

BBA Approval Inspection Testing Certification

Toughsheet MAX 900 DPC

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Agrément Certificate 99/3603

Product Sheet 3 Issue 1

FRANK MERCER MEMBRANES

TOUGHSHEET HIGH LOAD 900

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet⁽¹⁾ relates to Toughsheet High Load 900, for use in providing horizontal or vertical damp-proof courses, including cavity trays, in either solid or cavity walls of brick, block, stone or concrete, in masonry, timber or lightweight steel frame constructions. The product can also be used as part of a system to protect a building from the ingress of radon.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

The assessment includes

Product factors:

- compliance with Building Regulations
- compliance with additional regulatory or nonregulatory information where applicable
- evaluation against technical specifications
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- · uses and design considerations

Process factors:

- compliance with Scheme requirements
- installation, delivery, handling and storage
- production and quality controls
- maintenance and repair

Ongoing contractual Scheme elements†:

- regular assessment of production
- · formal 3-yearly review



KEY FACTORS ASSESSED

- Section 1. Mechanical resistance and stability
- Section 2. Safety in case of fire
- Section 3. Hygiene, health and the environment
- Section 4. Safety and accessibility in use
- Section 5. Protection against noise
- Section 6. Energy economy and heat retention
- Section 7. Sustainable use of natural resources
- Section 8. Durability

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the product described herein. This product has been assessed by the BBA as being fit for its intended use provided it is installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

Date of issue: 14 November 2024

Hardy Giesler Chief Executive Officer

This BBA Agrément Certificate is issued under the BBA's Inspection Body accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020. Sections marked with † are not issued under accreditation.

The BBA is a UKAS accredited Inspection Body (No. 4345), Certification Body (No. 0113) and Testing Laboratory (No. 0357).

Readers MUST check that this is the latest issue of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA directly.

The Certificate should be read in full as it may be misleading to read clauses in isolation.

Any photographs are for illustrative purposes only, do not constitute advice and should not be relied upon.

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BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 1 of 11

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT AND COMPLIANCE

This section provides a summary of the assessment conclusions; readers should refer to the later sections of this Certificate for information about the assessments carried out.

Compliance with Regulations

Having assessed the key factors, the opinion of the BBA is that Toughsheet High Load 900, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations:



The Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement: A1 Loading

Comment: The product will contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See section 1 of this

Certificate.

Requirement: B4(1) External fire spread

Comment: The product is restricted by this Requirement, in some circumstances. See section 2 of

this Certificate.

Requirement: C1(2) Site preparation and resistance to contaminants

Comment: The product will contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See section 3 of this

Certificate.

Requirement: C2(a)(b) Resistance to moisture

Comment: The product, including joints, will enable a structure to satisfy this Requirement. See

section 3 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 7(1) Materials and workmanship

Comment: The product is acceptable. See sections 8 and 9 of this Certificate.

The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation: 8(1) Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship

Comment: The product is acceptable. See sections 8 and 9 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 9 Building standards - construction

Standard: 1.1(a)(b) Structure

Comment: The product will contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses

 $1.1.1^{(1)(2)}$ and $1.1.3^{(1)(2)}$. See section 1 of this Certificate.

Standard: 3.1 Site preparation – harmful and dangerous substances

Standard: 3.2 Site preparation – protection from radon gas

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying these Standards, with refence to clauses

 $3.1.2^{(1)(2)}$, $3.1.6^{(1)(2)}$ and $3.2.2^{(1)(2)}$. See section 3 of this Certificate.

Standard: 3.4 Moisture from the ground

Standard: 3.10 Precipitation

Comment: The product, including joints, will contribute to satisfying these Standards, with

reference to clauses 3.4.1 $^{(1)(2)}$ 3.4.5 $^{(1)(2)}$ and 3.10.1 $^{(1)(2)}$. See section 3 of this Certificate.

Standard: 7.1(a) Statement of sustainability

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of Regulation 9,

Standards 1 to 6, and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting a bronze level

of sustainability as defined in this Standard.

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 2 of 11

Regulation: 12 Building standards - conversion

Comment: All comments given for the produc

All comments given for the product under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause $0.12.1^{(1)(2)}$ and Schedule $6^{(1)(2)}$.

(1) Technical Handbook (Domestic).

(2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended)

Regulation: 23(1)(a)(i) Fitness of materials and workmanship

Comment: (iii)(b)(i) The product is acceptable. See sections 8 and 9 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 26(1)(b) Site preparation and resistance to contaminants Regulation: 26(2) Site preparation and resistance to contaminants

Comment: The product will contribute to satisfying these Regulations. See section 3 of this

Certificate.

