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Agrément Certificate
No 06/4341

RSD PRO-BREATHE MEMBRANE**PRODUCT SHEET 1 — FOR USE IN WARM NON-VENTILATED AND COLD VENTILATED ROOFS****PRODUCT SCOPE AND SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATE**

This Certificate relates to RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane for use in warm non-ventilated and cold ventilated pitched roof systems.

THIS CERTIFICATE INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with UK Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.

**KEY FACTORS ASSESSED**

Weathertightness — as part of a complete roof, the product will resist the passage of water and wind-blown snow and dust into the interior of the building (see section 4).

Risk of condensation — the product can be regarded as a low water vapour resistance (Type LR) underlay and can be used as part of a non-ventilated warm and ventilated cold, roof system (see section 5).

Wind loading — when installed on appropriately spaced battens the product's physical properties are deemed adequate to resist the wind loads imposed on the underlay. The product will reduce the wind uplift forces acting on the roof covering (see section 6).

Strength — the product has adequate strength to resist the loads associated with the installation of the roof (see section 7).

Durability — under the normal conditions found in a roof space the product will have a service life comparable to a traditional roof tile underlay (see section 9).

The BBA has awarded this Agrément Certificate for RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane to Roofing Supplies Direct Ltd as fit for its intended use provided it is installed, used and maintained as set out in this Agrément Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

Date of First issue: 7 July 2006

Date of Second issue: 19 November 2007

Greg Cooper: Chief Executive

The BBA is a UKAS accredited certification body — Number 113. The schedule of the current scope of accreditation for product certification is available in pdf format via the UKAS link on the BBA website at www.bbacerts.co.uk

Readers are advised to check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA direct.

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Regulations

In the opinion of the BBA, RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane, if used in accordance with the provisions of this Certificate, will meet or contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations:



The Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) (England and Wales)

Requirement:	C2(b)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The product will contribute to a roof meeting this Requirement. See sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	Regulation 7	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is an acceptable material. See section 9 of this Certificate.



The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8	Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship
Regulation:	8(1)	Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product can contribute to a construction satisfying this Regulation. See section 9 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	9	Building standards — construction
Standard:	3.10	Precipitation
Comment:		The product will contribute to a roof satisfying clauses 3.10.1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and 3.10.7 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ of this Standard. See sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	12	Building standards — conversions
Comment:		All comments given for this product under Regulation 9, 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) 2000 (as amended)

Regulation:	B2	Fitness of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is an acceptable material. See section 9 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	C4	Resistance to ground moisture and weather
Comment:		The product will contribute to a roof satisfying this Regulation. See sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Certificate.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, CDM co-ordinator, designer and contractors to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See section: 1 *Description* (1.2).

Non-regulatory Information

NHBC Standards 2007

NHBC accepts the use of RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane, when installed and used in accordance with this Certificate, in relation to NHBC Standards, Chapter 7.2 *Pitched roofs*.

Zurich Building Guarantee Technical Manual 2007

In the opinion of the BBA, RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane, when installed and used in accordance with this Certificate, satisfies the requirements of the *Zurich Building Guarantee Technical Manual*, Section 4 *Superstructure*, Sub-section *Pitched roofs*.

General

This Certificate relates to RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane for use as a vapour permeable roof tile underlay in warm non-ventilated and cold ventilated pitched roof systems.

The product will also prevent the ingress of wind-blown rain or snow.

Technical Specification

1 Description

1.1 RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane is a composite structure, manufactured via lamination of a water vapour permeable film between two layers of nonwoven polypropylene, spunbond to form a flexible, vapour permeable, roof tile underlay for unsupported and fully supported specifications.

1.2 The product has the nominal characteristics given in Table 1.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics

Characteristic (units)	RSD Pro-Breathe
Thickness (mm)	0.5
Weight per unit area (gm ⁻²)	125
Roll length (m)	50, 100
Roll width (m)	up to 3

1.3 Quality control checks are carried out on the incoming materials, during production and on the finished product. Quality control checks on the finished product include:

- weight
- hydrostatic head
- tear strength
- tensile strength and elongation.

2 Delivery and site handling

2.1 Rolls are delivered to site individually wrapped in polythene. A technical leaflet bearing the product name is included with each roll and the BBA identification mark including the number of this Certificate is shown on the leaflet.

