



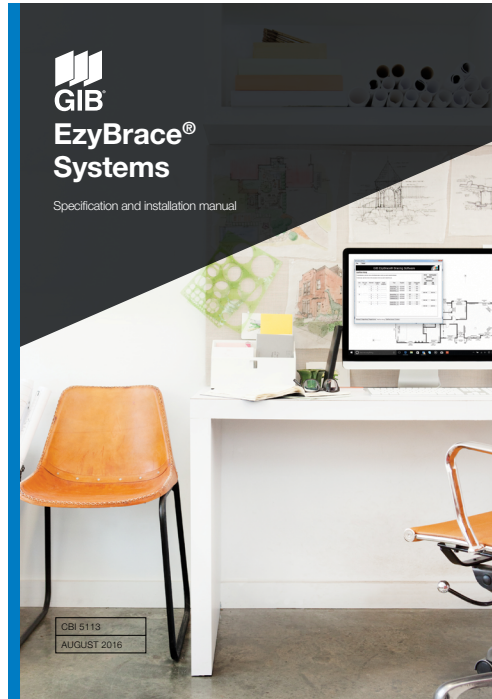
BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 928 [2021]

GIB EZYBRACE® SYSTEMS

Appraisal No. 928 [2021]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 928 [2016]



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of
products for building and
construction.



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Product

- 1.1 GIB EzyBrace® Systems are a range of wall and ceiling bracing systems based on the use of GIB® Standard, GIB Braceline® and other GIB® plasterboards. GIB EzyBrace® Systems are used to resist earthquake and wind loads on timber-framed buildings designed and constructed in accordance with NZS 3604 and the GIBFix® Framing System. The GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software provides an electronic means of calculating bracing demand and resistance.

Scope

- 2.1 GIB EzyBrace® Systems and the GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software have been appraised for the design and use of interior wall and ceiling bracing systems in buildings within the scope limitations of NZS 3604.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, GIB EzyBrace® Systems, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the NZBC:

Clause B1 STRUCTURE: Performance B1.3.1, B1.3.2 and B1.3.4. GIB EzyBrace® Systems meet the requirements for loads arising from self-weight, earthquake, wind and impact [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (f), (h) and (j)]. See Paragraphs 8.1-8.10.

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (a) not less than 50 years. GIB EzyBrace® Systems meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 9.1-9.4.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. GIB EzyBrace® Systems meet this requirement.

Technical Specification

4.1 The GIB® plasterboards and accessories used with the GIB EzyBrace® Systems, and supplied or specified by Winstone Wallboards Ltd are as follows:

GIB® plasterboards

- **GIB® Standard** - GIB® Standard plasterboard is a paper-bound, fibreglass reinforced gypsum-plaster core sheet lining material. GIB® Standard plasterboard is available in 10 mm and 13 mm thicknesses and a sheet width of 1,200 mm and 1,350 mm [GIB® Wideline]. The sheets have a taper on the two long sheet edges. The 10 mm thick sheets are also available with a square edge. Sheets are available in various lengths from 2,400 mm to 6,000 mm. The nominal sheet weight is 6.5 kg/m² for 10 mm thick sheets and 8.5 kg/m² for 13 mm thick sheets. GIB® Standard plasterboard face paper is a light buff colour.
- **GIB Braceline®** - GIB Braceline® is a high-density fibreglass reinforced, paper-bound gypsum-plaster core sheet lining material. GIB Braceline® is available in 10 mm and 13 mm thicknesses. The sheets have a taper on the two long sheet edges. GIB Braceline® has a sheet width of 1,200 mm and 1,350 mm, and is available in lengths of 2,400 mm, 2,700 mm, 3,000 mm, 3,600 mm and 4,800 mm. The nominal sheet weight is 9 kg/m² for 10 mm thick sheets and 12.5 kg/m² for 13 mm thick sheets. GIB Braceline® face paper is light blue in colour.
- **Alternative GIB® plasterboards** - in certain situations, as specified in the Technical Literature, substitution is permitted with GIB Aqualine®, GIB Fyrelite®, GIB Toughline® and GIB Ultralite®.