Regulation: 28(a)(b) Resistance to moisture and weather

Comment: When properly installed in a correctly designed structure, the product forms an

effective barrier to the movement of water within the wall, enabling compliance with

this Regulation. See section 3 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 30(a) Stability

Comment: The product, including joints, will contribute to satisfying this Regulation. See section 1

of this Certificate.

Regulation: 36(a) External fire spread

Comment: The product is restricted by this Regulation. See section 2 of this Certificate.

Fulfilment of Requirements

The BBA has judged Toughsheet High Load 900 to be satisfactory for use in providing horizontal or vertical damp-proof courses, including cavity trays, in either solid or cavity walls of brick, block, stone or concrete, in masonry, timber or lightweight steel frame constructions.

The product can also be used as part of a system to protect a building from the ingress of radon from the ground.

ASSESSMENT

Product description and intended use

The Certificate holder provided the following description for the product under assessment. Toughsheet High Load 900 is a flexible black sheet material with embossed surfaces. It consists of an extruded mono film from low density recycled polyethylene (LDPE).

The product has the nominal characteristics given in Table 1.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics	
Characteristic (unit)	Value
Thickness (mm)	0.9
Roll length (m)	20 - 30
Roll width (mm) ⁽¹⁾	100 - 1000

⁽¹⁾ Other dimensions are available on request.

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 3 of 11

Ancillary Items

The Certificate holder recommends the following ancillary items for use with the product, but these materials have not been assessed by the BBA and are outside the scope of this Certificate:

- Double sided butyl tape for use in joints and laps
- Jointing tape for securing laps and joints.

Product assessment – key factors

The product was assessed for the following key factors, and the outcome of the assessment is shown below. Conclusions relating to the Building Regulations apply to the whole of the UK unless otherwise stated.

1 Mechanical resistance and stability

Data were assessed for the following characteristic.

1.1 Behaviour under load

1.1.1 Results of behaviour under load tests are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Behaviour under load			
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
Toughsheet High Load 900	Shear strength to		
	BS EN 1052-4 : 2000		
	Pre-compression:		
	0.2 N·mm ⁻²	Value achieved	0.35 N·mm⁻²
	0.6 N·mm ⁻²		0.56 N·mm ⁻²
	1.0 N·mm⁻²		0.69 N·mm ⁻²

- 1.1.2 On the basis of data assessed, the product will not extrude under load, up to the point of compressive failure of the wall and will not adversely affect the ability of a properly designed and built wall to sustain and transmit compression load.
- 1.1.3 The stability of a wall in respect of lateral loads must be checked by a suitable experienced and competent individual in relation to the stresses permitted between the damp-proof course (DPC) and the mortar.

2 Safety in case of fire

2.1 Reaction to fire

- 2.1.1 The Certificate holder has not declared a reaction to fire classification for the product to BS EN 13501-1: 2018.
- 2.1.2 On the basis of data assessed, the product will be restricted in use under the documents supporting the national Building Regulations in some cases.
- 2.1.3 In England, other than when used as a cavity tray between two leaves of masonry, the product must not be used on residential buildings more than 11 m in height or on other buildings more than 18 m in height. Restrictions apply on assembly and recreation buildings. These constructions should also be included in calculations of unprotected area.
- 2.1.4 In Wales, other than when used as a cavity tray between two leaves of masonry, the product must not be used less than 1 m from a relevant boundary, or on buildings more than 18 m in height or, in some cases, on assembly and recreation buildings. These constructions must also be included in calculations of unprotected area.
- 2.1.5 In Northern Ireland, the product does not achieve the minimum Class E reaction to fire classification to BS EN 13501-1: 2018, and designers must seek guidance from the relevant Building Control Body.

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 4 of 11

2.1.6 In Scotland, the use of the product is unrestricted in terms of height and proximity to a relevant boundary by the documents supporting the national Building Regulations. However, restrictions on the overall construction may apply, depending on the reaction to fire classification achieved by the complete build-up, which must be established on a case-by-case basis.

3 Hygiene, health and the environment

Data were assessed for the following characteristics.

3.1 Resistance to water and water vapour

3.1.1 Results of resistance to water and water vapour tests are given in Table 3.

Table 3 Resistance to water a	nd water vapour		
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
Toughsheet High Load 900	Watertightness to BS EN 1928 : 2000	2 kPa	Pass

- 3.1.2 The resistance to water vapour was assessed on the basis of existing data for a representative related product.
- 3.1.3 On the basis of data assessed, the product will provide an effective barrier against liquid water and water vapour.