2.2 The rolls should be stored flat or on end, on a smooth, clean, dry surface, under cover and protected from sunlight.

Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane.

Design Considerations

3 Use

RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane is satisfactory for use as fully supported or unsupported underlay in tiled and slated pitched roofs constructed in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2003.

4 Weathertightness



4.1 Tests indicate that the product will resist the passage of water, wind-blown snow and dust into the interior of a building, under all conditions to be found in a roof constructed in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2003.

4.2 The product resists penetration of liquid water and consequently may be used as temporary waterproofing prior to the installation of slates or tiles. The period of such use should, however, be kept to a minimum. Advice should be sought from the Certificate holder (see section 14, Table for *Physical properties — general*).

5 Risk of condensation

5.1 For design purposes, the product's water vapour resistance may be taken as not more than 0.25 MNsg⁻¹ and for roofs designed in accordance with BS 5534 : 2003 or BS 5250 : 2002, Section 8.4, it may be regarded as a Type LR membrane.

5.2 In common with all roofs, care must be taken in the overall design and installation to minimise the risk of water vapour coming into contact with cold parts of the construction. Factors to be considered and minimised include, moisture diffusion through the ceiling, infiltration through unsealed openings/penetrations in the ceiling and services evaporating or venting moisture into cold spaces.

5.3 The risk of condensation is highest in new-build construction during the first heating period, where there is high moisture loading due to wet trades, such as in-situ cast concrete slabs or plaster. The risk of condensation diminishes as the building naturally dries out. See *BBA Information Bulletin No 1 — Roof Tile Underlays in Cold Roofs during the Drying-out Period*.

Ceiling and insulation horizontal (cold roof)

5.4 Roofs designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2002 will adequately limit the risk of interstitial condensation.

Ceiling and insulation inclined (warm roof)

5.5 For roofs with an insulated inclined ceiling, ventilation above or below the underlay will not be required provided that the passage of moisture by diffusion and by convection is controlled, eg, by a vapour control layer or a continuous envelope of insulation with a high vapour resistance.

Ceiling and insulation partially inclined (warm roof and cold roof)

5.6 Where an insulated ceiling only spans part of the roofline, resulting cold roof spaces should be ventilated in accordance with BS 5250 : 2002, Section 8.4.2.5 and 8.4.2.6.

6 Wind loading

6.1 Project design wind speeds should be determined and wind uplift forces calculated, in accordance with BS 6399-2 : 1997.

6.2 The product, when fully supported, have adequate resistance to wind uplift forces.

6.3 When unsupported, wind loading on the underlay should be calculated in accordance with BS 5534 : 2003, Section 5.5.2.7. For acceptable wind loads with specific batten spacings for the draped product, using a 25 mm deep tiling batten, see section 14, Table for *Physical properties — general*.

7 Strength

The product will resist the loads associated with installation of the roof (see section 14, Table for *Physical properties — directional*).

8 Properties in relation to fire

8.1 The product will have similar properties in relation to fire to those of traditional polyethylene roof tile underlays.

8.2 When the product is used unsupported, there is a risk that fire can spread if the materials are accidentally ignited during maintenance works, eg by a roofer's or plumber's torch. As with all types of underlay, care should be taken during building and maintenance to avoid the material becoming ignited.

8.3 When the product is used in a fully supported situation, the reaction to fire will be determined by the support.

8.4 When tested in accordance with BS EN 13501-1 : 2002, the product achieved a Class E classification.

9 Durability



The product will be virtually unaffected by the normal conditions found in a roof space and will have a life comparable with that of traditional roof tile underlays, provided they are not exposed to sunlight for long periods (see section 10.5). Advice regarding exposure can be obtained from the Certificate holder.

Installation

10 General

10.1 RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane must be installed and fixed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions, provisions of this Certificate and the relevant recommendations of BS 5534 : 2003 and BS 8000-6 : 1990. Installation can be carried out under all conditions normal to roofing work.

10.2 The product has a high coefficient of friction, either wet or dry, giving a slip-resistant surface for increased safety during the installation of the tiles or slates.

10.3 The product is installed with the coloured or printed side uppermost and lapped to shed water out and down the slope.

