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Standard Guide for the Use of High Solids Content Cold Liquid-Applied Elastomeric Waterproofing Membrane on Vertical Surfaces¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1471; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide describes the use of a high solids content, cold liquid-applied elastomeric waterproofing membrane that meets the performance criteria specified in Specification C836, subject to intermittent hydrostatic pressure in a waterproofing system intended for installation on vertical cast-in-place concrete surfaces.

1.2 The committee with jurisdiction over this standard is not aware of any comparable standards published by other organizations.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

C117 Test Method for Materials Finer than 75- μ m (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing

C717 Terminology of Building Seals and Sealants

C836 Specification for High Solids Content, Cold Liquid-Applied Elastomeric Waterproofing Membrane for Use with Separate Wearing Course

C898 Guide for Use of High Solids Content, Cold Liquid-Applied Elastomeric Waterproofing Membrane with Separate Wearing Course

D4263 Test Method for Indicating Moisture in Concrete by the Plastic Sheet Method

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Refer to Terminology C717 for definitions of terms used in this standard.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D08.22 on Waterproofing and Dampproofing Systems.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *drainage composite*—geocomposite consisting of a geotextile filter fabric and a drainage core of various thicknesses and shapes.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This grade provides considerations for the design and installation of liquid-applied waterproofing systems. The intent is to provide information and guidelines for consideration by designers. Typical uses for these systems include, among others, planters and foundation walls with drainage systems.

4.2 This guide is intended to be considered in conjunction with Guide C898 to provide total system guidelines.

5. Comparison to Other Standards

5.1 The committee with jurisdiction over this standard is not aware of any comparable standards published by other organizations.

6. General

6.1 *General*—The major components to be considered for a below grade building wall waterproofing system are the structural wall or substrate to be waterproofed, waterproofing membrane, membrane protection, drainage, and backfill. Additional components to be considered are membrane terminations, penetrations, joints, and thermal insulation.

6.2 *Compatibility*—It is essential that all components and contiguous elements be compatible, and that they be coordinated to form an integrated waterproofing system.

6.3 *Continuity*—It is essential that the waterproofing membrane, including all joints and transitions, is continuous. Special attention must be paid to changes in plane, transitions from one substrate to another, terminations, and abutting waterproofing systems. Expansion and control joints in abutting vertical and horizontal surfaces must maintain the continuity of the system. It is recommended that, during system development and documentation, isometric drawings be made of three dimensional connections and transitions.

7. Substrate

7.1 *General*—The building wall substrate referred to in this guide is reinforced, cast-in-place concrete.

7.2 *Strength*—The strength of concrete is a factor to be considered with respect to liquid-applied membranes so far as it relates to surface finish, bond strength, and continuing integrity (absence of cracks and other concrete defects that could affect the integrity of the membrane).

7.3 *Density and Moisture Content*—The density and moisture content of concrete when cured are interrelated. Excessively high moisture content can affect adhesion of the membrane to a substrate as moisture may condense at the membrane to concrete interface and cause membrane delamination. Lower moisture contents are achieved with the use of hard, dense stone aggregate. This type of coarse aggregate will generally provide structural concrete with moisture content from 3 to 5% when cured. The concrete substrate should have a minimum density of 2100 kg/m³ (130 lb./ft³) and a maximum moisture content of 8% when cured.

7.4 *Admixtures*—Polymeric, latex, or other organic chemical based admixtures or modifiers can coat the concrete particles and reduce the adhesion of the membrane to the substrate. If the concrete substrate will contain any admixtures, the membrane manufacturer should be consulted and should approve the use of the membrane with the specific proposed admixtures.

7.5 *Release and Curing Agents*—Form release agents and form oils are often used to facilitate the removal of the concrete form work, and curing agents are sometimes applied to the green (uncured) concrete surface. These chemicals can reduce the adhesion of the membrane to the concrete, and their use should be coordinated with and be accepted by the membrane manufacturer. Form oils should not be used on areas to receive waterproofing. If form oils were used, sandblasting or other approved methods must be used to remove the form oils prior to waterproofing application.

