



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 466 [2026]

AXON™ PANEL SMOOTH FOR TEXTURE COATING

Appraisal No. 466 [2026]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 466 [2020]



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of
products for building and
construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is a fibre cement cavity-based substrate for textured coated/plastered monolithic finished cladding systems. It is designed to be used as an external wall cladding system for residential and light commercial type buildings where domestic construction techniques are used.

Scope

- 2.1 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating has been appraised for use as an external wall cladding for timber-framed buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1; and,
 - with a risk score of 0-20, calculated in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Extra High.
- 2.2 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating has also been appraised for weathertightness and structural wind loading when used as an external wall cladding for buildings within the following scope:
 - with a building height not exceeding 25 m; and,
 - constructed with timber framing subject to specific engineering design; and,
 - situated in specific design wind pressures up to a maximum design differential ultimate limit state (ULS) of 1.5 kPa where studs are at maximum 600 mm centres; and,
 - situated in specific design wind pressures up to a maximum design differential ultimate limit state (ULS) of 3.2 kPa where studs are at maximum 400 mm centres; and,
 - with inter-storey deflections designed for and up to height/180 of horizontal in-plane movement during seismic serviceable limit state (SLS) events (based on a 3 m inter-storey height); and,
 - when fixed over James Hardie RAB™ Board rigid air barrier for buildings over 10 m in height.
- 2.3 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating must only be installed vertically over Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens. In all instances, it must be installed on vertical, flat surfaces.
- 2.4 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating must only be used with window and doors that comply with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 or that are covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal or NZ CodeMark certification.
- 2.5 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is appraised for use with textured finish systems that comply with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and are covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal or NZ CodeMark certification for use as a textured finish system.
- 2.6 Installation of components and accessories supplied by the textured finish system manufacturers must be carried out only by the textured finish system manufacturer's approved applicators.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating, 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. Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating meets the requirements for loads arising from self-weight, wind and impact [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (h) and (j)]. See Paragraphs 9.1-9.5.

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (b) 15 years and B2.3.2. Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 10.1-10.4.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating meets this requirement. See Paragraphs 15.1-15.5.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating meets this requirement.

Technical Specification

4.1 System components and accessories for Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating, which are supplied by James Hardie New Zealand Limited, are:

- **Axon™ Panel Smooth** [formerly known as EasyLap™ Panel] is a 9 mm thick ship-lap jointed panel, available 1,200 mm wide and 2,450 or 3,000 mm long. Axon™ Panel Smooth is a fibre cement panel manufactured from a water-resistant cellulose cement formulation. It is manufactured to conform to the requirements of AS/NZS 2908.2, in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1. The panels are formed, cut to length and then cured by high-pressure autoclaving. They are branded 'Axon™ Panel Smooth' at regular intervals on the back face, and are sealed and primed on the face and clear sealed on the back.

Accessories

- **Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Batten** - 19 mm thick fibre cement cavity batten installed over RAB™ Board or a flexible underlay. It is 19 mm thick x 70 mm wide x 3,000 mm long.
- **Hardie™ Aluminium Invert External Box Corner** - a box corner mould to form the invert external joints, etch-primed and available in 2,750 or 4,000 mm lengths.
- **Hardie™ 9 mm Panel Aluminium Horizontal 'h' Mould** - a horizontal flashing to flash the horizontal joints, etch-primed and available in 3,000 mm lengths.
- **Hardie™ 9 mm Aluminium Angle T Socket** - a horizontal T flashing to flash the horizontal joints, etch-primed and available in 3,000 mm lengths.
- **Hardie™ Angle T Horizontal Jointer** - a jointer to cover the butt joint of T mould, etch-primed and available in 100 mm lengths.
- **Hardie™ Angle T External Corner Jointer** - a T mould external corner, etch-primed.
- **Aluminium 'h' Mould Jointer** - a jointer to cover the butt joint of 'h' mould. Available in 100 mm lengths.
- **Hardie™ 9 mm Panel Aluminium 'h' External Corner Jointer** - a 'h' mould external corner.
- **Hardie™ 9 mm Aluminium Internal Corner** - used to join two 9 mm panels at an internal corner, available in 2,750 and 4,000 mm lengths.
- **uPVC Vent Strip** - available in 3,000 mm lengths.
- **HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding** - 4.5 mm thick fibre cement rigid wall underlay, 1,200 mm wide and available in 2,450 or 2,750 mm lengths.
- **RAB™ Board** - 6 or 9 mm thick fibre cement rigid wall underlay, 1,200 mm wide and available in 2,450, 2,750 or 3,000 mm lengths.



