



**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 1191 [2021]

## GRIPSET® 38FC AND GRIPSET® 2P EXTERNAL WATERPROOFING MEMBRANES

**Appraisal No. 1191 [2021]**  
Amended 22 November 2023



### BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of  
products for building and  
construction.



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## Product

- 1.1 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes are liquid-applied waterproofing membranes for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes on external decks and balconies.

## Scope

- 2.1 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes have been appraised for use as waterproofing membranes for buildings within the following scope:
  - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1; and,
  - with timber supporting structures designed and constructed in accordance with the NZBC; and,
  - with a substrate of fibre cement compressed sheet; and,
  - with decks that have a maximum size of 40 m<sup>2</sup>; and,
  - situated in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High.
- 2.2 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes have also been appraised as waterproofing membranes for buildings within the following scope:
  - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 with regard to building height and floor plan area; and,
  - with building structures subject to specific engineering design; and,
  - with deck and balcony supporting structures of timber framing with a substrate of fibre cement compressed sheet; or,
  - with a substrate of suspended concrete slab; and,
  - situated in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High.
- 2.3 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes have also been appraised for use as waterproofing membranes on specifically designed buildings within the following scope:
  - with building structures subject to specific engineering design; and,
  - with deck and balcony supporting structures of timber framing with a substrate of fibre cement compressed sheet; or,
  - with a substrate of suspended concrete slab; and,
  - subjected to maximum wind pressures [Refer to Paragraph 7.8]; and,
  - with the weathertightness design of all junctions being the subject of specific design by the designer. [Note: The design of these junctions has not been appraised by BRANZ and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.]



- 2.4 This Appraisal is limited to decks and balconies within the following scope:
- constructed to suitable falls [Refer to Paragraphs 12.4-12.9]; and,
  - with the membranes continually protected from exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light and from physical damage by ceramic or stone tile finishes adhered to the membranes, or installed on a pedestal system; and,
  - with decks and balconies designed and constructed such that deflections do not exceed 1/360<sup>th</sup> of the span; and,
  - with no steps within the deck level, no integral roof gardens and no downpipes discharging directly onto the deck.
- 2.5 Building structural movement and control joints in the substrate must be carried through to the tile finish. The design and construction of the substrate and movement and control joints are specific to each building, and are therefore the responsibility of the building designer and building contractor and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.6 Ceramic or stone tile finishes are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.7 The membranes must be installed by trained applicators, approved by RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.

## Building Regulations

### New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes, 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 B2.3.2. Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes meet these requirements. See Paragraph 9.1.

**Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E2.3.1 and E2.3.2. Decks and balconies incorporating Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes meet these requirements. See Paragraphs 12.1-12.9.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes meet this requirement.

## Technical Specification

- 4.1 Materials supplied by RLA Polymers Pty Ltd are as follows:
- **Gripset® 38FC** is a styrene-butadiene copolymer-based one-part, ready-to-use, liquid-applied membrane, supplied as a blue thixotropic paste in 15 L pails.
  - **Gripset® 2P** is a quick drying, latex-based, two-part, flexible, cementitious-based, liquid-applied membrane. It is supplied as Gripset 2P liquid in 10 L pails and Gripset 2P powder in 15 kg bags. When cured, the membrane is light grey in colour.

### Accessories

- **Gripset® BRW PF Tape** is a multi-purpose self-adhesive sealing band, designed for flashing and detailing a variety of surfaces. It is supplied in 5 m length rolls, 80 mm wide x 0.8 mm thick with a white face and grey backing.
- **Gripset® C-Lite** is a tile adhesive for commercial applications. It is white in colour and supplied in 15 kg bags.
- **Gripset® C-Mastic** is a high strength, polymer-modified tile adhesive for commercial applications. It is white in colour and supplied in 20 kg bags.
- **Gripset® C-Rubber** is a rubber-filled polymer-modified tile adhesive designed for use over a variety of substrates. It is white in colour and supplied in 20 kg bags.
- **Gripset® C-Stone** is a fast-set high strength adhesive designed for use with Class [A] moisture sensitive stone. It is off-white in colour and supplied in 20 kg bags.
- **Gripset® SB** is a one-component adhesive/sealant, free of isocyanate, solvents and halogens. It is white in colour and supplied in 600 ml sausages.



