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Agrément Certificate  
**15/5217**  
Product Sheet 1

### PRINCIPAL BREATHABLE ROOFING MEMBRANES

### STROTEX ROOFING BREATHER MEMBRANES FOR USE IN WARM NON-VENTILATED AND COLD VENTILATED ROOFS

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet<sup>(1)</sup> relates to Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes, three-layer polyolefin composite sheet materials for use as roof tile underlays in warm non-ventilated and cold ventilated roofs.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

#### CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with 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** — when used as part of a complete roof, the products will resist the passage of water and wind-blown snow and dust into the interior of the building (see section 6).

**Risk of condensation** — the products are low water vapour resistance (Type LR) underlays and can be used as part of a warm non-ventilated and cold ventilated pitched roof system (see section 7).

**Wind loading** — when installed on appropriately-spaced battens, the products' 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 8).

**Strength** — the products have adequate strength to resist the loads associated with the installation of the roof (see section 9).

**Durability** — under the normal conditions found in a roof space, the products will have a service life comparable to that of traditional roof tile underlays (see section 12).

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the products described herein. These products have been assessed by the BBA as being fit for their intended use provided they are installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

John Albon — Head of Approvals  
Construction Products

Claire Curtis-Thomas  
Chief Executive

Date of First issue: 13 May 2015

*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](http://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, Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes for use in Warm Non-ventilated and Cold Ventilated Roofs, 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 presence of a UK map indicates that the subject is related to the Building Regulations in the region or regions of the UK depicted):



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

Requirement:	C2(b)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The products will contribute to a roof meeting this Requirement. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	7	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The products are acceptable. See section 12 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.



## The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8(1)	Durability, workmanship and fitness of materials
Comment:		The products can contribute to a construction satisfying this Regulation. See section 12 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	9	Building standards applicable to construction
Standard:	3.10	Precipitation
Comment:		The products will contribute to a roof satisfying clauses 3.10.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and 3.10.8 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> of this Standard. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.
Standard:	7.1(a)	Statement of sustainability
Comment:		The product can contribute to meeting 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.
Regulation:	12	Building standards applicable to conversions
Comment:		All comments given for these products under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6 also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause 0.12.1 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> and Schedule 6 <sup>(1)(2)</sup> . (1) Technical Handbook (Domestic). (2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



## The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

Regulation:	23(a)(i)(iii)(b)(i)	Fitness of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The products are acceptable. See section 12 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	28(b)	Resistance to moisture and weather
Comment:		The products will contribute to a roof satisfying this Regulation. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.

## Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

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

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

See section: 1 *Description* of this Certificate.

# Additional Information

## NHBC Standards 2014

NHBC accepts the use of Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes for use in Warm Non-ventilated and Cold Ventilated Roofs provided they are installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapter 7.2 *Pitched roofs*.

## CE marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of CE marking the products in accordance with harmonised European Standard BS EN 13859-1 : 2014. An asterisk (\*) appearing in this Certificate indicates that data shown are given in the manufacturer's Declaration of Performance.

# Technical Specification

## 1 Description

Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes for use in Warm Non-ventilated and Cold Ventilated Roofs are three-layer polyolefin composites, available in three types with the nominal characteristics given in Table 1. The Certificate holder can provide a suitable tape for taping the overlaps.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics

Characteristic (unit)	Strotex membrane type		
	Ultra	Extra	Super
Thickness (mm)	0.35	0.42	0.50
Mass per unit area* (g·m <sup>-2</sup> )	95	115	125
Roll length* (m)	50	50	50
Roll width* (m) <sup>(1)</sup>	1.0, 1.5	1.0, 1.5	1.0, 1.5
Colour			
upper	white	sand	grey
lower	white	white	white
Tensile strength* (N per 50 mm)			
longitudinal	155	205	220
transverse	100	125	160
Elongation* (%)			
longitudinal	50	45	50
transverse	60	100	90
Tear resistance* (N)			
longitudinal	110	115	145
transverse	110	115	145
Watertightness*			
unaged	W1	W1	W1
aged <sup>(1)</sup>	W1	W1	W1
Water vapour transmission* (S <sub>d</sub> )(m)	0.05	0.05	0.05

(1) Aged in accordance with BS EN 13859-1 : 2014, Annex C.

## 2 Manufacture

2.1 The membranes are manufactured by lamination of a water vapour permeable film between two layers of non-woven polypropylene spunbond to form a flexible, vapour-permeable roof tile underlay.