7.6 *Finish*—The structural wall should have a smooth form finish. The surface should provide a mechanical bond for the membrane but not be so rough as to preclude achieving continuity of the membrane and the specified membrane thickness across its surface. All fins, projections, tie rod holes, and honeycomb must be repaired. The removal of fins and similar projections is especially critical, because they cause thin spots in the membrane that are easily punctured. The concrete surface at the top of the wall and at the footing should be of the same quality as the face of the wall. The footing should be troweled smooth and be free of fins, burrs, and large irregularities. A minimum width of 200 mm, with 300 mm preferred, should be available on the footing to effectively terminate the waterproofing membrane. The top of the footing should be sloped away from the wall.

7.7 *Dryness*—Membrane manufacturers' requirements for substrate dryness vary and can include being visibly dry, passing a 4 hour glass test, passing Test Method D4263 with no condensate, or having a specific maximum moisture content as measured by a moisture meter. Refer to and meet the manufacturer's requirements for the particular membrane being applied. It is recommended that the membrane not be applied sooner than 28 days after concrete placement.

7.8 *Joints*—Joints in structural concrete walls are referred to in this guide as reinforced joints, unreinforced joints, and expansion joints.

7.8.1 *Reinforced Joints*—Reinforced joints consist of hair-line cracks, cold joints, construction joints, or control joints held together with steel reinforcing bars or wire fabric. These are considered static joints with little or no anticipated movement because the reinforcement is continuous across the joint.

7.8.2 *Unreinforced Joints*—Unreinforced joints consist of butted construction joints and isolation joints not held together with steel reinforcing bars or wire fabric. These joints are generally considered as non-moving or static joints. However, they should be considered as capable of some movement, the magnitude of which is difficult to predict.

7.8.3 *Expansion Joints*—Expansion joints are designed to accommodate a predetermined amount of movement. Such movement can be due to thermal change, shrinkage, creep, deflection, or other factors. In detailing watertight expansion joints, the amount of movement must be determined using a reasonable factor of safety since accurate prediction of the magnitude of movement is difficult. The size and configuration of the joint should then be related to the capability of the membrane and joint seal materials to accommodate the anticipated movement.

8. Waterproofing Membrane

8.1 *General*—Application of the membrane may be by brush, trowel, roller, and/or spray equipment, depending on the manufacturer's recommended or required procedures and the job site conditions. A two coat application is preferable to a single coat application, because it provides some redundancy and it is easier to meet or exceed the minimum required membrane thickness. It also reduces the tendency for membrane material to slide or sag, and pinholes in the first coat can be covered by the second coat.

8.1.1 One-part membrane materials should be stirred thoroughly prior to application. With two-part materials, stir each component separately before combining. Thoroughly mix the two components together so the curing agent is uniformly dispersed in the base component, ensuring even curing of the membrane. Mixing should be at a slow speed, 80 to 150 rpm, to avoid entrapping air in the material. The bottom and sides of the container should be scraped with a square edged spatula during mixing.

8.1.2 Some materials require the use of a primer on some substrates. Review the manufacturer's requirements, and use the recommended primer where necessary.

8.1.3 A coverage rate of 1.5 L/m² (4 gal/100 ft²) of surface area on a smooth substrate yields a dry-film thickness of 1.5 ± 0.1 mm (60 ± 5 mils) using materials that are 100% solids. The products described by this guide are marketed by a number of manufacturers and may have different minimum required membrane thicknesses. This guide is predicated upon a minimum dry-film thickness of 1.5 ± 0.1 mm. When the solids content of the waterproofing membrane is less than 100%, the coverage rate required to achieve a 1.5 mm dry-film thickness is calculated by the following formula:

$$\frac{1.5 L/m^2}{\% \text{ solids by volume (expressed as a decimal)}} = L/m^2 \quad (1)$$

The manufacturer's data sheets should be consulted for the yield of the proposed product.

8.1.4 The application thickness should be monitored closely to assure that the membrane is applied at the specified wet-film thickness. The application thickness should be checked while the film is still liquid with a wet-film thickness gauge or other appropriate means. Two to three checks, per 10 m² (100 ft²), should be performed. Irregular substrates should be monitored more closely and require heavier average application to maintain the specified minimum membrane thickness. Damage to the membrane caused by the depth gauge must be repaired before the membrane cures.