- **Gripset® E60** is a two-component water-based epoxy for use as a primer and protective coating to prevent moisture penetration and rising damp through mineral surfaces. It is light grey in colour and supplied in a 4 L kit, 10 L kit or 20 L kit.
- **Gripset® OP** is a solvent-free primer, blue in colour and supplied in 1 L, 5 L and 15 L pails.
- **Gripset® Xpress Primer H2O Plus** is a one-component vapour barrier primer, designed for use on concrete, screeds and mineral surfaces. It is clear when dry and comes in 10 L pails.
- **Gripset® Xpress SP** is a solvent-free primer for non-porous, dense and smooth substrates. It is off-white in colour and is supplied in 1 L or 10 L pails.
- **Gripset® 11Y** is a primer specifically formulated for use in cement-based compounds. It is white in colour and is supplied in 5 L and 15 L pails, 200 L drums and 1,000 L IBC.
- **Gripset® P10** is a moisture-curing solvent-free polyurethane resin that dries to the moisture present in surrounding air and in surfaces it is applied to. It is a slightly yellow transparent liquid and is supplied in 10 L metal tins.
- **Gripset® GP** is a unique, multipurpose 2-in-1 primer and bonding agent. It is used as a primer to enhance surface adhesion of Gripset® membranes and tile adhesives. It is white in colour and is supplied in 5 L and 15 L pails, 200 L drums and 1,000 L IBC.

## Handling and Storage

- 5.1 All materials must be stored inside, up off concrete floors, in dry conditions, out of direct sunlight and out of freezing conditions. The materials in the original unopened packaging have a shelf life of 12 months from date of manufacture. Once opened, the materials must be used within 3 months.

## Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- Gripset 2P Technical Data Sheet, October 2020.
  - Gripset 38FC Technical Data Sheet, October 2021.
- 6.2 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 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes are for use on decks and balconies where an impervious waterproof membrane is required to prevent damage to building elements and adjoining areas.
- 7.2 The Gripset® 2P product is designed to be used where a quicker curing time is required, such as in cool or humid conditions.
- 7.3 The membranes must be protected from exposure to UV light and from physical damage by ceramic or stone tile finishes adhered to the membranes, or installed on a pedestal system.
- 7.4 The effective control of internal moisture must be considered at the design stage due to the impermeability of the membranes. Refer to the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Membrane Roofing.
- 7.5 Movement and control joints may be required depending on the shape and size of the deck, and the finish specified. Design guidelines for control joints for tiles can be found in the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling.
- 7.6 Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604, or where specific engineering design is used, the framing shall be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604, or comply with the serviceability criteria of AS/NZS 1170. In all cases, framing must be provided so that the maximum span of the substrate as specified by the substrate manufacturer is met and that all sheet edges are fully supported.



- 7.7 Timber framing supporting the substrates must be constructed such that deflections do not exceed 1/360<sup>th</sup> of the span. Where NZS 3604 is used, the allowable joist spans given in Table 7.1 shall be reduced by 20%.
- 7.8 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes are suitable for use in areas subject to maximum wind pressures of 6 kPa ULS.

## Substrates

### Fibre Cement Compressed Sheet

- 8.1 Fibre cement compressed sheet must be manufactured to comply with the requirements of AS 2908.2 and must be specified by the manufacturer as being suitable for use as an external decking substrate. The fibre cement sheet must be of a thickness to meet specific structural design requirements and must be secured to the structure to resist wind uplift and all other forces acting on the deck or balcony, such as deflection from gravity and live loads. Installation must be in accordance with instructions of the manufacturer.

### Concrete

- 8.2 Concrete substrates must be to a specific engineering design meeting the requirements of the NZBC, such as concrete construction to NZS 3101.