2.2 As part of the assessment and ongoing surveillance of product quality, the BBA has:

- agreed with the manufacturer the quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken
- assessed and agreed the quality control operated over batches of incoming materials
- monitored the production process and verified that it is in accordance with the documented process
- evaluated the process for management of nonconformities
- checked that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated
- undertaken to carry out 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.

## 3 Delivery and site handling

3.1 Rolls are delivered in packages carrying a label bearing the Certificate holder's name, the grade identification and the BBA logo incorporating the number of this Certificate.

3.2 Rolls should be stored flat on their sides on a smooth, clean, dry surface and under cover protected from sunlight.

## Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes for use in Warm Non-ventilated and Cold Ventilated Roofs.

## Design Considerations

## 4 Use

Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes for use in Warm Non-ventilated and Cold Ventilated Roofs are satisfactory for use as a fully-supported or unsupported underlay in tiled and slated pitched roofs constructed in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2014.

## 5 Practicability of installation

The products are designed to be installed by competent roofers/tilers experienced with this type of product.

## 6 Weathertightness



6.1 The products are classified as W1\* in accordance with BS EN 13859-1 : 2014 and 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 : 2014.

6.2 The products resist 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. Further information is given in BBA Information Bulletin No 2 *Permeable Roof Tile Underlay – Guide to Good Site Practice*.

## 7 Risk of condensation

7.1 For design purposes, the products' water vapour resistance may be taken as not more than  $0.25 \text{ MN}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ , and for roofs designed in accordance with BS 5534 : 2014 or BS 5250 : 2011, Annex H, they may be regarded as Type LR membranes.

7.2 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.

7.3 The risk of condensation is highest in new-build construction during the first heating period, where there is high moisture loading owing to wet trades such as in-situ concrete slabs or plaster. The risk of condensation diminishes as the building naturally dries out. Further information is given in BBA Information Bulletin No 2 *Permeable Roof Tile Underlay – Guide to Good Site Practice*.

### Horizontal ceiling and insulation (cold roof)

7.4 Roofs designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2011 will adequately limit the risk of interstitial condensation.

7.5 Alternatively, ridge or high-level ventilation equivalent to a continuous opening of 5 mm may be used. If this approach is adopted, users should refer to Product Sheet 2 of this Certificate, in particular the additional guidance relating to limiting the risk of interstitial condensation.

### Inclined ceiling and insulation (warm roof)

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

### Partially-inclined ceiling and insulation (warm roof and cold roof)

7.7 Where an insulated ceiling spans only part of the roofline, resulting cold roof spaces should be ventilated in accordance with BS 5250 : 2011, Annex H.

## 8 Wind loading

8.1 Project design wind speeds for the roof in which the products are installed should be determined and wind uplift forces calculated in accordance with BS EN 1991-1-4 : 2005 and its UK National Annex.

### Unsupported

8.2 The products are satisfactory for use in unsupported systems in the geographical wind zones given in Table 2, where a well-sealed ceiling is present and the roof has a ridge height of  $\leq 15 \text{ m}$ , a pitch between  $12.5^\circ$  and  $75^\circ$ , and a site altitude  $\leq 100 \text{ m}$ , and where topography is not significant. For all other cases, the required uplift resistance should be determined using BS 5534 : 2014 and the Certificate holder's declared wind uplift resistances in Table 3.

Table 2 Zones of applicability of Strotex according to BS 5534 : 2014, clause A.8 with battened laps and taped laps

Product	$\leq 345 \text{ mm}$ batten gauge with battened laps	$\leq 250 \text{ mm}$ batten gauge with battened laps	$\leq 345 \text{ mm}$ batten gauge with taped laps
Strotex Ultra	unclassified	Zones 1 to 4	Zones 1 to 2
Strotex Super	unclassified	Zones 1 to 5	Zones 1 to 4
Strotex Extra	unclassified	Zones 1 to 4	Zones 1 to 2

Table 3 Declared wind uplift resistance (Pa)

Product	≤345 mm batten gauge with battened laps <sup>(2)</sup>	≤250 mm batten gauge with battened laps <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	≤345 mm batten gauge with taped laps <sup>(2)</sup>
Strotex Ultra	558	1457	1115
Strotex Super	727	1895	1549
Strotex Extra	534	1406	1101

(1) Underlays with a wind uplift resistance at a 250 mm batten gauge that meet the minimum design wind pressure of 820 Pa for Zone 1 are deemed to satisfy the requirements for use at 100 mm batten gauge in all wind zones.