3.2 Resistance to mechanical damage

3.2.1 Results of resistance to mechanical damage tests are given in Table 4.

Table 4 Resistance to mecha	anical damage		
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
Toughsheet High Load 900	Nail tear to	Value achieved	
	BS EN 12310-1 : 2000		
	Longitudinal direction:		180 N
	Transverse direction:		180 N
Toughsheet High Load 900	Resistance to impact	Value achieved	250 mm
	BS EN 12691 : 2018		
Toughsheet High Load 900	Foldability at low temperature to	Value achieved	-45°C
	BS EN 495-5 : 2013		
Toughsheet High Load 900	Tensile strength to	Value achieved	
	BS EN 12311-2 : 2013		
	Longitudinal direction:		250 N
	Transverse direction:		250 N
Toughsheet High Load 900	Elongation at maximum load to	Value achieved	
	BS EN 12311-2 : 2013		
	Longitudinal direction:		146%
	Transverse direction:		104%

3.2.4 On the basis of data assessed, the product has sufficient strength properties to withstand the handling associated with installation and remain watertight.

3.3 Resistance to underground gases

3.3.1 The results of radon transmission tests are given in Table 5.

Table 5 Radon transmission rate			
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
Toughsheet High Load 900 (unjointed)	Radon diffusion coefficient to ISO/TS 11665-13: 2017	Value achieved	1.5 x 10 ⁻¹¹ m ² ·s ⁻¹
	Radon resistance to ISO/TS 11665-13 : 2017	Value achieved	54.1 Ms·m ⁻¹

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 5 of 11

3.3.2 On the basis of data assessed, the product will restrict the ingress of radon from naturally occurring sources.

4 Safety and accessibility in use

Not applicable.

5 Protection against noise

Not applicable.

6 Energy economy and heat retention

Not applicable.

7 Sustainable use of natural resources

7.1 Reuse and recyclability

7.1.1 The product contains polyethylene which can be recycled.

8 Durability

- 8.1 The potential mechanisms for degradation and the known performance characteristics of the materials in the product were assessed.
- 8.2 Specific test data were assessed as given in Table 6.

Table 6 Durability			
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
Toughsheet High Load 900	Watertightness to	2kPa	
	BS EN 1928 : 2000		
	Heat aged at 70°C for 84 days		Pass
	Lime water for 28 days		Pass

8.3 Based on knowledge of the materials which make up the product, it is compatible with the materials with which it will be in contact within normal construction. The product is unaffected by timber preservatives of water-based solutions of salts. Where doubt exists as to the compatibility of materials in contact, the advice of the Certificate holder must be sought, but such advice is outside the scope of this Certificate.

8.4 Service life

Under normal service conditions, the product will have a life equivalent to the structure in which it is incorporated, provided it is designed, installed and maintained in accordance with this Certificate and the Certificate holder's instructions.

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

Information provided by the Certificate holder was assessed for the following factors:

9 Design, installation, workmanship and maintenance

9.1 Design

9.1.1 The design process was assessed by the BBA and the following requirements apply in order to satisfy the performance assessed in this Certificate.

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 6 of 11

- 9.1.2 Constructions incorporating the product must comply with the general standards of good design practice given in BS EN 1996-1-1: 2022, BS EN 1996-1-2: 2005, BS EN 1996-2: 2006 and BS EN 1996-3: 2023, and their UK National Annexes, and PD 6697: 2019.
- 9.1.3 The presence of a DPC can reduce the shear and tensile (and therefore, bending) strengths of a wall at that point, and the design of the structure must take account of this.
- 9.1.4 The design of gas protection systems must be carried out by suitably experienced and competent individuals with sufficient knowledge of ground gas risk and the construction methods and materials.
- 9.1.5 When used where gas resistance is required, the product must be used in conjunction with a gas-resistant membrane to restrict the ingress of gas into buildings. The Certificate holder must be consulted for suitable products and recommended detailing practices, but such advice and materials are outside the scope of this Certificate.