- 4.2 Accessories specific to Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating, which are supplied by the building contractor, are:
- **65 x 2.87 mm RoundDrive ring shank nails** - hot-dip galvanised or stainless steel nails used for fixing Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens to timber framing.
 - **C-25 brad nail** - Grade 304 stainless steel brad nails used to fix Axon™ Panels to Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens.
 - **Bostik Seal N Flex 1** - a one-part polyurethane construction adhesive used to fix Axon™ Panels to Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens, supplied in 300 ml cartridges and 600 ml sausages.
 - **Sika Sikaflex-11 FC** - a one-part polyurethane construction adhesive used to fix Axon™ Panels to Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens, supplied in 300 ml cartridges and 600 ml sausages.
- 4.3 Accessories used with Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating to a generic specification in accordance NZBC Acceptable Solutions E2/AS1, E2/AS4 or covered by a relevant and valid BRANZ Appraisal or NZ CodeMark Certification, which are supplied by the building contractor, are:
- Flexible wall underlay
 - Flexible wall underlay support
 - Rigid wall underlay
 - Flexible sill and jamb flashing tape
 - Joinery head flashings
 - Window and door trim cavity air seal
 - Flexible sealant

Textured Finish Systems

- 4.4 Axon™ Panel Smooth must be finished with a textured finish system that has been tested to BRANZ Evaluation Method No. 4 (BRANZ EM4) and is covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal or CodeMark for use with Axon™ Panel Smooth.

[Note: Other textured finish systems that have been tested to BRANZ EM4 with Axon™ Panel Smooth, which are not BRANZ appraised, may be used to finish Axon™ Panel Smooth. These systems have not been assessed by this Appraisal and are outside its scope.]

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of all materials supplied by James Hardie New Zealand Limited, whether on-site or off-site, is under the control of the building contractor and shall be handled according to the requirements in the Technical Literature.
- 5.2 Accessories must be stored so they are kept clean, dry and undamaged. All accessories must be used within the maximum storage period recommended by the manufacturer.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- Axon™ Panel Smooth, Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Batten Texture Coating Finish Technical Specification, dated March 2026.
- 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

Framing

Timber Treatment

- 7.1 Timber framing must be treated as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.

Timber Framing

- 7.2 Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604 for buildings or parts of a building within the scope limitations of NZS 3604. Buildings or parts of a building outside the scope of NZS 3604 must be to a specific design in accordance with NZS 3603 and AS/NZS 1170. Where specific design is required, the framing must be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604.
- 7.3 Studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres for Low, Medium, High and Very High Wind Zones and maximum 400 mm centres for the NZS 3604 Extra High Wind Zone and specifically designed buildings. Dwargs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 800 mm centres for studs at 600 mm centres, or 1,200 mm maximum centres for studs at 400 mm centres. Dwargs in fire rated walls must be at 800 mm centres maximum.
- 7.4 The minimum timber framing size is 90 x 45 mm, and the minimum timber grade is SG8.
- 7.5 The maximum moisture content of timber framing must be in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1. Timber wall framing and cavity battens must have a moisture content of 20% or less at the time of commencement of the textured finish system.

Axon™ Panel Smooth Set Out

- 7.6 Axon™ Panel Smooth panels must be installed vertically. All vertical Axon™ Panel Smooth panel edges must be supported. Horizontal panel edges must be supported at fixing locations with cavity spacers 200 mm long maximum in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1. At the base of the wall, the panels must hang 50 mm below the supporting framing.
- 7.7 Additional framing may be required at soffits, internal and external corners and window and door openings for the support and fixing of panel edges.

General

- 8.1 When Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is used for specifically designed buildings up to 3.2 kPa ULS wind pressure, only the weathertightness aspects of the cladding and maximum framing centres and panel fixing centres are within the scope of this Appraisal. All other aspects of the building need to be specifically designed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 8.2 Ground clearance to finished floor levels as set out in NZS 3604 must always be adhered to.
- 8.3 The horizontal separation between the wall cladding and the adjacent ground must be maintained in accordance with NZS 3604.
- 8.4 The bottom of cladding must have separations, clearances and overlaps in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.
- 8.5 All external walls shall have barriers to airflow in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1. All external walls of buildings must have barriers to airflow in the form of 6 or 9 mm thick RAB™ Board when used on buildings between 10-25 m high, or situated in specific design wind pressures over a maximum differential ULS of 1.5 kPa. Where rigid underlays are used, the cavity batten fixing lengths must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay.
- 8.6 Penetrations through the Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating cladding system shall be in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and the Technical Literature.
- 8.7 Inter-storey junctions in claddings are required in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and shall be detailed in accordance with the Technical Literature.
- 8.8 Where Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating abuts other cladding systems, designers must detail the junction to meet their own requirements and the performance requirements of the NZBC. Details not included within the Technical Literature have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Control Joints

8.9 Control joints must be constructed in accordance with the Technical Literature, and be provided as follows:

- **Vertical control joints** - at maximum 5.4 m centres; aligned with any control joint in the structural framing, or where the system abuts different cladding types.
- **Horizontal control joints** - at maximum 5.4 m centres and at inter-storey floor levels.