Components and Accessories

- **GIB® Accessories and GIB® Jointing Compounds** - as specified in the GIB® Site Guide Technical Literature.
- **Fasteners**
 - GIB Grabber® High Thread Screws for fixing directly to timber - 32 mm x 6 g.
 - GIB Nail - 30 x 2.8 mm.
 - GIB Grabber® screws for fixing to light gauge steel battens - 32 mm x 6 g.
- **Adhesive and Sealants**
 - GIBFix® One - an off-white acrylic adhesive supplied in 375 ml cartridges and 600 ml sausages.
 - GIBFix® All-Bond - a green solvent-based adhesive supplied in 375 ml cartridges and 600 ml sausages.
- **GIBFix® Framing Components**
 - GIBFix® Angle - 45 x 45 x 0.55 mm galvanised steel angle with a knurled surface. Supplied in lengths of 2.4 m and 2.7 m.
 - GIB Grabber® Dual Thread Screws for fixing to timber through GIBFix® Angle - 32 mm x 7 g needle-point screw with coarse thread lower section and fine thread upper section.
- **Fasteners, Anchors and Connections**
 - GIB® HandiBrac® - a one-piece, 2 mm thick, galvanised steel angle bracket approximately 95 mm high, 65 mm long and 54 mm wide. The bracket is supplied with five Type 17 screws, 14 g x 35 mm.
 - BOWMAC® screw bolt - M10 x 140 mm screw anchor, with a blue painted hex head.
 - Coach screws - 12 mm x 150 mm and 50 x 50 x 3 mm washer, hot-dip galvanised for fixing to timber floors.
 - Cast-in bolts - M12 x 150 mm minimum and 50 x 50 x 3 mm washers for fixing to concrete floors.
 - Shot-fired fasteners - minimum 75 mm x 3.8 mm with 16 mm discs for fixing GS1-N, GS2-N and GS2-NOM internal line bracing elements to concrete slabs.
 - Galvanised or stainless steel strap - 25 x 0.9 mm top and bottom plate connections.
 - Strap fixings - 30 x 2.5 mm hot-dip galvanised or stainless steel flat head nails. [Note: For corrosion protection requirements, refer to NZS 3604, Section 4.]

- **Ceiling Diaphragms** - ceiling diaphragms are constructed using timber ceiling battens, or GIB® Rondo® or similar metal ceiling batten systems.
- **Plywood**
 - **Plywood** – minimum of 7 mm thick complying with AS/NZS 2269 D-D Structural Grade.
 - **Plywood fixings** – 50 x 2.5 mm hot-dip galvanised or stainless steel annular-grooved, flathead nails.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 The best results are achieved when GIB® plasterboards are treated as a finishing material and protected from damage. Sheets must be stacked flat and kept dry at all times. For limits on stack heights see the GIB® Site Guide. Sheets must be carried on edge and not dragged.
- 5.2 All accessories must be kept dry.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for GIB EzyBrace® Systems. 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 NZS 3604 provides methods to distribute the bracing elements in walls to resist forces. The use of ceiling diaphragms is defined in the Technical Literature.
- 7.2 GIB EzyBrace® Systems are for use in dry, internal situations only.
- 7.3 GIB EzyBrace® Systems must not be exposed to temperatures of 52°C or greater for prolonged periods. Refer to appliance and fitting manufacturers for installation details.

GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software

- 7.4 The GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software contains design procedures and an electronic calculation method for bracing demand calculated in accordance with NZS 3604, Section 5. Floor loadings can be selected in accordance with either NZS 3604, Bracing Demand Tables 5.5–5.10 for 2 kPa floor loads or less, or Tables 14.1–14.3 for 3 kPa floor loads.
- 7.5 The bracing demand calculations contained in the GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software are based on first principles engineering and calculate wind and earthquake demand, based on the building parameters entered. Resulting bracing demand calculations are project specific and can differ from values derived using NZS 3604 wind and earthquake demand tables. The GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software has been assessed as part of this Appraisal.
- 7.6 The bracing ratings for GIB EzyBrace® Systems are embedded in the GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software.

GIBFix® Framing System

- 7.7 The GIBFix® Framing System utilises GIBFix® Angles fixed at internal corners and at wall/ceiling junctions to reduce the potential for fastener ‘popping’ and joint cracking due to timber framing movement. The GIBFix® Framing System also offers an alternative arrangement of studs at corners and at intersecting walls to improve insulation and to reduce thermal bridging compared to traditional wall framing layouts. Refer to the Technical Literature for full details.
- 7.8 Where walls intersect, noggings are required at maximum 900 mm centres to enable fixing of the end stud of the intersecting wall to the main wall framing.
- 7.9 The GIBFix® Framing System permits the use of a single panel hold-down [e.g. GIB® HandiBrac®] at wall corners and T-intersections for both the across and along bracing directions.

