



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No.613 [2014]

BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products
for building and construction

**BRANZ
APPRAISAL
No. 613 (2014)**

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 613 (2008).

**SIKAFLEX®
AT-FAÇADE SEALANT**

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Product

1.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade is a weathersealing sealant for exterior use and a general-purpose gap-filling sealant for exterior and interior use.



Scope

2.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade has been appraised for use as a sealant in buildings within the following scope:

- the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Paragraph 1.1.

2.2 Sikaflex® AT-Façade has also been appraised for use as a sealant in buildings subject to specific design within the following scope:

- in joints with a minimum depth of 8 mm; and,
- in joints with a maximum width of 40 mm; and,
- with substrates of
 - timber (unpainted and unstained) - particleboard, fibreboard, untreated pine, boron treated pine, tanalised pine, New Zealand natives or untreated Cedar or Douglas Fir; or,
 - plastics - PVC, melamine sheet, fibreglass (gelcoat side only), polyurethane coatings, epoxy and polyester coatings or epoxy mortars; or,
 - mineral - concrete, mortar, plaster, blockwork, brickwork, fibre cement sheeting and weatherboards, unglazed tiles, earthenware (clay), glazed ceramic tiles, stoneware (e.g. Hinuera stone and Oamaru stone), marble or granite; or,
 - metal - stainless steel, copper, brass, zinc anneal, aluminium-zinc, zinc bronze, lead, tin, galvanised steel, mild steel, cast iron or aluminium (milled, anodised or powder coated); or,
 - stoved enamel.

Note: Substrates or materials other than those specified above have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal. Sika (NZ) Ltd must be consulted when proposing the sealing of material not specifically covered by this Appraisal.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Sikaflex® AT-Façade, 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 NZBC:

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (b), 15 years and B2.3.1(c), 5 years. Sikaflex® AT-Façade meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 8.1 - 8.4.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. When used as part of the cladding system, Sikaflex® AT-Façade will contribute to meeting this requirement. See Paragraphs 12.1 – 12.3.

Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E3.3.3, E3.3.4, E3.3.5 and E3.3.6. When used as part of the substrate lining or finishing system, Sikaflex® AT-Façade will contribute to meeting these requirements. See Paragraph 13.1.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Sikaflex® AT-Façade meets this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.

3.2 This is an Appraisal of an **Acceptable Solution** in terms of New Zealand Building Code compliance as follows:

- sealant complying with Type F, Class 25LM of ISO 11600 in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.

3.3 This is an Appraisal of an **Alternative Solution** in terms of New Zealand Building Code compliance as follows:

- weathertightness of the building envelope in accordance with Paragraph 2.2 of this Appraisal; and,
- general sealant for interior wet areas.

Technical Specification

4.1 Products and accessories supplied by Sika (NZ) Ltd are as follows:

Sealant

- Sikaflex® AT-Façade is a single component, high performance elastic sealant based on a Silane Terminated polyurethane polymer. It is available in concrete grey, white and black and is supplied in 600 ml unipac foil 'sausage-type' packs and 300 ml cartridges.

Accessories

- Sika Primer-3 N for use on porous, copper and steel substrates.
- Sika Cleaner 205 for use on non-porous substrates.
- Sika Colma Cleaner.
- PEF backing rod.

Handling and Storage

5.1 The handling and storage of Sikaflex® AT-Façade on site is the responsibility of the installer. Sikaflex® AT-Façade has a shelf life of 12 months from the date of production if stored in unopened packaging under dry, cool conditions at temperatures of between 10°C and 25°C. The product must be stored out of direct sunlight.

Technical Literature

6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Sikaflex® AT-Façade. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

General

7.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade is designed to be used as a gap-filling sealant in building construction joints for the exclusion of moisture. It may be used in both interior and exterior locations, and along with its high elasticity and good adhesion, is suitable for use with a wide range of substrates.

7.2 Once cured, the sealant can be painted over with a water-based paint system, however overcoating of the sealant with a rigid coating may inhibit its movement capabilities and is not recommended.