(2) Mean of test results.

## Supported

8.3 The products, when fully supported, have adequate resistance to wind uplift forces.

8.4 The products may be used at any batten gauge in all wind zones when laid over nominally airtight sheet sarking, for example OSB, plywood, chipboard and insulation for warm-roof design. They may also be used in applications where slates are nailed directly onto sarking boards.

8.5 Sarking boards, such as square-edged butt jointed planks, are not considered to be airtight and the underlay is treated as unsupported.

## 9 Strength

The products will resist the loads associated with installation of the roof.

## 10 Properties in relation to fire

10.1 The products are to Class E\* in accordance with BS EN 13501-1 : 2007.

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

10.3 When the products are used unsupported, there is a risk that fire can spread if they 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 risk of ignition.

10.4 When the products are used fully supported, the reaction to fire will be determined by the support.

## 11 Maintenance

As the products are confined within a roof system and have suitable durability (see section 12), maintenance is not required. However, any damage occurring before enclosure must be repaired (see section 16).

## 12 Durability



The products 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 14.4). Advice on exposure can be obtained from the Certificate holder.

## 13 Reuse and recyclability

The product comprises polyolefins, which can be recycled.

# Installation

## 14 General

14.1 Strotex Roofing Breather Membranes for use on Warm Non-ventilated and Cold Ventilated Roofs must be installed and fixed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions, provisions of this Certificate and the relevant recommendations of BS 5534 : 2014 and BS 8000-6 : 2013. Installation can be carried out under all conditions normal to roofing work.

14.2 The products are installed with the coloured side uppermost, and lapped to shed water out and down the slope.

14.3 Overlaps must be provided with the minimum dimensions given in Table 4. The Certificate holder's advice must be sought when using tapes for sealing overlaps.

Table 4 Minimum overlaps

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

14.4 Where possible, eaves guards should be used to protect the products from sunlight, and to direct water into the gutter.

## 15 Procedure

### Unsupported

15.1 The products, when installed as an unsupported system, are fixed in the traditional method for roof tile underlays, ie draped between the rafters.

### Fully supported

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

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

15.4 Care must be taken to minimise the risk of interstitial condensation as described in section 7.5, particularly for timber sarking which may be below the dew-point for extended periods during winter months.

## 16 Repair

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

## 17 Finishing

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

17.2 The tiling and slating must be carried out in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 5534 : 2014, BS 8000-6 : 2013 and the Certificate holder's instructions, especially when using tightly-jointed slates or tiles.

## Technical Investigations

## 18 Tests

18.1 An assessment was made on data to BS EN 13859-1 : 2014 in relation to:

- dimensions\*
- mass per unit area\*
- tensile strength and elongation\*
- resistance to tear\*
- dimensional stability\*
- resistance to water penetration\*
- resistance to artificial ageing\*
- water vapour transmission\*.

18.2 Tests were carried out to determine:

- slip resistance
- resistance to streaming water
- Mullen burst strength
- resistance to wind loads

in order to assess:

- safety during installation
- performance under typical service conditions
- robustness during installation
- properties when installed.

## 19 Investigations

19.1 An evaluation was made of the condensation risk in warm roof constructions (specifically those containing sarking boards) incorporating the products.

19.2 Using computer modelling, an analysis was made of the risk of condensation in cold non-ventilated roofs. This assessment was used as the basis for accepting use of the products in cold roofs with ridge or high-level ventilation only.

19.3 The manufacturing process was evaluated, including the methods adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of materials used.

## Bibliography

BS 5250 : 2011 *Code of practice for control of condensation in buildings*

BS 5534 : 2014 *Code of practice for slating and tiling (including shingles)*

BS 8000-6 : 2013 *Workmanship on building sites — Code of practice for slating and tiling of roofs and claddings*

BS EN 1991-1-4 : 2005 *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures — General actions*

NA to BS EN 1991-1-4 : 2005 UK National Annex to *Eurocode 1: Actions on structures — General actions*

BS EN 13501-1 : 2007 *Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests*

BS EN 13859-1 : 2014 *Flexible sheets for waterproofing — Definitions and characteristics of underlays — Underlays for discontinuous roofing*

## Conditions of Certification

### 20 Conditions

20.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system 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.

20.2 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.

20.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system 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.

20.4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.

20.5 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/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- actual installations of the product/system, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product/system is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product/system, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to CE marking.

20.6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal 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, 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.