[Note: Horizontal and vertical control joints must be located over structural supports. The design of vertical junctions where the system abuts different cladding types is outside the scope of this Appraisal and is the responsibility of the designer - refer to Paragraph 8.8.]

Structure

Mass

9.1 The mass of Axon™ Panel Smooth panel is approximately 12 kg/m². Therefore, Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating, when finished with a texture coating system, is considered a light wall cladding in terms of NZS 3604.

Impact Resistance

9.2 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating has good resistance to impact loads likely to be encountered in normal residential use. The likelihood of impact damage to the system when used in light commercial situations should be considered at the design stage and appropriate protection such as the installation of bollards and barriers provided for vulnerable areas.

Wind Zones

9.3 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is suitable for use in buildings up to 10 m high, in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High where buildings are designed to meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.

9.4 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is suitable for use in buildings up to 25 m high, situated in specific design wind pressures up to 1.5 kPa maximum design differential ULS wind pressure where studs are at maximum 600 mm centres, or ULS of 3.2 kPa, where studs are at maximum 400 mm centres.

Durability

10.1 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating meets the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 [b] 15 years for the Axon™ Panel Smooth panels, fixings and flashings. For Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating to meet the durability and external moisture requirements of the NZBC, Axon™ Panel Smooth panels must be finished with an appraised textured finish system within three months of fixing.

Serviceable Life

10.2 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating installations are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 50 years, provided the textured finish system is maintained in accordance with this Appraisal and any other relevant Appraisal to ensure the Axon™ Panel Smooth panels and fixings remain dry in service.

10.3 Coastal locations can be very corrosive to fasteners, especially locations within distances of up to 500 m from the sea including harbours, or 100 m from tidal estuaries and sheltered inlets, and otherwise as shown in NZS 3604. These coastal locations are defined in NZS 3604 as Zone D. To achieve a 50 year serviceable life in Zone D, Axon™ Panel Smooth panels must be fixed with stainless steel fasteners. Fasteners outside Zone D may be hot-dip galvanised steel.

10.4 Microclimatic conditions, including geothermal hot spots, industrial contamination and corrosive atmospheres, and contamination from agricultural chemicals or fertilisers can convert mildly corrosive atmosphere into aggressive environments for fasteners. The fixing of Axon™ Panel Smooth panels in areas subject to microclimatic conditions requires specific design in accordance with NZS 3604 and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Maintenance

- 11.1 Regular maintenance is essential for Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating installations to continue to meet the NZBC durability performance provision and to maximise their serviceable life.
- 11.2 Annual inspections must be made to ensure that all aspects of the cladding system, including the textured finish system, flashings and any sealed joints remain in a weatherproof condition. Any damaged areas or areas showing signs of deterioration which would allow water ingress, must be repaired immediately. Sealant, paint coatings, textured finish systems, flashings or the fibre cement panels must be repaired in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.3 Regular cleaning [at least annually] of the textured finish system is recommended to remove grime, dirt and organic growth, to maximise the life and appearance of the coating. Grime may be removed by brushing with a soft brush, warm water and detergent.
- 11.4 Re-coating of the finishing system will be necessary throughout the life of the cladding system. The interval between re-coats depends on the finish colour, orientation and quality of the application, and will be at approximately 5-10 yearly intervals in accordance with the paint manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.5 Minimum ground clearances as set out in this Appraisal must be maintained at all times during the life of the cladding. *[Note: Failure to adhere to the minimum ground clearances given in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature will adversely affect the long term durability of Axon™ Panel Smooth panels.]*

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 12.1 Axon™ Panel Smooth is considered a non-combustible material and need not be separated from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances and chimneys. However, when used in conjunction with, or attached to heat sensitive materials, the heat sensitive material must be separated from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances and chimneys. NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

Fire Affecting Areas Beyond the Fire Source

- 13.1 Refer to NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1, NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2, and NZBC Verification Method C/VM2 for fire resistance rating [FRR] and control of external fire spread requirements for external walls.

Horizontal Fire Spread

- 13.2 Where required by NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 or C/AS2, the cladding system will need to be installed over a FRR external wall with the required FRR.

