section 8).

Properties in relation to fire — the products are classified as Class E in accordance with EN 13501-1 : 2018 and their use is restricted in some cases by the national Building Regulations (see section 9).

Durability — the products will have a life equal to that of the building in which they are installed (see section 11).

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the products described herein. These products have been assessed by the BBA as being fit for their intended use provided they installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

Date of First issue: 8 September 2022

Hardy Giesler
Chief Executive Officer

The BBA is a UKAS accredited certification body – Number 113.

*The schedule of the current scope of accreditation for product certification is available in pdf format via the UKAS link on the BBA website at www.bbacerts.co.uk
Readers MUST check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA directly.*

Any photographs are for illustrative purposes only, do not constitute advice and should not be relied upon.

British Board of Agrément

1st Floor, Building 3
Hatters Lane, Croxley Park
Watford WD18 8YG

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tel: 01923 665300
clientservices@bbacerts.co.uk
www.bbacerts.co.uk

Regulations

In the opinion of the BBA, Permavent Breather Membranes for use in timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry constructions, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations (the presence of a UK map indicates that the subject is related to the Building Regulations in the region or regions of the UK depicted):



The Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement:	B3(4)	Internal fire spread
Comment:		The products can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See sections 9.1 and 9.2 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	B4(1)	External fire spread
Comment:		The products are restricted by this Requirement. See sections 9.1 and 9.3 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	C2(b)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The products will contribute to a wall satisfying this Requirement. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	C2(c)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The products will contribute to a wall to satisfy this Requirement. See section 7.1 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	7(1)	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The products are acceptable. See section 11 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.



The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8(1)	Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The products can contribute to a wall satisfying this Regulation. See sections 11 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	9	Building standards applicable to construction
Standard:	2.4	Cavities
Comment:		Consideration needs to be taken of the need for cavity barriers in association with the products to satisfy this Standard with respect to clause 2.4.2 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ . See section 9.1 of this Certificate.
Standard:	2.6	Spread to neighbouring buildings
Comment:		The products are restricted by this Standard with reference to clauses 2.6.4 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ , 2.6.5 ⁽¹⁾ and 2.6.6 ⁽²⁾ . See Sections 9.1 and 9.2 of this Certificate.
Standard:	2.7	Spread on external walls
Comment:		The products are restricted under clauses 2.7.1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ of this Standard, in some circumstances. See sections 9.1 and 9.4 of this Certificate.
Standard:	3.10	Precipitation
Comment:		The products will contribute to a wall satisfying clauses 3.10.1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and 3.10.8 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ of this Standard. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.
Standard:	3.15	Condensation
Comment:		The products can contribute to limiting the risk of interstitial condensation, with reference to clauses 3.15.1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ , 3.15.3 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and 3.15.7 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ . See section 7.1 of this Certificate.

Standard:	7.1(a)	Statement of sustainability
Comment:		The products can contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6 and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting a bronze level of sustainability as defined in this Standard.
Regulation:	12	Building standards applicable to conversions
Comment:		Comments in relation to the products under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6 also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause 0.12.1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and Schedule 6 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ .
		(1) Technical Handbook (Domestic). (2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended)

Regulation:	23(a)(i)	Fitness of materials and workmanship
Comment:	(iii)(b)(i)	The products are acceptable. See section 11 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	28(b)	Resistance to moisture and weather
Comment:		The products will contribute to a wall satisfying this Regulation. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	29	Condensation
Comment:		The products can enable a wall to satisfy this Regulation. See section 7.1 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	35(4)	Internal fire spread - structure
Comment:		The products can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See sections 9.1 and 9.2 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	36(a)	External fire spread
Comment:		The products are restricted by this Requirement. See sections 9.1 and 9.3 of this Certificate.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, designer (including Principal Designer) and contractor (including Principal Contractor) to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See sections: *1 Description (1.1)* of this Certificate.

Additional Information

NHBC Standards 2022

In the opinion of the BBA, Permavent Breather Membranes for use in timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry constructions, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapter 6.2 *External timber framed walls*, 6.9 *Curtain walling and cladding* and 6.10 *Light steel framed walls and floors*.

UKCA/CE marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of UKCA/CE marking the products in accordance with harmonised European Standard BS EN 13859-2 : 2014.

