



**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 1192 [2021]

## GRIPSET® 38FC AND GRIPSET® 2P WET AREA MEMBRANES

**Appraisal No. 1192 [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 Wet Area Membranes are liquid-applied waterproofing membranes for use under vinyl, ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas.

## Scope

- 2.1 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area Membranes have been appraised for use as waterproofing membranes for internal wet areas of buildings, within the following scope:
  - on floor substrates of concrete, fibre cement compressed sheet and fibre cement sheet tile underlay, and on wall substrates of concrete, concrete masonry, wet area fibre cement sheet lining systems and wet area plasterboard lining systems; and,
  - when protected from physical damage by vinyl, ceramic or stone tile finishes; and,
  - where floors are designed and constructed such that deflections do not exceed 1/360<sup>th</sup> of the span.
- 2.2 The use of Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area Membranes on concrete slabs where hydrostatic or vapour pressure is present from below is outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The vinyl, ceramic or stone tile finishes are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.5 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 Wet Area 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 Wet Area Membranes meet these requirements. See Paragraph 9.1.
  - Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E3.3.6. Interior wet area floors and walls incorporating Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area Membranes meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 11.1-11.7.
  - Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area 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 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 4, 10 or 20 L kits.
- **Gripset OP** is a solvent-free primer, blue in colour and supplied in 1, 5 and 15 L pails.
- **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 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 supplied 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 supplied in 1 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 Wet Area Membranes are for use in buildings where an impervious waterproof membrane is required to floors and walls to prevent damage to building elements and adjoining areas.
- 7.2 Gripset® 2P 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 physical damage by the application of vinyl, ceramic or stone tile finishes.
- 7.4 Movement and control joints may be required depending on the shape and size of the building or room, and the tile finish specified. Design guidelines can be found in the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling.
- 7.5 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 all sheet edges are fully supported. 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%.

### Substrates

#### Fibre Cement Compressed Sheet/Fibre Cement Sheet Tile Underlay

- 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 a wet area substrate. Fibre cement sheet tile underlay must be suitable for use in internal wet areas. Installation must be in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer.

#### Concrete and Concrete Masonry

- 8.2 Concrete and concrete masonry substrates must be to a specific engineering design meeting the requirements of the NZBC, such as concrete construction to NZS 3101, concrete slab-on-ground to NZS 3604, and concrete masonry to NZS 4229 and NZS 4230.

#### Wet Area Wall Linings

- 8.3 Plasterboard wall linings must be manufactured to comply with AS/NZS 2588 and be suitable for use in internal wet areas.
- 8.4 Fibre cement sheet must be suitable for use in wet areas and comply with the requirements of AS 2908.2.

### Durability

#### Serviceable Life

- 9.1 The Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area 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 tile 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 vinyl or tile finish remains intact. Regular checks must be made of vinyl and tiled areas to ensure they are sound and will not allow moisture to penetrate. Any cracks or damage must be repaired immediately by repairing the vinyl or tiles, grouts and sealants.
- 10.2 In the event of damage to the membranes, the vinyl or 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 vinyl, ceramic or stone tile finishes must be kept clean.



## Internal Moisture

- 11.1 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area Membranes are impervious to water and when appropriately designed and installed will avoid the likelihood of water penetrating behind linings or entering concealed spaces.
- 11.2 Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Areas Membranes are suitable for use to contain accidental overflow to meet NZBC Clause E3.3.2. A means of code compliance for overflow is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Paragraph 2.1.
- 11.3 Surfaces must be finished with vinyl, ceramic or stone tile finishes. A means of code compliance to NZBC Clause E3.3.3 for ceramic or stone tile finishes is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Paragraph 3.1.1 b) and 3.1.2 b).
- 11.4 Falls in showers and shower areas must be a minimum of 1 in 50. In unenclosed showers, falls must extend a minimum of 1,500 mm out from the shower rose. Floor wastes must be provided and the floor must fall to the outlet.
- 11.5 The waterproofing membrane must completely cover shower bases, and for unenclosed showers it must extend a minimum of 1,500 mm out from the shower rose. Further design guidance on waterproofing wet areas, including waterproofing walls and junctions can be obtained from AS 3740, the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling, and flooring and wallboard manufacturers.
- 11.6 Where water resistant wall finishes such as prefinished sheet materials are used, they must flash over the membrane a minimum of 30 mm.
- 11.7 BRANZ recommends the entire floor be covered by a waterproof membrane for bath, shower and spa rooms.

## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 12.1 Installation of the membranes must be completed by trained applicators, approved by RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.
- 12.2 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

- 13.1 Substrates must be dry, clean and stable before installation commences, with surfaces that are even and free from nibs, sharp edges, dust, dirt or other materials such as oil, grease or concrete formwork release agents.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 All voids, cracks, holes, joints and excessively rough areas must be filled to achieve an even and uniform surface. Junctions of substrate abutments, such as at wall/floor and wall/wall junctions must have an RF underflashing installed as set out in the Technical Literature.
- 13.4 Substrates must be primed with a Gripset® primer and allowed to dry fully before the membrane is installed.

### Membrane Installation

- 14.1 Installation must not be undertaken where the substrate surface temperature is below 5°C or above 35°C.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 The membrane must be applied in a minimum of two coats at the rates set out in the Technical Literature to give a total minimum finished thickness of 1.2 mm. Subsequent coats must be applied in an opposite direction to the previous coat.
- 14.4 Application can be made by roller (medium/long nap), brush (long bristle), or a non-edge serrated flat steel trowel.
- 14.5 Clean up may be undertaken with water.

### Tiling

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

### Inspections

- 16.1 Critical areas of inspection 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 membrane.
  - 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.
  - Membrane curing and integrity prior to the installation of tiles including protection from mechanical damage during curing and prior to tile installation.

### Health and Safety

- 17.1 Safe use and handling procedures for the membranes are provided in the Technical Literature. The materials must be used in conjunction with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet.

### Basis of Appraisal

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

### Tests

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 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.
- 18.3 Test methods and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.



18.4 Although not required by the standard AS/NZS 4858 as water vapour transmission testing had already shown compliance, additional testing of Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P was also undertaken by Amdel Limited for suitability over particleboard in accordance with AS/NZS 4858, Appendix C, and found to be satisfactory.

### Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment was made of the durability of the Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area Membranes by BRANZ technical experts.
- 19.2 Site inspections have been carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation and to examine completed installations.
- 19.3 The Technical Literature has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

### Quality

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 The quality management system of the membrane's manufacturer has been assessed and found to be satisfactory.
- 20.3 The quality of supply of the membrane system to the market is the responsibility of RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.
- 20.4 Quality on-site is the responsibility of the trained applicators, approved by RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.
- 20.5 Designers are responsible for the substrate design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of construction of substrate systems in accordance with the instructions of the substrate manufacturer, RLA Polymers Pty Ltd and this Appraisal.
- 20.6 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the tiling or stone finishing systems in accordance with the instructions of RLA Polymers Pty Ltd.

### Sources of Information

- AS 2908.2-2000 Cellulose-cement products - flat sheet.
- AS 3740-2010 Waterproofing of domestic areas.
- AS 3958.1-1991 Guide to the installation of ceramic tiles.
- AS/NZS 2270:2002 Structural design actions.
- AS/NZS 4858:2004 Wet area membranes.
- 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: Tiling, April 2015.
- NZS 3101:2006 The design of concrete structures.
- NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- NZS 4229:2013 Concrete masonry buildings not requiring specific engineering design.
- NZS 4230:2004 Code of practice for the design of masonry structures.
- 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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**BRANZ Appraisal**  
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15 September 2021

GRIPSET® 38FC AND GRIPSET® 2P  
WET AREA MEMBRANES



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Gripset® 38FC and Gripset® 2P Wet Area 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 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 **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