9.2 Installation

- 9.2.1 Installation instructions provided by the Certificate holder were assessed and judged to be appropriate and adequate.
- 9.2.2 Installation must be carried out in accordance with this Certificate and the Certificate holder's instructions.
- 9.2.3 Installation of Toughsheet High Load 900 must follow normal good practice for the detailing of damp-proof courses, as set out in PD 6697: 2019, and must be in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 8000-0: 2014, BS 8000-3: 2020 and BS 8215: 1991, the BRE Digest 380, the Certificate holder's instructions and this Certificate.
- 9.2.4 Buildings in areas of risk from underground gases must be designed and constructed in accordance with the relevant guidance given in BRE Report BR 211 : 2023 and BS 8485 : 2015.
- 9.2.5 When used in a gas resistant specification, particular care must be taken to ensure that the product is incorporated into the building as part of a complete system to prevent the ingress or build-up of contaminants, this may require the use of additional methods such as sumps and ventilation.
- 9.2.6 All surfaces must be dried thoroughly prior to application of the double sided butyl tape. A strip of the tape is unrolled over the membrane with its nearest edge 50 mm from the membrane edge. The protective paper is removed from the double sided butyl tape prior to rolling an adjacent run of the membrane, which must be carefully unrolled over the jointing tape, ensuring a minimum 100 mm overlap.
- 9.2.7 As with all flexible damp-proof courses, care must be taken to avoid impact damage from sharp objects (eg trowels) during installation.
- 9.2.8 The DPC must extend through the full thickness of the wall or wall-leaf, including pointing, applied rendering or other facing material.
- 9.2.9 The DPC must be laid on a wet, even bed of mortar (perforations in adjacent courses of brickwork must be closed with mortar) and be laid flush or project beyond the finished face of the external leaf.
- 9.2.10 The DPC must always be sandwiched between wet mortar and not laid dry.
- 9.2.11 Where used as a cavity tray, the DPC laps must be sealed.
- 9.2.11 The product is handled in the same manner as a conventional flexible DPC and is cut with a sharp knife. It will remain sufficiently flexible for installation in low temperatures and will not become tacky in warm conditions.
- 9.2.12 Certain details are difficult to form from the DPC, particularly when bending material through two angles at the same time. In such cases, care must be taken to achieve a satisfactory seal.
- 9.2.13 As with most other DPC materials, damage can occur during the cleaning of mortar droppings from the DPC, unless care is taken. Recommendations to prevent damage are:

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 7 of 11

- the use of cavity battens to prevent excessive amounts of mortar reaching the DPC
- removal of mortar droppings before hardening
- that implements such as steel rods are not used for cleaning
- that DPCs are regularly inspected for damage as work proceeds.

9.3 Workmanship

- 9.3.1 Practicability of installation was assessed by the BBA and on the basis of the Certificate holder's information. To achieve the performance described in this Certificate, installation of the product must be carried out by a competent general builder, or a contractor, experienced with this type of product.
- 9.3.2 The BBA operates an Approved Installer Scheme for gas membranes, details of approved installer companies are included on the BBA website (www.bbacerts.co.uk).
- 9.4 Maintenance and repair
- 9.4.1 As the product is confined within the structure and has satisfactory durability, maintenance is not required.
- 9.4.2 Damaged areas of the DPC must be replaced.
- 9.4.3 If required by the local authority, the adequacy of the repair work must be confirmed by an independent validation report, as all gas membrane installations must be subject to third-party validation in accordance with BS 8485 : 2015.

10 Manufacture

- 10.1 The production processes for the product have been assessed, and provide assurance that the quality controls are satisfactory according to the following factors:
- 10.1.1 The manufacturer has provided documented information on the materials, processes, testing and control factors.
- 10.1.2 The quality control operated over batches of incoming materials has been assessed and deemed appropriate and adequate.
- 10.1.3 The quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken have been assessed and deemed appropriate and adequate.
- 10.1.4 The process for management of non-conformities has been assessed and deemed appropriate and adequate.
- 10.1.5 An audit of each production location was undertaken, and it was confirmed that the production process was in accordance with the documented process, and that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated.
- †10.2 The BBA has undertaken to review the above measures on a regular basis through a surveillance process, to verify that the specifications and quality control operated by the manufacturer are being maintained.

11 Delivery and site handling

- 11.1 The Certificate holder stated that the product is delivered to site in packaging bearing the product name and batch number.
- 11.2 Delivery and site handing must be performed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions and this Certificate, including:
- 11.2.1 Rolls must be stored on end and under cover.
- 11.2.2 Contact with organic solvents must be avoided.
- 11.2.3 If the product is stored at low temperatures, it must be left in a warm place before use to improve handling.

 BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1

 Page 8 of 11

ANNEX A – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION †

Supporting information in this Annex is relevant to the product but has not formed part of the material assessed for the Certificate.