Framing

- 7.10 GIB EzyBrace® Systems can be installed using conventional timber framing layouts or by using the layouts provided in the GIBFix® Framing System. The bracing ratings embedded in the GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software are equally applicable to both framing options.
- 7.11 Timber framing grade, spacing and construction must comply with NZS 3604. Timber treatment must comply with NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.
- 7.12 Winstone Wallboards Ltd recommends the use of kiln-dried stress-graded framing timber. The minimum actual framing dimensions are 90 mm x 45 mm for external walls and 75 mm x 45 mm for internal walls.
- 7.13 Joints in the top plates of bracing panels must be tied together with 3 kN and 6 kN top plate connectors using 25 mm x 0.9 mm hot-dip galvanised mild steel strap, three nails each side of joint for 3 kN and six nails each side of joint for 6 kN.

Bracing System GS2-NOM

- 7.14 Most GIB EzyBrace® Systems require additional fasteners at the corners to achieve the published bracing ratings. The GS2-NOM system only requires fixings at 300 mm centres around the sheet perimeter.
- 7.15 Where internal doors penetrate a GS2-NOM bracing element and recessed door jambs are used, the sheets may be adhesive fixed around the door opening with GIBFix® All-Bond, instead of screw fixing. This is designed to reduce fastener 'popping' around internal doors when using grooved door frames. Screw fixing should be used where door frames are to be finished with architraves and the architrave will cover the screws. The adhesive fix option around door openings must not be used with any other GIB EzyBrace® Systems.

Alternative GIB® plasterboards

- 7.16 GIB Ezybrace® Systems have been designed and tested using only the products specified. Occasionally additional properties may be required to be provided by a different GIB® plasterboard product. Table 1 provides acceptable alternative options.

Table 1: Permitted Alternatives in GIB EzyBrace® Systems

Specified	Permitted alternative GIB® plasterboard products								
	GIB® Standard	GIB Ultraline®	GIB Braceline/ Noiseline®	GIB Aqualine®	GIB Toughline®	GIB Fyreline®			
						10 mm	13 mm	16 mm	19 mm
GIB® Standard	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <i>Note 1</i>	✓ <i>Notes 1 and 3</i>		
GIB Braceline®	X	X	N/A	✓ <i>Note 2</i>	✓	X	✓ <i>Notes 1, 2 and 3</i>		

- **Note 1:** The fastener type and length and must be as required for the relevant Fire Resistance Rating (FRR) system but the fixing pattern must be as required for bracing elements.
- **Note 2:** The bracing element must be 900 mm or longer. Fasteners must be at maximum 100 mm centres to the perimeter of the bracing element. The bracing corner fastening pattern applies to all four corners of the element.
- **Note 3:** Specify traditional wall framing layout where a FRR is required. See Paragraph 11.4.

BOWMAC Screw Bolts

- 7.17 When BOWMAC Screw Bolts are used as fixings for external walls with concrete masonry header block foundations, the minimum grout/concrete strength must be as specified in NZS 3604. BOWMAC Screw Bolts may be used in Corrosion Zones B and C as defined in NZS 3604. BOWMAC Screw Bolts may only be used in NZS 3604 Corrosion Zone D where the minimum concrete cover to the bolt is 60 mm. This cannot be achieved with standard 90 mm wide timber framing. An alternative option in this scenario is to use 140 mm wide framing.

Structure

Bracing

- 8.1 The bracing unit [BU] ratings are embedded in the GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software and vary with the wall length.
- 8.2 The Technical Literature provides comprehensive construction and panel hold-down details. These include bottom plate fixings using anchor screws and cast-in bolts (concrete), coach screws (timber), GIB® HandiBrac® or nailed stud-to-plate straps.
- 8.3 Bracing units derived from the BRANZ P21 test method are based on a wall height of 2.4 m. The GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software calculates bracing ratings for higher wall heights by multiplying the appropriate bracing rating by 2.4 m and dividing by the actual wall height in metres. For walls less than 2.4 m in height, the GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software calculates bracing ratings as if they were 2.4 m high.
- 8.4 NZS 3604 limits wall bracing elements to a maximum of 120 BU/m for timber-framed floors and 150 BU/m for concrete floors.