Technical Specification

1 Description

Permavent Breather Membranes are three-layer polypropylene laminate composites for use in timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry constructions. The nominal characteristics and available grades are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics

Characteristic (unit)	Permavent Breather Membranes				
	Eco	Black	Graphite	MAX	Red
Thickness (mm)	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.60	0.70
Mass per unit area ($\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$)	100	120	130	150	160
Roll length (m) ⁽¹⁾	50	50	50	50	50
Roll width (m)	1.0, 1.5	1.0, 1.5	1.0, 1.5	1.0, 1.5	1.0, 1.5
Colour					
upper	various	various	various	various	various
lower	various	various	various	various	various
Tensile strength (N per 50 mm)					
longitudinal	260	300	245	300	350
transverse	170	200	175	200	240
Elongation (%)					
longitudinal	60	70	60	60	70
transverse	70	60	100	70	70
Tear resistance (N)					
longitudinal	100	120	130	100	140
transverse	120	160	140	100	230
Watertightness					
unaged	W1	W1	W1	W1	W1
aged ⁽²⁾	W1	W1	W1	W1	W1
Equivalent air layer thickness s_{d} (m)	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020

(1) Other lengths and widths are available.

(2) Aged in accordance with BS EN 13859-1 : 2014, Annex C.

2 Manufacture

2.1 The membranes are manufactured by thermally bonding two layers of non-woven polypropylene with a micro-porous film between the layers, to form a breathable waterproof membrane.

2.2 As part of the assessment and ongoing surveillance of product quality, the BBA has:

- agreed with the manufacturer the quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken
- assessed and agreed the quality control operated over batches of incoming materials
- monitored the production process and verified that it is in accordance with the documented process
- evaluated the process for management of nonconformities
- checked that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated
- undertaken to carry out the above measures on a regular basis through a surveillance process, to verify that the specifications and quality control being operated by the manufacturer are being maintained.

3 Delivery and site handling

3.1 Rolls are delivered to site individually wrapped in polythene foil with a label bearing the product name, mass per unit area and the BBA logo incorporating the number of this Certificate.

3.2 The rolls should be stored flat or on end, on a clean, level surface and kept under cover.

Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Permavent Breather Membranes for use in timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry constructions.

Design Considerations

4 Use

4.1 Permavent Breather Membranes are satisfactory for use as breather membranes in walls of timber-frame (either factory or site applied), steel-frame, SIP Panels and masonry constructions behind light weight cladding panels, masonry facades with a cavity and a masonry outer leaf, weatherboarding or tile/slate cladding.

4.2 In the absence of other guidance, suitable wall constructions are defined as those designed and built in accordance with *NHBC Standards 2022*, Chapter 6.2.

4.3 The products satisfy the requirement for a Class W1 material in accordance with BS EN 13859-2 : 2014 and meet the NHBC requirement given in *NHBC Standards 2022*, Chapter 6.2, as high-performance breather membranes for use in very severe conditions⁽¹⁾.

(1) Very severe conditions are defined in the *NHBC Standards 2022*, Chapter 6.1.6 see Exposure Zones map, showing categories of exposure to wind-driven rain.

5 Practicability of installation

The products are designed to be installed by competent installers experienced with these types of products.

6 Weathertightness



6.1 The products are classified as Class W1 in accordance with BS EN 13859-1 : 2014 and will resist liquid water penetration and wind-blown snow and will protect the sheathing and frame from external moisture.

6.2 The products can be used as temporary weather protection during construction and prior to the completion of external brickwork or cladding. The period of such use should, however, be kept to a minimum. Advice should be sought from the Certificate holder.

7 Condensation



7.1 For design purposes, the products' water vapour resistance may be taken as less than or equal to $0.60 \text{ MN}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, and they are classified as breather membranes in accordance with BS 5250 : 2021. Walls incorporating the products will, therefore, adequately limit the risk of interstitial condensation when designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2021.

7.2 The risk of condensation occurring within the wall of a timber-frame building will depend upon the properties and vapour resistance of other materials used in the construction, the internal and external conditions and the effectiveness of the internal vapour control layer.

8 Strength

8.1 The products will resist the normal loads associated with construction and installation of timber-frame constructions.

8.2 The products are not adversely affected by water and will retain their mechanical properties when wet.

9 Properties in relation to fire



9.1 The products are classified as Class E in accordance with BS EN 13501-1 : 2018.

9.2 Where the products form the face of a cavity the permissible areas of use and the spacing of cavity barriers are restricted by the national Building Regulations.



9.3 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the products should not be used on buildings that have a storey at least 18 m above ground level and which contain: one or more dwellings, an institution, a room for residential purposes (excluding any room in a hostel, hotel or boarding house), student accommodation, care homes, sheltered housing, hospitals or dormitories in boarding schools and additionally in Northern Ireland, nursing homes and places of lawful detention



9.4 In Scotland, the products should not be used on buildings less than 1m from a boundary or on domestic or shared residential buildings that have a storey more than 11 m above ground level.

9.5 Cavity barriers⁽¹⁾ should be used to satisfy the requirements of the national Building Regulations.

(1) Outside the scope of this Certificate.