<u>Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015</u> <u>Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016</u>

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, designer (including Principal Designer) and contractor (including Principal Contractor) to address their obligations under these Regulations.

UKCA marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of UKCA marking the product in accordance with Designated Standard EN 14909: 2012.

CE marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of CE marking the product in accordance with harmonised European Standard EN 14909: 2012.

Management Systems Certification for production

The management system of the manufacturer has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001: 2015 by ISOQAR (Certificate 2092 QM-001).

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 9 of 11

Bibliography

BRE Digest 380 Damp-proof courses

BRE Report BR 211: 2023 Guidance on protective measures for new buildings

BS 8000-0: 2014 Workmanship on building sites — Introduction and general principles

BS 8000-3 : 2020 Workmanship on building sites — Masonry — Code of practice

BS 8215: 1991 Code of practice for design and installation of damp-proof courses in masonry construction

BS 8485 : 2015 + A1 : 2019 Code of practice for the design of protective measures for methane and carbon dioxide ground gases for new buildings

BS EN 495-5 : 2013 Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Determination of foldability at low temperature — Plastic and rubber sheets for roof waterproofing

BS EN 1052-4: 2000 Methods of test for masonry — Determination of shear strength including damp proof course

BS EN 1928 : 2000 Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Bitumen, plastic and rubber sheets for roof waterproofing — Determination of watertightness

BS EN 1996-1-1 : 2022 Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures

NA to BS EN 1996-1-1: 2005 + A1: 2012 UK National Annex to Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — General rules for reinforced and unreinforced masonry structures

BS EN 1996-1-2: 2005 Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — General rules — Structural fire design NA to BS EN 1996-1-2: 2005 UK National Annex to Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — General rules — Structural fire design

BS EN 1996-2 : 2006 Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — Design considerations, selection of materials and execution of masonry

NA to BS EN 1996-2 : 2006 UK National Annex to Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — Design considerations, selection of materials and execution of masonry

BS EN 1996-3 : 2023 Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — Simplified calculation methods for unreinforced masonry structures

NA + A1 : 2014 to BS EN 1996-3 : 2006 UK National Annex to Eurocode 6: Design of masonry structures — Simplified calculation methods for unreinforced masonry structures

BS EN 12310-1 : 2000 Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Determination of resistance to tearing (nail shank) — Bitumen sheets for roof waterproofing

BS EN 12311-2 : 2013 Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Determination of tensile properties — Plastic and rubber sheets for roof waterproofing

BS EN 12691 : 2018 Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Bitumen, plastic and rubber sheets for roof waterproofing — Determination of resistance to impact

BS EN 13501-1 : 2018 Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Classification using data from reaction to fire tests

BS EN ISO 9001 : 2015 Quality management systems — Requirements

EN 14909 : 2012 Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Plastic and rubber damp proof courses — Definitions and characteristics

ISO/TS 11665-13 : 2017 Measurement of radioactivity in the environment — determination of the diffusion coefficient in waterproof materials: membrane two-side activity concentration test method

PD 6697: 2019 Recommendations for the design of masonry structures to BS EN 1996-1-1 and BS EN 1996-2

BBA 99/3603 PS3 Issue 1 Page 10 of 11

Conditions of Certificate

Conditions

1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product that is named and described on the front page
- is issued only to the company, firm, organisation or person named on the front page no other company, firm, organisation or person may hold or claim that this Certificate has been issued to them
- is valid only within the UK
- has to be read, considered and used as a whole document it may be misleading and will be incomplete to be selective
- is copyright of the BBA
- is subject to English Law.
- 2 Publications, documents, specifications, legislation, regulations, standards and the like referenced in this Certificate are those that were current and/or deemed relevant by the BBA at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate.
- 3 This Certificate will be displayed on the BBA website, and the Certificate Holder is entitled to use the Certificate and Certificate logo, provided that the product and its manufacture and/or fabrication, including all related and relevant parts and processes thereof:
- are maintained at or above the levels which have been assessed and found to be satisfactory by the BBA
- continue to be checked as and when deemed appropriate by the BBA under arrangements that it will determine
- are reviewed by the BBA as and when it considers appropriate.
- 4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.
- 5 In issuing this Certificate the BBA is not responsible and is excluded from any liability to any company, firm, organisation or person, for any matters arising directly or indirectly from:
- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product
- actual installations of the product, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to UKCA marking and CE marking.

6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal of this product which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product is manufactured, supplied, installed, used, maintained and removed. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate; nor is conformity with such information to be taken as satisfying the requirements of the 1974 Act or of any statutory, common law or other duty of care.

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