7.3 The design of weathertight joints, and detailing for all applications must be in accordance with good design principles. In most situations, joint design should see the sealant used as a first line of defence, in conjunction with flashings (second line of defence) which drain to the building exterior. Other good design principles include the optimum width to depth ratio, correct sealant profile, and use of a bond breaker system. Refer to BRANZ Bulletin No. 440 and 441 for further information.

7.4 Sika (NZ) Ltd recommends the following joint width to depth ratios for Sikaflex® AT-Façade:

- Joints up to 10 mm wide: 1:1.
- Joints between 10 mm and 20 mm wide: width x 10 mm deep.
- Joints over 20 mm wide: 2:1.

7.5 A bond breaker is required in all joints, and with shallow joints the bond breaker may be a self-adhesive polyethylene tape. In deeper joints, a polyethylene backer rod must be used to act as the bond breaker, and at the same time set the joint depth and support the sealant.

7.6 The performance of Sikaflex® AT-Façade makes it a suitable sealant for weathersealing exterior wall constructions. It is important however that the sealant/bond breaker in rain screens are backed by a waterstop or air seal so that a free-draining enclosed joint cavity is formed. This is particularly important for walls that extend over one storey in height. In weathersealing applications, the bottom of vertical joints must be open to allow water drainage. Horizontal joints between thin sheet materials e.g. plywood or fibre cement should be weathersealed with Z flashings and not a sealant. Horizontal joints in other materials must be rebated and the seal formed at or near the top of the rebate. All joints must be designed to drain to the exterior of the building.

7.7 For optimum adhesion and in areas of critical, high performance applications such as multi storey work, high stress joints and extreme weather exposure, the use of substrate primers and cleaners is required. Sika (NZ) Ltd must be consulted where doubt arises. Porous surfaces, copper and steel substrates may be primed with Sika Primer-3 N and non-porous surfaces cleaned and prepared with Sika Cleaner 205. Epoxy, polyurethane and polyester surface coatings must be abraded with fine grit paper then cleaned with Sika Colma Cleaner before any further priming. Surface priming must be undertaken in accordance with the instructions of Sika (NZ) Ltd.

Durability

8.1 Assessment of durability to meet the NZBC is based on difficulty of access and replacement of the sealant, and the ability to detect failure of the sealant both during normal use and maintenance of the building. Therefore durability requirements for the sealant will vary according to the situations in which it is used (e.g. exterior and interior use, exposed or covered).

8.2 Sikaflex® AT-Façade meets code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (b), 15 years for exterior use, and code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (c), 5 years for interior use.

Serviceable Life

8.3 When used and applied in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal, it is expected that weathertightness or gap-filling seals undertaken with Sikaflex® AT-Façade will remain serviceable for 15 years or more in exterior environments.

8.4 In dry interior environments where the product is inaccessible and completely sheltered from exposure to chemicals, solvents, temperature extremes and excessive movement, a serviceable life of up to 50 years or more may be expected.

Maintenance

9.1 In accessible areas, inspections must be carried out annually to check for cracks or gaps between the sealant and substrate. Where this has occurred, the unsound sealant must be raked out, the substrate prepared and the joint filled with fresh sealant.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

10.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade is combustible and must not be used to seal around chimneys or flues where they penetrate walls. It must be separated from chimneys and flues in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS 1 – C/AS 6 Paragraph 7.5.9.

Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

11.1 When used internally on construction that does not require a fire resistance rating, sealants (caulking) are exempt from surface finish requirements by NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 Paragraph 4.2.2 (e) and NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS2 – C/AS6 Paragraph 4.17.6 (e)

External Moisture

12.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade complies with Type F Class 25LM of ISO 11600 and therefore may be used whenever a sealant of this type is specified in NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.

12.2 Sikaflex® AT-Façade can be used with a range of exterior construction methods and materials to meet the performance requirements of NZBC Clause E2. It can be used, for example, in the control joints of masonry veneer, to weatherproof the joints between fibre cement weatherboards, to seal around pipes and penetrations, to weatherproof joints between flashings and claddings, or act as an air seal around window, door and other penetrations.