10.4 Overlaps must be provided with the minimum dimensions given in Table 2.

Roof pitch (°)	Horizontal lap (mm)		Vertical laps (mm)
	Not fully supported	Fully supported	
12.5 to 14	225	150	100
15 to 34	150	100	100
35+	100	75	100

10.5 In closed eaves constructions, eaves guards should be used to protect the product from sunlight and direct water into the gutter.

10.6 Hips should be covered with a 600 mm wide strip of the product.

11 Procedure

Fully supported

11.1 The product may be used over sarking boards of softwood, C4 grade chipboard or water-resistant grade plywood or water-resistant grade OSB and either with continuous insulation or insulation placed between the rafters.

11.2 The product is secured to the support with counter battens at least 12 mm thick to create an air space between the product and the tiles for drainage and vapour dispersal. The counter battens are fixed with corrosion-resistant staples or galvanized clout nails as appropriate. Tiling battens are secured to the counter battens and support fixings.

11.3 Care must be taken to minimise the risk of interstitial condensation as described in section 5.5 particularly for timber sarking which may be below the dew-point for extended periods during winter months.

Unsupported

11.4 The product, when installed as an unsupported system, is fixed in the traditional method for roof tile underlays, ie draped between the rafters.

12 Repair

Damage to the product can be repaired easily prior to the installation of slates or tiles by replacement of the damaged areas, by patching and sealing correctly. Care should be taken to ensure that the watertightness of the roof is maintained.

13 Finishing

13.1 Detailing of abutments, verges and hips must be in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions.

13.2 The tiling and slating must be carried out in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2003, BS 8000-6 : 1990 and the Certificate holder's instructions, especially when using tightly-jointed slates or tiles.

Technical Investigations

14 Tests

Samples of RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane were obtained from the Certificate holder for testing. The results of the tests carried out by, or on behalf of, the BBA are summarised in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3 Physical properties — directional

Test (units)	Mean result	Method ⁽¹⁾
Tensile strength (Nmm ⁻²)		BS EN ISO 527-1 and 527-3 (speed 100 mm min ⁻¹)
unaged		
long ⁽²⁾	7.9	
trans ⁽³⁾	4.8	
aged ⁽⁴⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	7.3	
trans ⁽³⁾	5.2	
water soak ⁽⁵⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	8.9	
trans ⁽³⁾	5.9	
wet strength ⁽⁶⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	8.4	
trans ⁽³⁾	6.4	
200 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	5.5	
trans ⁽³⁾	4.0	
500 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	2.9	
trans ⁽³⁾	2.2	
Elongation at break (%)		BS EN ISO 527-1 and 527-3 (speed 100 mm min ⁻¹)
unaged		
long ⁽²⁾	38	
trans ⁽³⁾	43	
aged ⁽⁴⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	29	
trans ⁽³⁾	39	
water soak ⁽⁵⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	40	
trans ⁽³⁾	51	
wet strength ⁽⁶⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	36	
trans ⁽³⁾	51	
200 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	21	
trans ⁽³⁾	33	
500 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	18	
trans ⁽³⁾	23	
Tear resistance (nail) (N)		MOAT 27 : 5.4.1
unaged		
long ⁽²⁾	106	
trans ⁽³⁾	94	
aged ⁽⁴⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	97	
trans ⁽³⁾	87	
water soak ⁽⁵⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	101	
trans ⁽³⁾	99	

(1) The test documents are detailed in the *Bibliography*. Numbers in the table refer to sections/parts of the various documents.

(2) Longitudinal direction.

(3) Transverse direction.

(4) Heat aged at 70°C for 56 days.

(5) Water soak at 23°C for 56 days, tested dry.

(6) Water soak at 23°C for 24 hours.

(7) UV aged to ASTM G 53 with UVB 313 lamps. Cycling 4 hours UV at 50°C followed by 4 hours condensation at 50°C for 200 and 500 light hours.