8.1.5 The cured membrane should be carefully inspected for voids and thin spots. The membrane thickness should be specified as the minimum allowable thickness at any point, not as an average thickness. All defects should be repaired according to the manufacturer's recommendations prior to placement of the protection course.

8.2 *Adhesion to Substrate*—A liquid-applied waterproofing membrane must adhere to the substrate in order to stay in place prior to backfilling and to prevent water accumulation and movement between the membrane and the substrate. Water penetrating an unbonded membrane could migrate laterally under the membrane until reaching a crack or defect in the structural wall and then leak through to the interior. Leakage through the wall would not necessarily indicate the location of water entry through the membrane. That point could be a considerable distance away, and removal of large areas of backfill might be required before it is located.

8.2.1 The substrate must be dry and frost-free on the surface and throughout the depth of the concrete when the membrane is applied. Excessive moisture in the substrate or moisture on the surface from frost, rain, or condensation may cause an improper cure, formation of gas pockets, or little or no adhesion to the substrate. Should rain or snow interrupt the application after at least one coat of material has been applied, the manufacturer's instructions should be followed pertaining to treatment of the cured material prior to continuing application.

8.3 *Terminations*—The waterproofing system should terminate a minimum of 150 mm (6 in.) above the finish grade or brick ledge. Where a concrete wall is to be exposed above grade, the waterproofing may be terminated no more than 50 mm (2 in.) below grade. It should be recognized that the area

above the termination is vulnerable to water penetration through cracks or joints and these areas must be addressed.

8.3.1 The waterproofing system should terminate a minimum of 300 mm (12 in.) below the lower floor line or on top of the footing a minimum of 150 mm (6 in.) out from the wall face. The system should never be terminated above the drainage collection level. See Fig. 1.

8.3.2 The waterproofing system should terminate a minimum of 600 mm (24 in.) onto intersecting walls, columns, or counterforts. Under certain conditions, such as the intersection of a retaining wall with the main foundation wall, it is desirable to provide continuous wall waterproofing prior to the placement of the intersecting wall.

8.3.3 The waterproofing system on vertical walls should connect with below slab waterproofing when used. When the two membranes are the same material or compatible materials, they may lap each other. This may be accomplished by applying the membrane to the top of the footing prior to pouring the concrete wall (Fig. 1). When the two membranes do not connect but are separated by the wall, care must be taken to assure that the footing and wall are watertight. Concrete additives are sometimes used for this purpose.

8.3.4 Where the membrane connects with a horizontal plaza, the transition should be carefully evaluated and designed. Compatibility between membrane systems will be assured if the same material is used for both the vertical and horizontal surfaces. If different systems are used, it is important that they be compatible. The manufacturers of both systems should accept the specific membrane materials and details that will be used. Expansion joints should be continuous from horizontal to vertical surfaces and have similar treatments.

8.3.5 Interior corners, both horizontal and vertical, should receive a fillet bead of compatible sealant or other material or a double layer of membrane material extending approximately 150 mm (6 in.) on both sides of the corner. Exterior corners should receive a double layer of membrane material. Exterior corners should have a 20 to 25 mm (¾ to 1 in.) chamfer. See Fig. 2.

8.4 *Penetrations*—Utility lines such as sewer, water, gas, or electric pipes and conduits penetrate foundation walls and interrupt the continuity of the waterproofing membrane. This is an area of potential water leakage that requires careful design and detailing. The penetration should be sized to allow for differential horizontal and vertical movement between the utility and the wall and for longitudinal movement of the utility. The preferred detail includes a sleeve cast in the

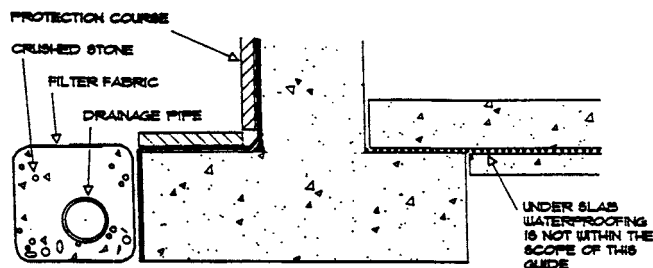


FIG. 1 Footing