Vertical Fire Spread - Buildings 10 m in height or less

- 13.3 When Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is used in buildings 10 m or less in height, NZBC Functional Requirement C3.2 identifies that external vertical fire spread to upper floors only needs to be considered for buildings with a building height greater than 10 m.

Vertical Fire Spread - Buildings greater than 10 m in height

- 13.4 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating can form part of an external wall cladding system designed to meet vertical fire spread requirements. This has not been assessed by this Appraisal and is outside its scope.
- 13.5 Specific fire engineering design is required for each building over 10 m in height to ensure the external cladding system will meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2 or NZBC Verification Method C/VM2.
- 13.6 The specific engineering design for the building must include the specific detailing at each floor level as provided in the James Hardie Fire and Acoustic Technical Manual and meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2 cavity barriers.
- 13.7 The following information is provided to support the specific fire engineering design.

External Cladding System

- 13.8 Two NFPA 285 full scale tests have been completed that included the Axon™ Panel Smooth as follows:
1. James Hardie RAB™ Board with 20 x 40 mm timber cavity batten and James Hardie Axon Panel Cladding System.
 2. James Hardie RAB™ Board with James Hardie CLD fibre cement cavity battens without a cladding system [for use with non-combustible cladding materials].
- 13.9 Table 1 details the components from the two NFPA tests and provides detail of any testing or assessment results for the components.

Table 1: Components of NFPA 285 Testing

Component	Test Method	Result
Axon™ Panel Cladding System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component of NFPA 285 test • AS/NZS 3837:1998 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass • Type A
Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens	Component of NFPA 285 test	Pass
James Hardie Rigid Air Barrier [RAB™ Board]	Component of NFPA 285 test	Pass
Tape	Component of NFPA 285 test	Pass

- 13.10 Axon™ Panel Smooth panel has been tested to AS/NZS 3837 and is classified as non-combustible. Refer to the selected finishing system supplier for confirmation of the peak heat release and total heat released values for the system.

External Moisture

- 14.1 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating, when installed and maintained in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature, prevents the penetration of moisture that could cause undue dampness or damage to building elements.
- 14.2 The drained cavity must be sealed off to restrict air movement between the drained cavity; and: floor, wall and roof framing, and attic roof space, and subfloor space as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1.
- 14.3 Construction moisture must be managed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 to ensure construction moisture is not permitted to damage building elements.
- 14.4 The details given in the Technical Literature for weather sealing are based on the design principle of having a first and second line of defence against moisture entry for all joints, penetrations and junctions. The ingress of moisture must be excluded by detailing joinery and wall interfaces as shown in the Technical Literature. Weathertightness details that are developed by the designer are outside the scope of this Appraisal and are the responsibility of the designer for compliance with the NZBC.

Internal Moisture

Water Vapour

- 15.1 Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating is not a barrier to the passage of water vapour, and when installed in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature, will not create or increase the risk of moisture damage resulting from condensation.
- 15.2 Buildings must be constructed with an adequate combination of thermal resistance and ventilation, and space temperature must be provided to all habitable spaces, bathrooms, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 16.1 All design and building work must be carried out in accordance with the Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating Technical Literature and this Appraisal by competent and experienced tradespeople, conversant with Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating. 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 Licence Class.
- 16.2 Installation of components and accessories supplied by the textured finish system manufacturers must be completed by trained applicators, approved by the textured finish system manufacturer.

System Installation

Wall Underlay and Flexible Sill and Jamb Tape Installation

- 17.1 The selected wall underlay and flexible flashing tape must be installed in accordance with the underlay and tape manufacturer's instructions, prior to the installation of the cavity battens and the Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating. Flexible wall underlay must be installed horizontally and be continuous around corners. Underlay must be lapped 75 mm minimum at horizontal joints and 150 mm minimum over studs at vertical joints. Generic rigid sheathing materials must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and be overlaid with a flexible wall underlay. Proprietary systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Particular attention must be paid to the installation of the wall underlay and flexible flashing tapes around window and door openings and penetrations to ensure a continuous seal is achieved and all exposed wall framing in the opening is protected.
- 17.2 Where studs are at greater than 450 mm centres and a flexible wall underlay is being used, a flexible wall underlay restraint in accordance with the Appraisal Technical Specification must be installed over the underlay to prevent the insulation from bulging the building underlay into the cavity.

Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens

- 17.3 Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Battens must be fixed to the wall framing over the wall underlay to the studs at maximum 600 mm centres where the studs are at 600 mm centres or at 400 mm centres when studs are at 400 mm centres. Where a rigid wall underlay is used, the length of the fixing must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay. The battens are run continuously over the studs but must not run continuously over the floor joists. The smallest section of Hardie™ CLD™ Structural Cavity Batten must be at least 300 mm long.

Joinery Installation

- 17.4 Joinery must be installed in accordance with the appraised Technical Literature and any Technical Literature of the joinery manufacturer. The joinery must be installed plumb, level and fixed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 or the joinery manufacturers Technical Literature.

Axon™ Panel Smooth Panel Installation

- 17.5 Axon™ Panel Smooth panels are supplied with vertical edges machined/profiled to form a ship-lap joint when installed. Axon™ Panel Smooth panels may be cut by scoring and snapping, hand guillotine, hand or power saw. Any site cut, square panel edges must coincide with an internal or external corner, a control joint or a junction with another cladding. Holes and cut-outs may be formed by drilling a number of holes around the perimeter of the opening required and tapping out the centre with a hammer, or by using a hole saw.
- 17.6 Panels must be dry prior to installation. All site-cut panel edges must be sealed prior to installation.



- 17.7 Panels must not be fixed to inter-storey joists or blocking, and must have a 15 mm gap between panel edges at this point to allow for shrinkage of the framing. This gap must be flashed with a horizontal control joint flashing to prevent moisture entry, and may be covered with an architectural shape fixed to the upper panel only.
- 17.8 Vertical control joints may occur at the edge of window and door openings. Horizontal, or vertical ship-lap panel joints must not occur at the edge of window and door openings. Vertical panel ship-lap joints adjacent to openings must be a minimum of 200 mm inside the jamb line of the opening.

Textured Finish System

- 17.9 Components and accessories supplied by the textured finish system manufacturer and the approved applicator must be installed in accordance with the textured finish system manufacturer's Technical Literature and the relevant Appraisal, by the approved applicator.

Inspections

- 17.10 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating installations.

Health and Safety

- 18.1 Protective equipment must be worn and used as required by the Technical Literature and the manufacturer's instructions.

Basis of Appraisal

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

Tests

- 19.1 Axon™ Panel Cladding has been tested by a James Hardie Australia Pty Ltd NATA-accredited laboratory in accordance with AS/NZS 2908.2 and ISO 8336. The testing covered: soak-dry, bending strength, warm water soaking, heat/rain, freeze/thaw and apparent density. The test methods and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.2 Testing has been carried out by James Hardie Building Products to determine the face load pressure resistance of Axon™ Panel Smooth panel. The test method and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.3 Components of Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating have been tested to NFPA 285 by Intertek and have passed the test criteria.
- 19.4 Axon™ Panel Cladding has been tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3837 and achieved a Type A classification. Testing was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the NZBC Building Product Specifications.

Other Investigations

- 20.1 Structural, durability and weathertightness opinions have been provided 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 for Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.



Quality

- 21.1 The manufacture of Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 21.2 The quality of materials, components and accessories supplied by James Hardie New Zealand Limited is the responsibility of James Hardie New Zealand Limited.
- 21.3 Quality of installation on-site of components and accessories supplied by James Hardie New Zealand Limited is the responsibility of the installer.
- 21.4 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of framing systems and joinery, wall underlays, flashing tapes, air seals and cavity battens in accordance with the instructions of James Hardie New Zealand Limited.
- 21.5 Sub-trades are responsible for installation of penetrations, flashings etc. that are relevant to their trade in accordance with the Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating Technical Literature.
- 21.6 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating in accordance with the instructions of James Hardie New Zealand Limited.

Sources of Information

- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design actions - General principles.
- AS/NZS 2908.2:2000 Cellulose-cement products - Flat panel.
- AS/NZS 3837:1998 Method of test for heat and smoke release rates for materials and properties using an oxygen consumption calorimeter.
- BRANZ Evaluation Method No. 4 [2004] Test procedure for coating and jointing systems for flush finished fibre cement panel cladding, June 2005.
- NFPA 285: 2019 Standard fire test method for evaluation of fire propagation characteristics or exterior wall assemblies containing combustible components.
- NZS 3602:2003 Timber and wood-based products for use in building.
- NZS 3603:1993 Timber structures standard.
- 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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12 May 2026

AXON™ PANEL SMOOTH FOR
TEXTURE COATING



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Axon™ Panel Smooth for Texture Coating** 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 **James Hardie New Zealand 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. **James Hardie New Zealand 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 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 **James Hardie New Zealand 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 **James Hardie New Zealand Limited** or any third party.

For BRANZ

Claire Falck
Chief Executive
Date of Issue:
12 May 2026