Table 4 Physical properties — general

Test (units)	Mean result	Method ⁽¹⁾
Mullen burst strength	459	BS 3137
Water vapour transmission ($\text{gm}^{-2}\text{day}^{-1}$) (25°C/75% RH)	1388	BS 3177
Vapour resistance (MNsg^{-1})	0.15	BS 3177
Low temperature flexibility (°C)	<−60	EN 1109
Slip resistance (coefficient of friction)		T1/10 ⁽²⁾
dry	0.97	
wet	0.65	
Resistance to water penetration (eosin test)	pass	BS 4016
Resistance to water penetration unaged	pass	BS EN 1928
aged ⁽³⁾	Class W1 Class W1	
Spray test	pass	T1/15 ⁽²⁾
Resistance to wind loads (kPa) ⁽⁴⁾		T1/03 ⁽²⁾
batten spacing 350 mm	0.5	
batten spacing 300 mm	1.0	
batten spacing 250 mm	2.5	
batten spacing 200 mm	2.5	

(1) The test documents are detailed in the *Bibliography*. Numbers in the table refer to sections/parts of the various documents.

(2) BBA test methods.

(3) UVA aged for 336 hours at 50°C/heat aged for 90 days at (70±2)°C.

(4) Test carried out using 25 mm thick battens and a 600 mm rafter spacing.

15 Investigations

15.1 The condensation risk in warm roof constructions, and specifically those containing sarking boards, incorporating the product was examined.

15.2 Test data on dimensional stability and hydrostatic head were examined.

15.3 The manufacturing process was assessed, including the method adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

Bibliography

BS 3137 : 1972 *Methods for determining the bursting strength of paper and board*

BS 3177 : 1959 *Method for determining the permeability to water vapour of flexible sheet materials used for packaging*

BS 4016 : 1972 *Specification for building papers (breather type)*

BS 5250 : 2002 *Code of practice for control of condensation in buildings*

BS 5534 : 2003 *Code of practice for slating and tiling (including shingles)*

BS 6399-2 : 1997 *Loading for buildings — Code of practice for wind loads*

BS 8000-6 : 1990 *Workmanship on building sites — Code of practice for slating and tiling of roofs and claddings*

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

BS EN 13501-1 : 2002 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements. Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests*

BS EN ISO 527-1 : 1996 *Methods of testing plastics — Mechanical properties — Determination of tensile properties — General principles*

BS EN ISO 527-3 : 1996 *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Test conditions for films and sheets*

EN 1109 : 1999 *Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Bitumen sheets for roof waterproofing — Determination of flexibility at low temperature*

ASTM G 53 : 1996 *Standard practice for operating light- and water-exposure apparatus (fluorescent UV-condensation type) for exposure of nonmetallic compounds*

MOAT No 27 : 1983 *General Directive for the Assessment of Roof Waterproofing Systems*

16 Conditions

16.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system that is named and described on the front page
- is granted only to the company, firm or person named on the front page — no other company, firm or person may hold or claim any entitlement to this Certificate
- 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.

16.2 References in this Certificate to any Act of Parliament, Statutory Instrument, Directive or Regulation of the European Union, British, European or International Standard, Code of Practice, manufacturers' instructions or similar publication, are references to such publication in the form in which it was current at the date of this Certificate.

16.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system and the manufacture and/or fabrication including all related and relevant 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.

16.4 In granting this Certificate, the BBA is not responsible for:

- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- individual installations of the product/system, including the nature, design, methods and workmanship of or related to the installation
- the actual works in which the product/system is installed, used and maintained, including the nature, design, methods and workmanship of such works.

16.5 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use and maintenance of this product/system which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product/system is manufactured, supplied, installed, used and maintained. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date 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. In granting this Certificate, the BBA does not accept responsibility to any person or body for any loss or damage, including personal injury, arising as a direct or indirect result of the manufacture, supply, installation, use and maintenance of this product/system.

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Agrément Certificate

No 06/4341**RSD PRO-BREATHE MEMBRANE****PRODUCT SHEET 2 — FOR USE IN COLD NON-VENTILATED ROOFS****PRODUCT SCOPE AND SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATE**

This Certificate relates to RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane for use in cold non-ventilated pitched roof systems.

THIS CERTIFICATE INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with UK Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.

**KEY FACTORS ASSESSED**

Weathertightness — as part of a complete roof, the product will resist the passage of water and wind-blown snow and dust into the interior of the building (see section 4).

Risk of condensation — the product can be regarded as a low water vapour resistance (Type LR) underlay and can be used as part of a cold roof system without specific provisions for ventilation (see section 5).

Wind loading — when installed on appropriately spaced battens the product's physical properties are deemed adequate to resist the wind loads imposed on the underlay. The products will reduce the wind uplift forces acting on the roof covering (see section 6).

