



**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 945 [2022]

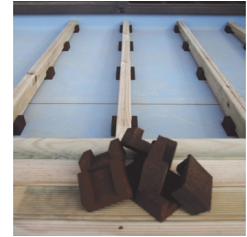
## DEKCRADLE™ AND ERGOFLOR™ TIMBER FRAMING CRADLES

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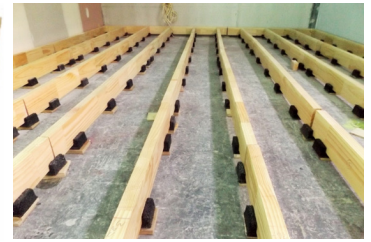
This Appraisal replaces BRANZ Appraisal No. 945 [2017]



**DekCradle™**




**ErgoFlor™**



### BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for building and construction.

### Product

- 1.1 DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ are rubber cradles used for supporting decking over waterproof membranes or floating floors over internal flooring. They are manufactured from reclaimed and/or recycled rubber.

### Scope

- 2.1 DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles have been appraised for use as supports for timber joists or battens that support decking or internal floating floors.
- 2.2 DekCradle™ cradles are for use externally to support decking. ErgoFlor™ cradles are for use internally to support flooring.

### Building Regulations

#### New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ timber framing cradles, 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 B1 STRUCTURE:** Performance B1.3.1, B1.3.2 and B1.3.4. DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ timber framing cradles meet the requirements for loads arising from self-weight and imposed gravity loads arising from use [i.e. B.1.3.3 (a) and (b)]. See Paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2.

**Clause B2 DURABILITY:** Performance B2.3.1 (b) 15 years and B2.3.1 (c) 5 years. DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ timber framing cradles meet these requirements. See Paragraph 9.1.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ timber framing cradles meet this requirement.



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## Technical Specification

- 4.1 DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles are manufactured from reclaimed and/or recycled rubber. They are bonded with a blocked resin formulation. DekCradle™ cradles are manufactured from brown coloured rubber and the ErgoFlor™ cradles are manufactured from black rubber with a red fleck. DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles are otherwise identical dimensionally, being 90 mm wide, 70 mm long and 40 mm deep. They have a 49 mm wide, 20 mm deep channel running along the 70 mm axis to form the cradle.

## Handling and Storage

- 5.1 DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles are reasonably robust. They should be kept dry before installation, especially the ErgoFlor™ cradles for use internally.

## Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ timber framing cradles. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, installation, use and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within this Appraisal must be followed.

## Design Information

### General

- 7.1 DekCradle™ cradles can be used to provide a level and/or elevated deck surface. They may be used to meet the requirements for level thresholds as described in NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Clause 7.3.
- 7.2 DekCradle™ cradles provide a means of supporting decking to provide protection to waterproofing membranes. DekCradle™ cradles are suitable for use with most waterproofing membranes, however, confirmation as to their suitability should be sought from the membrane supplier.
- 7.3 The supporting structure for the DekCradle™ or ErgoFlor™ cradles and associated framing and decking or flooring must be designed to carry the imposed dead load of the floor/deck system along with any associated live load.
- 7.4 DekCradle™ cradles are not fixed to the substrate that they sit on, so wind uplift of floating decking may need to be considered. While solid balcony railings and walls provide protection against strong winds, designers and end users need to be aware of uplift from winds in exposed environments.
- 7.5 Battens or joists used with the DekCradle™ or ErgoFlor™ cradles must be a minimum of 45 mm wide and 40 mm high.

### Structure

- 8.1 When planning the layout of the cradles, the maximum spacing between battens or joists is 400 mm. Cradles must be spaced at no more than 450 mm centres along the battens or joists. When installing DekCradle™ or ErgoFlor™ cradles on timber-framed decks or floors, they should be placed within 100 mm of the joists below.
- 8.2 At the above spacing, DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles are capable of carrying 2 kPa live load for decks, and 3 kPa live load for floors with minimal deflections. For loads above this, specific design of the underlying structure and the overlying flooring may be required.

### Durability

#### Serviceable Life

- 9.1 The expected serviceable life for the DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles is at least 15 years.



## Maintenance

- 10.1 DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles should need no maintenance during their serviceable life. In external deck applications, allowance should be made to remove built-up debris from the waterproofing surface.

## Safety From Falling

- 11.1 Barriers that are required around the perimeter of decks or floors that incorporate DekCradle™ or ErgoFlor™ installations must meet the height requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution F4/AS1 after the installation of the cradles and decking or flooring.

## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 12.1 All design and building work must be carried out in accordance with the DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ Technical Literature and this Appraisal by competent and experienced tradespersons conversant with the DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles. Where the work involves Restricted Building Work [RBW], this must be completed by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner [LBP] with the relevant License Class.

### General

- 13.1 The site must be clean and free from any waste.
- 13.2 The DekCradle™ or ErgoFlor™ cradles must be laid out such that there is no more than 450 mm between cradles along the length of the battens or joists, and no more than 400 mm between the battens or joists. There should be a cradle no more than 50 mm from each end of a batten or joist.
- 13.3 DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles must not be fixed down to the surface that they are placed upon.
- 13.4 Joists may need to be ripped to make up for variations in floor height or for fall of a deck surface. Alternatively, shims or packers may be used within the cradles. The shim or packer is connected to the batten or joist, not the cradle, with a dab of suitable adhesive. The shim or packer cannot be packed up higher than 10 mm.
- 13.5 Shims or packers used with DekCradle™ cradles in external locations should be 42 mm wide plastic H packers.
- 13.6 No packing or shims should be placed between DekCradle™ cradles and the underlying surface. In internal locations, ErgoFlor™ cradles may be used with packing or shims beneath them as long as the footprint of the packing is larger than the footprint of the ErgoFlor™ cradle.
- 13.7 Install the decking or flooring following the appropriate building practice and product specifications. All fastenings of the top surface material must be connected to only the battens or joists, not the DekCradle™ or ErgoFlor™, nor to, or through the substrate below.

## Basis of Appraisal

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

### Tests

- 14.1 Compressive testing of the cradles was undertaken by BRANZ to determine the stiffness of the cradles and their suitability under expected service loads.

### Investigations

- 15.1 A structural assessment of the DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles has been carried out based on the structural testing.
- 15.2 A durability assessment has been carried out on DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles by BRANZ technical experts.



### Quality

- 16.1 The manufacture of DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 16.2 Quality of supply of the product to the market is the responsibility of B & C Systems International Limited.
- 16.3 Designers are responsible for the design of the building and incorporating DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ cradles in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature.
- 16.4 Quality of installation is the responsibility of the installer.

### Sources of Information

- 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.



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20 May 2022

DEKCRADLE™ AND ERGOFLO™  
TIMBER FRAMING CRADLES



In the opinion of BRANZ, **DekCradle™ and ErgoFlor™ timber framing cradles** 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 **B & C Systems International Limited**, 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. **B & C Systems International Limited:**
  - 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 **B & C Systems International Limited**.
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 **B & C Systems International Limited** or any third party.

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For BRANZ

**Chelydra Percy**

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

19 May 2022