Ceiling Diaphragms

- 8.5 GIB® ceiling diaphragms are used to space bracing lines further apart than 6 m. The basic shape of a ceiling diaphragm must be square or rectangular and the length must not exceed twice the width.
- 8.6 For ceiling diaphragms not steeper than 15° and not exceeding 7.5 m in length, any GIB® plasterboard may be used provided the perimeter fixing are at 150 mm centres.
- 8.7 For ceiling diaphragms not steeper than 45° and not exceeding 7.5 m in length, and for diaphragms not steeper than 25° and not exceeding 12 m in length, any GIB® plasterboard may be used provided the perimeter fixings are at 100 mm centres.

Openings in Bracing Elements

- 8.8 Small openings of 90 x 90 mm or less may be placed anywhere except within 90 mm of the edge of the bracing element.

Shower Areas

- 8.9 GIB EzyBrace® Systems must not be located in shower cubicles or behind baths and the like. GIB EzyBrace® Systems may be used in water-splash areas provided they are protected as required by NZBC Clause E3 Internal Moisture. Refer to BRANZ Appraisal No. 427 GIB® Wet Area Systems.

Impact Resistance

- 8.10 GIB® plasterboards provide adequate resistance to soft body impact, based upon history of use in domestic and light commercial applications.

Durability

- 9.1 GIB EzyBrace® Systems, including linings and their fixings, have a serviceable life of at least 50 years. The ability of the systems to remain durable is dependent on them remaining dry in service, and being maintained in accordance with this Appraisal.

Maintenance

- 9.2 The building must be maintained weatherproof and GIB® plasterboards must be protected from external and internal moisture in accordance with NZBC Clauses E2 and E3.
- 9.3 Holes resulting from damage to the lining, up to 100 x 100 mm square, will have no significant effect on the performance of the bracing panel. Such holes may be repaired by patching, stopping and finishing as appropriate. Independent expert advice must be sought to assess the effect and repair of larger areas of damage.
- 9.4 Bracing elements require no ongoing maintenance, apart from decoration and the repair of any damage.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 10.1 Separation or protection must be provided to the GIB EzyBrace® Systems from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1, and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

Fire Affecting Areas Beyond the Fire Source

- 11.1 For internal surface finish properties and fire resistance ratings, refer to BRANZ Appraisal No. 289 GIB® Fire Rated Systems.

Internal Moisture

- 12.1 GIB® plasterboard must be used in dry internal situations, and must not be used where likely to be exposed to liquid water, or where extended exposure to humidity above 90% RH is expected, e.g., such as may be expected in sauna rooms, commercial kitchens and the like.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 13.1 Installation of GIB EzyBrace® Systems must be completed by, or under the supervision of a Licensed Building Practitioner with the relevant Licence Class, in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal.

General

- 14.1 GIB EzyBrace® Systems must be installed in accordance with the Technical Literature. For inspection, reference must be made to the Technical Literature.

Framing

- 14.2 To achieve an acceptable decorative finish, the GIB® Site Guide specifies that walls must not be lined unless the moisture content of timber framing is less than 18%. Winstone Wallboards Ltd recommends a moisture content of 12% or less where buildings are to be air conditioned, centrally heated or have heat pumps installed.
- 14.3 Where the GIBFix® Framing System is used, GIBFix® Angles are tacked to the framing with flat head clouts prior to installation of the GIB® plasterboard.

Cutting

- 14.4 GIB® plasterboard is easily cut by scoring the face paper with a sharp short-bladed trimming knife, and then snapping the plasterboard away from the cut face and cutting the back paper or by sawing. Use of a metal straightedge facilitates clean straight cuts. Cut edges can be tidied up by using a knife. Paper dags should be removed.

Hold-downs

- 14.5 GIB EzyBrace® Systems which require hold-downs must either have a GIB® HandiBrac® fitted to each end of the bracing element or alternatively a metal stud-to-plate strap and hold-down anchor may be used. Refer to the Technical Literature for full installation details. Where a metal stud-to-plate strap is used, the hold-down anchor must be placed no more than 80 mm from the end of the bracing element.
- 14.6 Where the GIBFix® Framing System is used, a single hold-down located at a wall intersection may be used to provide the hold-down in both the across and along bracing directions.

Plasterboard Sheet Fixing

- 14.7 Corner fixings must be 50 mm away from the sheet corner. Fixings must be no closer than 12 mm from the paper-bound sheet edge, and no closer than 18 mm from a cut edge, and driven at right angles to the sheet until the head is seated in a slight dimple just below the surface of the paper liner. Fixings must not be over-driven.