Strength — the product has adequate strength to resist the loads associated with the installation of the roof (see section 7).

Durability — under the normal conditions found in a roof space the product will have a service life comparable to a traditional roof tile underlay (see section 9).

The BBA has awarded this Agrément Certificate for RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane to Roofing Supplies Direct Ltd as fit for its intended use provided it is installed, used and maintained as set out in this Agrément Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

Greg Cooper: Chief Executive

Date of First issue: 19 November 2007

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Readers are advised to check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA direct.

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Regulations

In the opinion of the BBA, RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane, if used in accordance with the provisions of this Certificate, will meet or contribute to meeting the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations:



The Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) (England and Wales)

Requirement:	C2(b)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The product will contribute to a roof meeting this Requirement. See sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	C2(c)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The product will enable a roof to meet this Requirement with respect to interstitial condensation. See sections 5.1 to 5.6 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	Regulation 7	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is an acceptable material. See section 9 of this Certificate.



The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8	Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship
Regulation:	8(1)	Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product can contribute to a construction satisfying this Regulation. See section 9 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	9	Building standards – construction
Standard:	3.10	Precipitation
Comment:		The product will contribute to a roof satisfying clauses 3.10.1 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and 3.10.7 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ of this Standard. See sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Certificate.
Standard:	3.15	Condensation
Comment:		The product can enable a roof to satisfy this Standard with respect to interstitial condensation. See sections 5.1 to 5.6 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	12	Building standards – conversions
Comment:		All comments given for this product under Regulation 9, 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) 2000 (as amended)

Regulation:	B2	Fitness of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is an acceptable material. See section 9 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	C4	Resistance to ground moisture and weather
Comment:		The product will contribute to a roof satisfying this Regulation. See sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	C5	Condensation
Comment:		The product can enable a roof to satisfy this Regulation. See sections 5.1 to 5.6 of this Certificate.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, CDM co-ordinator, designer and contractors to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See section: 1 *Description* (1.2).

Non-regulatory Information

NHBC Standards 2007

NHBC accepts the use of RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane, when installed and used in accordance with this Certificate, in relation to NHBC Standards, Chapter 7.2 *Pitched roofs*.

Zurich Building Guarantee Technical Manual 2007

In the opinion of the BBA, RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane, when installed and used in accordance with this Certificate, satisfies the requirements of the *Zurich Building Guarantee Technical Manual*, Section 4 *Superstructure*, Sub-section *Pitched roofs*.

General

This Certificate relates to RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane for use as a vapour permeable roof tile underlay in cold non-ventilated pitched roof systems.

The product will also prevent the ingress of wind-blown rain or snow.

It is important that the designers, planners, contractors and/or installers ensure that the roof and ceiling are constructed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions and the information given in this Certificate.

Technical Specification

1 Description

1.1 RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane is a composite structure manufactured via lamination of a water vapour permeable film between two layers of nonwoven polypropylene, spunbond to form a flexible, vapour permeable, roof tile underlay for unsupported and fully supported specifications.

1.2 The product has the nominal characteristics given in Table 1.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics

Characteristic (units)	RSD Pro-Breathe
Thickness (mm)	0.5
Weight per unit area (gm ⁻²)	125
Roll length (m)	50, 100
Roll width (m)	up to 3

1.3 Quality control checks are carried out on the incoming materials, during production and on the finished product. Quality control checks on the finished product include:

- weight
- hydrostatic head
- tear strength
- tensile strength and elongation.

2 Delivery and site handling

2.1 Rolls are delivered to site individually wrapped in polythene. A technical leaflet bearing the product name is included with each roll and the BBA identification mark including the number of this Certificate is shown on the leaflet.

2.2 The rolls should be stored flat or on end, on a smooth, clean, dry surface, under cover and protected from sunlight.

Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane.

Design Considerations

3 Use

3.1 RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane is satisfactory for use in dwellings with non-ventilated tiled or slated roofs of any conventional plan and of any size. Features⁽¹⁾ successfully assessed include:

- duo pitched
- mono-pitched
- hipped
- mansard
- gable ends
- verges
- abutments
- valleys.
- room in roof
- dormers
- timber sarking⁽²⁾

(1) For roofs incorporating other features, non-conventional roof geometries or construction materials, the advice of the Certificate holder should be sought.