## Durability

### Serviceable Life

- 9.1 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes, when subjected to normal conditions of environment and use, are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 15 years and be compatible with ceramic or stone tiling finishes with a design service life of 15-25 years.

## Maintenance

- 10.1 No maintenance of the membranes will be required provided significant substrate movement does not occur and the tile finish remains intact. Regular checks must be made of the tiling to ensure it is sound and will not allow moisture to penetrate. Any cracks or damage must be repaired immediately by repairing the tiling and any grout or sealant.
- 10.2 In the event of damage to the membranes, the tiling must be removed and the membrane repaired by removing the damaged portion and applying a patch as for new work.
- 10.3 Drainage outlets must be maintained to operate effectively, and tile finishes must be kept clean. Cleaning materials that may affect polymer-based membranes must not be used.

## Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 11.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 and Acceptable Solution C/AS1, and Acceptable Solution C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

## External Moisture

- 12.1 Decks and balconies must be designed and constructed to shed precipitated moisture. They must also take account of snowfalls in snow prone areas. A means of meeting code compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.1 is given by the Technical Literature which provides details aligned with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.
- 12.2 When installed in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature, Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes will prevent the penetration of water and will therefore meet code compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.2. The membranes are impervious to water and will give a weathertight deck or balcony.
- 12.3 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes are impermeable; therefore a means of dissipating construction moisture must be provided in the building design and construction to meet code compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.6.



- 12.4 The minimum fall to decks and balconies must be 1 in 40 and all falls must slope to an outlet. Inadequate falls will allow moisture to collect and increase the risk of deterioration of the membrane and tiling finish.
- 12.5 Deck and balcony falls must be built into the substrate.
- 12.6 Allowance for deflection and settlement of the substrate must be made in the design of the deck or balcony to ensure falls are maintained and no ponding of water can occur.
- 12.7 Drainage flanges must be used for any outlet and must be fitted with a grate or cage to reduce potential sources of blockages. An overflow must be provided where the deck or balcony does not drain to an external gutter or spouting.
- 12.8 Penetrations and upstands of the membranes must be raised above the level of any possible flooding caused by blockage of deck and balcony drainage.
- 12.9 The design of details not covered by the Technical Literature and junction details for buildings covered by Paragraph 2.3 of this Appraisal, are subject to specific weathertightness design and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 13.1 Installation of the membranes must be completed by trained applicators, approved by RLA Polymers Pty Ltd, who have experience in the application of waterproofing membranes and understand waterproofing principles.
- 13.2 Installation of substrates must be completed in accordance with instructions given within the RLA Polymers Pty Ltd Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.

### Preparation of Substrates

- 14.1 Substrates must be dry, clean and stable before installation commences. Surfaces must be smooth and free from nibs, sharp edges, dust, dirt or other materials such as oil, grease or concrete formwork release agents. All surface defects must be filled to achieve an even and uniform surface.
- 14.2 The relative humidity of concrete substrates must be 75% or less before membrane application. The concrete can be checked for dryness by using a hygrometer, as set out in BRANZ Bulletin No. 585.
- 14.3 The moisture content of the timber substructure must be a maximum of 20% and fibre cement sheets must be dry at time of membrane application. This will generally require the fibre cement sheets to be covered until just before the membrane is laid, to prevent rain wetting.
- 14.4 Substrates must be primed with a Gripset® primer and allowed to dry fully before the membrane is installed.

### Membrane Installation

- 15.1 Installation must not be undertaken where the substrate surface temperature is below 5°C or above 35°C.
- 15.2 Gripset® 2P liquid and Gripset® 2P powder must be mixed and left to stand for 5 minutes before re-mixing, then applying. Gripset® 38FC must be thoroughly stirred before application.
- 15.3 The membranes must be applied in a minimum of two coats at the rates set out in the Technical Literature. Subsequent coats must be applied in an opposite direction to the previous coat. The total finished system thickness of the membranes must be a minimum of 1.2 mm.
- 15.4 Application can be made by roller (medium/long nap), brush (long bristle), or a non-edge serrated flat steel trowel.
- 15.5 In all situations, reinforcement provisions as set out in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature apply.
- 15.6 It is strongly recommended that the membrane is protected with temporary covers until it is fully cured in case of mechanical damage or rain wetting.
- 15.7 Clean up may be undertaken with water.