- 14.8 Wall bracing plasterboards [except for those used with the GS2-NOM system] are fixed at 150 mm centres around the perimeter framing of the bracing element [Note: There is a variation for GIB Aqualine® and GIB Fyrelite®, see Table 1]. At the corners of the wall bracing elements, a special fastening pattern is required with fasteners spaced at 50 mm, 100 mm, 150 mm, 225 mm and 300 mm from the corner and thereafter at 150 mm centres. Fixing to other framing is either mechanical or by using GIBFix® adhesives.
- 14.9 When installing GS2-NOM bracing elements, the GIB® plasterboard is fixed to framing around the bracing element perimeter and at sheet joints with fasteners at maximum 300 mm centres. Where recessed door jambs are used on internal door frames, the GIB® plasterboard may be fixed to the framing around the door opening with GIBFix® All-Bond, see Paragraph 7.15.
- 14.10 Where GIB Aqualine® or GIB Fyrelite® substitutes for GIB Braceline®, bracing elements must be longer than 900 mm and the bracing element perimeter fasteners must be spaced at 100 mm centres and the corner pattern described in Paragraph 14.8 used.
- 14.11 Full sheets must be used wherever possible.

Fire Resistance Rated Bracing Elements

- 14.12 Where a bracing element is also used as a fire-rated element, the method of fixing [including the length of the fixing specified] for the fire-rated element must be used, but the perimeter fixings of the bracing element must be at 150 mm centres and fixings at corners of the bracing element must be fixed as described in Paragraph 14.8. In two-layer systems, the inner layer must be used for bracing.

Plywood Fixing

- 14.13 Plywood is nail fixed at 150 mm centres around the perimeter of each sheet and at 300 mm centres to intermediate framing.

Ceiling Diaphragms

- 14.14 All GIB EzyBrace® System ceiling diaphragms require fixings around the perimeter at 100 mm or 150 mm centres, depending on the ceiling pitch and length. See Paragraphs 8.4-8.6 and refer to the Technical Literature.
- 14.15 The perimeter of the ceiling diaphragm is fixed to GIBFix® Angles, GIB® Rondo® perimeter channels, or alternatively, to an additional ex 150 x 40 mm timber plate fixed to the top plate.

Jointing and Finishing

- 14.16 All bracing element joints must be reinforced with GIB® tape and finished in accordance with the GIB® Site Guide.

Health and Safety

- 15.1 Dust resulting from the sanding of stopping and finishing compounds may be a respiratory irritant, and the use of a suitable facemask is recommended.

Basis of Appraisal

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

Tests

- 16.1 Bracing tests were carried out by Winstone Wallboards Ltd in accordance with BRANZ Technical Paper P21 to determine the performance of GIB EzyBrace® Systems when the building is subjected to lateral wind or earthquake loading. Nail and screw slip tests were carried out by BRANZ and Winstone Wallboards Ltd. Winstone Wallboards Ltd's test facilities, procedures and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Other Investigations

- 17.1 The GIB EzyBrace® Bracing Software has been assessed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 17.2 The GIB EzyBrace® Systems and GIB® Site Guide Technical Literature have been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 17.3 Site inspections were carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of the installation of the systems, and to view completed installations.
- 17.4 An assessment was made of the durability of the systems by BRANZ technical experts and found to be satisfactory.
- 17.5 The properties of Winstone Wallboards Ltd GIB® plasterboards have been assessed for the following properties: MOR, MOE, paper tensile strength, paper shear strength, nail pull resistance, Hunter hardness, inspection for fungal spores, and hard and soft body impact tests.

Quality

- 18.1 Winstone Wallboards Ltd's manufacturing process and details of the quality and composition of the materials, have been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 18.2 The quality management systems of Winstone Wallboards Ltd have been assessed and registered by TELARC as meeting the requirements of ISO 9001, Registration No. 581.
- 18.3 Winstone Wallboards Ltd is responsible for the quality of the product supplied.
- 18.4 The quality of the application and finish on-site is the responsibility of the installation and stopping contractors.
- 18.5 Designers are responsible for the design of buildings.
- 18.6 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance in accordance with the instructions of Winstone Wallboards Ltd.

Sources of Information

- AS/NZS 2269.0:2012 Plywood - Structural - Specifications.
- AS/NZS 2588:2018 Gypsum plasterboard.
- BRANZ Technical Paper P21:2010 A wall bracing test and evaluation procedure.
- NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



In the opinion of BRANZ, **GIB EzyBrace® Systems** are fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided they are used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Winstone Wallboards 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. **Winstone Wallboards 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 **Winstone Wallboards 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 **Winstone Wallboards Ltd** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

01 December 2021