10 Maintenance

As the products are confined within a roof structure and have suitable durability (see section 11), maintenance is not required. However, any damage occurring before enclosure must be repaired (see section 15).

11 Durability



The products will be virtually unaffected by the normal conditions found in timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry walls and will have a life comparable with that of the building in which they are installed.

12 Reuse and recyclability

The products contain polypropylene, which can be recycled.

Installation

13 General

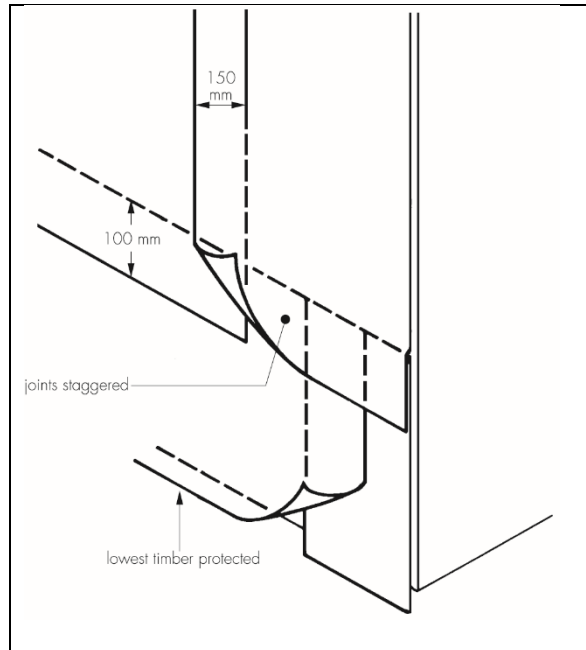
Permavent Breather Membranes for use in timber-frame, steel-frame, SIP Panel and masonry constructions must be installed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions and the recommendations given in *NHBC Standards 2022*, Chapters 6.1, 6.2, 6.9 and 6.10 where appropriate.

14 Procedure

14.1 The products must be secured with stainless steel staples or nails at not less than 500mm centres, to prevent damage by wind action.

14.2 Upper layers should overlap layers to shed water away from the sheathing. Vertical laps should be staggered wherever possible (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 Membrane installation



14.3 Horizontal laps should be at least 100 mm and vertical laps 150 mm.

14.4 It is essential that the positions of the studs are marked on the face of the breather membrane, usually by tape, to enable fixing of wall ties and battens.

14.5 It is essential that the lowest timbers in the wall are protected by the breather membrane.

15 Repair

The products can be damaged by careless handling, high winds or vandalism. Damage to the membranes must be repaired prior to the installation of external walls or cladding by laying another sheet over the damaged area and by patching and sealing correctly, ensuring that water is shed away from the sheathing.

Technical Investigations

16 Tests

An assessment was made of data to BS EN 13859-2 : 2014 in relation to:

- dimensions
- mass per unit area
- tensile strength and elongation
- resistance to tear
- dimensional stability
- resistance to water penetration
- resistance to artificial ageing
- water vapour transmission.

17 Investigations

The manufacturing process was evaluated, including the methods adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

Bibliography

BS 5250 : 2021 *Management of moisture in buildings - Code of practice*

BS EN 13501-1 : 2018 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests*

BS EN 13859-2 : 2014 *Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Definitions and characteristics of underlays — Underlays for discontinuous roofing*

18 Conditions

18.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system that is named and described on the front page
- is issued only to the company, firm, organisation or person named on the front page – no other company, firm, organisation or person may hold or claim that this Certificate has been issued to them
- is valid only within the UK
- has to be read, considered and used as a whole document – it may be misleading and will be incomplete to be selective
- is copyright of the BBA
- is subject to English Law.

18.2 Publications, documents, specifications, legislation, regulations, standards and the like referenced in this Certificate are those that were current and/or deemed relevant by the BBA at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate.

18.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system and its manufacture and/or fabrication, including all related and relevant parts and processes thereof:

- are maintained at or above the levels which have been assessed and found to be satisfactory by the BBA
- continue to be checked as and when deemed appropriate by the BBA under arrangements that it will determine
- are reviewed by the BBA as and when it considers appropriate.

18.4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.

18.5 In issuing this Certificate the BBA is not responsible and is excluded from any liability to any company, firm, organisation or person, for any matters arising directly or indirectly from:

- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- actual installations of the product/system, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product/system is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product/system, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to CE marking.

18.6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal of this product/system which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product/system is manufactured, supplied, installed, used, maintained and removed. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate; nor is conformity with such information to be taken as satisfying the requirements of the 1974 Act or of any statutory, common law or other duty of care.