### Tiling

- 16.1 The membrane must be fully cured before tiling. The cured membrane must be protected at all times to prevent mechanical damage, so may require temporary covers until the finishing is completed.
- 16.2 Tiling must be undertaken in accordance with AS 3958.1 and the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling. The compatibility of tile adhesive must be confirmed with the adhesive manufacturer or RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.

### Inspections

- 17.1 Critical areas of inspection for waterproofing systems are:
- Construction of substrates, including crack control and installation of under flashings and movement control joints.
  - Moisture content of the substrate prior to the application of the membranes.
  - Acceptance of the substrate by the membrane installer prior to application of the membrane.
  - Installation of the membrane to the manufacturer's instructions, particularly installation to the correct thickness and use of reinforcement.
  - Membranes curing and integrity prior to the installation of tiles, including protection from moisture, frost and mechanical damage during curing.

### Health and Safety

- 18.1 Safe use and handling procedures for the membrane systems are provided in the Technical Literature. The products must be used in conjunction with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet for each membrane.

## Basis of Appraisal

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

### Tests

- 19.1 The following testing of Gripset® 38FC has been undertaken by the following organisations:
- Amdel Limited, Australia - water absorption; tensile strength and elongation; shore A hardness; water vapour transmission; accelerated weathering and low temperature flexibility.
  - CSIRO, Australia - mass per unit area and gravimetric thickness; tensile strength and elongation at break; tensile strength and elongation at break after UV exposure, including immersion in water, bleach and detergent; loss on heating; moving joint test and cyclic strain.
- 19.2 The following testing of Gripset® 2P has been undertaken by Amdel Limited, Australia - wet area durability testing in accordance with AS/NZS 4858 covering immersion in water, bleach, detergent, and heat ageing; UV ageing; water absorption; low temperature flexibility and water vapour transmission.
- 19.3 The above test methods and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

### Other Investigations

- 20.1 An assessment was made of the durability of the Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes by BRANZ technical experts.
- 20.2 Site inspections have been carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation, and to examine completed installations.
- 20.3 The Technical Literature has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.



## Quality

- 21.1 The manufacture of the membranes has been examined by BRANZ, and details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 21.2 The quality management system of the membrane's manufacturer has been assessed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 21.3 The quality of supply of the membrane system materials to the market is the responsibility of RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.
- 21.4 Quality on-site is the responsibility of the trained applicators, approved by RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.
- 21.5 Designers are responsible for the structure and substrate design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of construction of the structure and substrate systems in accordance with the instructions of the substrate manufacturer, RLA Polymers Pty Ltd and this Appraisal.
- 21.6 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the tiling systems in accordance with the instructions of RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.

## Sources of Information

- AS 2908.2:2000 Cellulose-cement products - Flat sheet.
- AS 3958.1-2007 Ceramic tiles - Guide to the installation of ceramic tiles.
- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design actions.
- ASTM D2919-01 Standard test method for determining durability of adhesive joints stressed in shear by tension loading.
- BRANZ Bulletin No. 585 Measuring Moisture in Timber and Concrete, June 2015.
- BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Membrane Roofing, October 2015.
- BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling, April 2015.
- NZS 3101:2006 The design of concrete structures.
- 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.

## Amendments

### Amendment No. 1, dated 22 November 2023

This Appraisal has been amended to update the technical literature.



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15 September 2021

GRIPSET® 38FC AND GRIPSET®2P  
EXTERNAL WATERPROOFING  
MEMBRANES



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P External Waterproofing Membranes** 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 **RLA Polymers Pty 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. **RLA Polymers Pty 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 quality of work;
  - 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 **RLA Polymers Pty 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 **RLA Polymers Pty Ltd** or any third party.

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**For BRANZ**

**Chelydra Percy**

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

15 September 2021