(2) As in Scottish practice, where slates are nailed through the breather membrane directly onto timber planks (nominally 150 mm wide with a 2 mm gap) without battens.

3.2 The product can be installed by draping over rafters and securing with tiling battens, or installed taut over rafters and secured with counter battens and tiling battens.

3.3 In conventionally-ventilated roof constructions, energy loss by ventilation can account for up to 25% of the total heat lost through the roof. The non-ventilated system will subsequently reduce this mechanism of heat loss.

3.4 In non-ventilated roof systems, the risk of condensation is equivalent to, or less than, that for conventionally-ventilated cold roof systems (see section 5).

4 Weathertightness



4.1 Tests indicate that the product will resist the passage of water, wind-blown snow and dust into the interior of a building, under all conditions to be found in a roof constructed in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2003.

4.2 The product resists penetration of liquid water and consequently may be used as temporary waterproofing prior to the installation of slates or tiles. The period of such use should, however, be kept to a minimum. Advice should be sought from the Certificate holder (see section 14, Table for *Physical properties — general*).

5 Risk of condensation



5.1 For design purposes, the product's water vapour resistance may be taken as not more than 0.25 MNsg^{-1} , and for roofs designed in accordance with BS 5534: 2003 or BS 5250: 2002, Section 8.4, it may be regarded as a Type LR membrane.

5.2 The complete roof construction, ceiling boards to roof tiles, must be considered as a total system with regard to condensation risk. It is important that the products are laid in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions and this Certificate to minimise the risk of condensation.

5.3 The risk of condensation is highest in new-build construction during the first heating period, where there is high moisture loading due to wet trades, such as in-situ cast concrete slabs or plaster. The risk of condensation diminishes as the building naturally dries out. See *BBA Information Bulletin No 1 — Roof Tile Underlays in Cold Roofs during the Drying-out Period*.

5.4 All penetrations into and out of the roof space must be properly sealed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions which includes the use of the Certificate holder's recommended sealing tape. In addition, such features as vent stacks and boiler flues, passing through the roof space must be sealed.

5.5 It is essential to minimise water vapour transfer into the loft space from the dwelling below. Appropriate measures include:

- ventilating the dwelling below in accordance with national Building Regulations and Standards for the dispersal and rapid dilution of water vapour, particularly from rooms that may experience high humidity (such as kitchens, utility rooms and bathrooms)
- covering all water tanks in the loft space and lagging pipework
- sealing penetrations in the ceiling and making loft hatches convection-tight by using a compressible draught seal
- ensuring that there is continuity of jointing with walls (and behind wall linings) at ceiling perimeters
- ensuring that masonry wall cavities do not interconnect with roof cavities.

5.6 For additional protection, the use of a vapour control layer/vapour check plasterboard can be considered.

6 Wind loading

6.1 Project design wind speeds should be determined and wind uplift forces calculated, in accordance with BS 6399-2 : 1997.

6.2 When unsupported, wind loading on the underlay should be calculated in accordance with BS 5534 : 2003, Section 5.5.2.7. For acceptable wind loads with specific batten spacings for the draped product, using a 25 mm deep tiling batten, see section 14, Table for *Physical properties — general*.

7 Strength

The product will resist the loads associated with installation of the roof (see section 14, Table for *Physical properties — directional*).

8 Properties in relation to fire

8.1 The product will have similar properties in relation to fire to those of traditional polyethylene roof tile underlays.

8.2 When the product is used unsupported, there is a risk that fire can spread if the materials are accidentally ignited during maintenance works, eg by a roofer's or plumber's torch. As with all types of underlay, care should be taken during building and maintenance to avoid the material becoming ignited.

8.3 When the product is used in a fully supported situation, the reaction to fire will be determined by the support.

8.4 When tested in accordance with BS EN 13501-1 : 2002, the product achieved a Class E classification.

9 Durability



The product will be virtually unaffected by the normal conditions found in a roof space and will have a life comparable with that of traditional roof tile underlays, provided they are not exposed to sunlight for long periods (see section 10.4). Advice regarding exposure can be obtained from the Certificate holder.

10 General

10.1 RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane must be installed and fixed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions, provisions of this Certificate and the relevant recommendations of BS 5534 : 2003 and BS 8000-6 : 1990. Installation can be carried out under all conditions normal to roofing work.