12.3 It is the responsibility of the designer, builder or contractor to ensure sound joint design principles are followed. Designers, builders or contractors must ensure that second line of defence flashings drain to the building exterior, they are suitable for the particular application under consideration, and that they are installed correctly.

Internal Moisture

13.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade can be used to form an impervious joint between sheet lining materials and also a joint between fixtures and lining materials in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Paragraph 3.2.2 to prevent water splash penetrating behind linings or into concealed spaces.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

14.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade is for use by general tradespersons and handypersons in straight-forward applications. However, for more technically difficult applications, especially on larger commercial and industrial type buildings, application should be undertaken only by those experienced in the application of sealants to expansion and construction joints. All installations must be in accordance with the instructions given within the Technical Literature and this Appraisal.

General

15.1 Before the application of primers and sealant, substrate surfaces must be clean, dry and free from any surface contaminants such as dirt, dust, oil or existing coatings and paints.

15.2 Primers are not to be used as a substitution for surface cleaning and preparation. Primers must be applied in a uniform manner to ensure an even film thickness of primer is achieved. Primers must be fully cured before the application of Sikaflex® AT-Façade. Cure rates will slow down as temperatures decrease.

15.3 Sealant application must be carried out when the sealant and substrate temperature is within the range of 5°C to 40°C.

15.4 Installation of the sealant can be undertaken using a Sika hand or pneumatically operated caulking gun at an angle to eliminate the inclusion of air pockets. The sealant should be tooled off to achieve a smooth finish and to compress it, promoting adhesion to the joint walls. Clean-up can be carried out using Sika Colma Cleaner immediately after application.

Health and Safety

16.1 Safe use and handling procedures for Sikaflex® AT-Façade are provided in the Material Safety Data Sheet available from Sika (NZ) Ltd.

Basis of Appraisal

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

Tests

17.1 The following testing of Sikaflex® AT-Façade has been undertaken:

- SKZ Germany (Suddeutesches Kunststoff - Zentrum) has tested and issued Certification for compliance with ISO/FDIS 11600 - F - Class 25LM, Building Construction - Sealants - Classification and Requirements.
- Sika Chemie GmbH, Stuttgart, has tested and issued reports on adhesion to various metals; adhesion and compatibility with natural stone and adhesion to aluminium composite facade panels.
- Sika Chemie GmbH, Stuttgart, has tested Sikaflex® AT-Façade according to IVD Merkblatt Nr.9.

Other Investigations

- 18.1 Sikaflex® AT-Façade is the subject of an ISEGA Germany Certificate of Conformity for use as a sealing mass in the field of joints in factories and warehouses processing foodstuffs.
- 18.2 Site inspections have been carried out by BRANZ to inspect completed installations.
- 18.3 A technical data sheet, and Material Safety Data Sheet for Sikaflex® AT-Façade have been obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 18.4 A durability opinion has been given by BRANZ technical experts.

Quality

- 19.1 The manufacture of Sikaflex® AT-Façade has not been examined by BRANZ, but details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.2 Quality of supply of the product to the market is the responsibility of Sika (NZ) Ltd.
- 19.3 Quality of installation of the product on site is the responsibility of the sealant installer.
- 19.4 The quality of installation of the substrates in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions is the responsibility of the substrate installer.
- 19.5 Building designers are responsible for the design of the joints, and for the incorporation of the sealant into their design in accordance with the instructions of Sika (NZ) Ltd.
- 19.6 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the sealed joints in accordance with the instructions of Sika (NZ) Ltd.

Sources of Information

- BRANZ Bulletin No. 440 Sealed joints in external claddings – 1. Joint design.
- BRANZ Bulletin No. 441 Sealed joints in external claddings – 2. Sealants.
- Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for New Zealand Building Code External Moisture Clause E2, Department of Building and Housing, Third Edition July 2005 (Amendment 6, 14 February 2014).
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of Amendments for Compliance Documents and Handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



BRANZ

In the opinion of BRANZ, Sikaflex® AT-Façade Sealant 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 Sika (NZ) Ltd, 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. Sika (NZ) Ltd:
 - 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 Sika (NZ) Ltd.
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 Sika (NZ) Ltd or any third party.

For BRANZ

C Percy
Chief Executive

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