10.2 The product is installed with the coloured or printed side uppermost and lapped to shed water out and down the slope.

10.3 Overlaps must be provided with the minimum dimensions given in Table 2.

Roof pitch (°)	Horizontal lap (mm)		Vertical laps (mm)
	Not fully supported	Fully supported	
12.5 to 14	225	150	100
15 to 34	150	100	100
35+	100	75	100

10.4 In closed eaves constructions, eaves guards should be used to protect the product from sunlight and to direct water into the gutter.

10.5 Hips should be covered with a 600 mm wide strip of the product.

11 Procedure

Fully supported (cold roofs)

11.1 The product may be laid over timber plank sarking as described in section 3.1, footnote 2.

Fully supported (warm room-in-roof)

11.2 The product may be used over sarking boards of softwood, C4 grade chipboard or water-resistant grade plywood, and either continuous insulation or insulation placed between the rafters.

11.3 The product is secured to the support with counter battens at least 12 mm thick to create an air space between the product and the tiles for drainage and vapour dispersal. The counter battens are fixed with corrosion-resistant staples or galvanized clout nails as appropriate. Tiling battens are secured to the counter battens and support with appropriate fixings.

11.4 Care must be taken to minimise the risk of interstitial condensation as described in section 5.5, particularly for timber sarking which may be below the dew-point for extended periods during winter months.

Unsupported

11.5 The membrane, when installed as an unsupported system, is fixed in the traditional method for roof tile underlays, ie draped between the rafters.

12 Repair

Damage to the product can be repaired easily prior to the installation of slates or tiles by replacement of the damaged areas, by patching and sealing correctly. Care should be taken to ensure that the watertightness of the roof is maintained.

13 Finishing

13.1 Detailing of abutments, verges and hips must be in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions.

13.2 To achieve a convection-tight loft space, it is important that the following details are maintained (see also section 5.5).

- all penetrations, eg pipework, electrical fittings to the loft space, must be sealed
- the loft hatch must be securely sealed to ensure a draught-free fit
- the insulation must be pushed into the eaves and against the underlay to avoid gaps.

13.3 The tiling and slating must be carried out in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2003, BS 8000-6 : 1990 and the Certificate holder's instructions, especially when using tightly-jointed slates or tiles.

Technical Investigations

14 Tests

Samples of RSD Pro-Breathe Membrane were obtained from the Certificate holder for testing. The results of the tests carried out by, or on behalf of, the BBA are summarised in Tables 3 and 4.

15 Investigations

15.1 Using computer modelling, cold non-ventilated roofs were analysed for risk of condensation.

15.2 Test data on dimensional stability and hydrostatic head were examined.

15.3 The manufacturing process was assessed, including the method adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

Table 3 Physical properties — directional

Test (units)	Mean result	Method ⁽¹⁾
Tensile strength (Nmm ⁻²)		BS EN ISO 527-1 and 527-3 (speed 100 mm min ⁻¹)
unaged		
long ⁽²⁾	7.9	
trans ⁽³⁾	4.8	
aged ⁽⁴⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	7.3	
trans ⁽³⁾	5.2	
water soak ⁽⁵⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	8.9	
trans ⁽³⁾	5.9	
wet strength ⁽⁶⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	8.4	
trans ⁽³⁾	6.4	
200 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	5.5	
trans ⁽³⁾	4.0	
500 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	2.9	
trans ⁽³⁾	2.2	
Elongation at break (%)		BS EN ISO 527-1 and 527-3 (speed 100 mm min ⁻¹)
unaged		
long ⁽²⁾	38	
trans ⁽³⁾	43	
aged ⁽⁴⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	29	
trans ⁽³⁾	39	
water soak ⁽⁵⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	40	
trans ⁽³⁾	51	
wet strength ⁽⁶⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	36	
trans ⁽³⁾	51	
200 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	21	
trans ⁽³⁾	33	
500 hours UV aged ⁽⁷⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	18	
trans ⁽³⁾	23	
Tear resistance (nail) (N)		MOAT 27 : 5.4.1
unaged		
long ⁽²⁾	106	
trans ⁽³⁾	94	
aged ⁽⁴⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	97	
trans ⁽³⁾	87	
water soak ⁽⁵⁾		
long ⁽²⁾	101	
trans ⁽³⁾	99	

(1) The test documents are detailed in the *Bibliography*. Numbers in the table refer to sections/parts of the various documents.

(2) Longitudinal direction.

(3) Transverse direction.

(4) Heat aged at 70°C for 56 days.

(5) Water soak at 23°C for 56 days, tested dry.

(6) Water soak at 23°C for 24 hours.

(7) UV aged to ASTM G 53 with UVB 313 lamps. Cycling 4 hours UV at 50°C followed by 4 hours condensation at 50°C for 200 and 500 light hours.

Table 4 Physical properties — general

Test (units)	Mean result	Method ⁽¹⁾
Mullen burst strength	459	BS 3137
Water vapour transmission ($\text{gm}^{-2}\text{day}^{-1}$) (25°C/75% RH)	1388	BS 3177
Vapour resistance (MNsg^{-1})	0.15	BS 3177
Low temperature flexibility (°C)	<−60	EN 1109
Slip resistance (coefficient of friction)		T1/10 ⁽²⁾
dry	0.97	
wet	0.65	
Resistance to water penetration (eosin test)	pass	BS 4016
Resistance to water penetration unaged	pass	BS EN 1928
aged ⁽³⁾	Class W1 Class W1	
Spray test	pass	T1/15 ⁽²⁾
Resistance to wind loads (kPa) ⁽⁴⁾		T1/03 ⁽²⁾
batten spacing 350 mm	0.5	
batten spacing 300 mm	1.0	
batten spacing 250 mm	2.5	
batten spacing 200 mm	2.5	

(1) The test documents are detailed in the *Bibliography*. Numbers in the table refer to sections/parts of the various documents.

(2) BBA test methods.

(3) UVA aged for 336 hours at 50°C/heat aged for 90 days at (70±2)°C.

(4) Test carried out using 25 mm thick battens and a 600 mm rafter spacing.

Bibliography

BS 3137 : 1972 *Methods for determining the bursting strength of paper and board*

BS 3177 : 1959 *Method for determining the permeability to water vapour of flexible sheet materials used for packaging*

BS 4016 : 1972 *Specification for building papers (breather type)*

BS 5250 : 2002 *Code of practice for control of condensation in buildings*

BS 5534 : 2003 *Code of practice for slating and tiling (including shingles)*

BS 6399-2 : 1997 *Loading for buildings — Code of practice for wind loads*

BS 8000-6 : 1990 *Workmanship on building sites — Code of practice for slating and tiling of roofs and claddings*

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

BS EN 13501-1 : 2002 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements. Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests*

BS EN ISO 527-1 : 1996 *Methods of testing plastics — Mechanical properties — Determination of tensile properties — General principles*

BS EN ISO 527-3 : 1996 *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Test conditions for films and sheets*

EN 1109 : 1999 *Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Bitumen sheets for roof waterproofing — Determination of flexibility at low temperature*

ASTM G 53 : 1996 *Standard practice for operating light- and water-exposure apparatus (fluorescent UV-condensation type) for exposure of nonmetallic compounds*

MOAT No 27 : 1983 *General Directive for the Assessment of Roof Waterproofing Systems*

16 Conditions

16.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system that is named and described on the front page
- is granted only to the company, firm or person named on the front page — no other company, firm or person may hold or claim any entitlement to this Certificate
- 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.

16.2 References in this Certificate to any Act of Parliament, Statutory Instrument, Directive or Regulation of the European Union, British, European or International Standard, Code of Practice, manufacturers' instructions or similar publication, are references to such publication in the form in which it was current at the date of this Certificate.

16.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system and the manufacture and/or fabrication including all related and relevant 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.

16.4 In granting this Certificate, the BBA is not responsible for:

- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- individual installations of the product/system, including the nature, design, methods and workmanship of or related to the installation
- the actual works in which the product/system is installed, used and maintained, including the nature, design, methods and workmanship of such works.

16.5 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use and maintenance of this product/system which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product/system is manufactured, supplied, installed, used and maintained. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date 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. In granting this Certificate, the BBA does not accept responsibility to any person or body for any loss or damage, including personal injury, arising as a direct or indirect result of the manufacture, supply, installation, use and maintenance of this product/system.