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GYPROCK™

Everything else is just plasterboard

Gyprock™ extends EC08™ Environmental Range and leads the way for green building practices

Gyprock™ continues to be at the forefront of green building practices, driving industry standards higher with the expansion of its EC08™ plasterboard range.

The pivotal entry of Gyprock's™ unique range of boards: the EC08™ Partition, EC08™ Fire and EC08™ Impact, will provide designers of green buildings the flexibility to specify different grade board for specific applications. This can reduce the cost of achieving Green Star points with the premium fire, acoustic and impact resistance boards being specified only where these characteristics are desired.

Gyprock Commercial Marketing Manager, Rob Ferrari said, "Recently, we have observed increasing interest from designers and specifiers who are eager to improve the sustainability of their developments. This is an influential direction for the industry to be taking and is also positive news for the environment. At Gyprock™, we pride ourselves on keeping up with the needs of the marketplace and pioneering the way with latest building practices."

The original Gyprock EC08™ with ReCore™ technology, launched last year, was the first Australian-made plasterboard to have been certified by Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA). Now, there are three boards in the EC08™ range that carry GECA certification and can contribute to Green Star points in the Green Building Council Australia's calculators.

Gyprock EC08™ is not only produced with the highest level of recycled content found in the Gyprock™ range of fire grade and standard plasterboard, but can also be recycled rather than add to the growing waste problem – important factors in gaining the GECA certification.

Suited for areas where fire resistance and acoustic properties are not required, the EC08™ Partition is an economical, non-fire rated board for general building requirements.

The EC08™ Fire is the original EC08™ board, which is a fire grade board with higher acoustic properties compared to standard plasterboard. "EC08™ Fire has the equivalent fire and acoustic properties of 13mm Fyrchek™ which can be used in wall and ceiling systems," said Rob Ferrari.

EC08™ Impact is fire and acoustic rated with impact resistance for high traffic areas such as education and health facilities.

"We have noticed that as the green building market grows it is beginning to mirror the traditional commercial market's requirements of having specific plasterboards for specific applications. Our extended range of plasterboard will ultimately assist builders and designers keep their Green Star cost premium below 5% across a wider range of construction projects," Rob Ferrari said.

Light green in colour, the Gyprock EC08™ range is available in 13mm thickness and in three dimensions 1200 x 2700, 1200 x 3000 and 1200 x 3600mm. Installation of Gyprock EC08™ is practical and simple – install as per standard plasterboard practice.

For more information on the EC08™ Range, contact Gyprock on 1300 306 556 or visit gyprock.com.au

Cemintel™ launches patented waterblocking technology for Wallboard

- **Patented waterblocking technology ensures long-term performance**

In a global first, Cemintel™ Fibre Cement Systems has developed new waterblocking technology that is embedded into its fibre cement products, reducing the amount of water being absorbed into the sheet and ensuring stronger joints and less moisture movement.

CeminSeal™ is a new family of products that offers real advantages over standard fibre cement. The products are manufactured using the patented waterblocking technology that reduces the amount of water penetrating the board surface, ensuring long term performance.

CeminSeal™ Wallboard was the first product in the range, launched mid-2009, followed by SoffitLine™ (see page 8). This new board is hydrophobic and vapour permeable, meaning it repels water yet allows the sheet to breathe. The waterblocking technology makes the board more stable by dramatically reducing sheet movement from moisture changes.

Cemintel's™ General Manager, Drew Spiden, is extremely proud of the work his team has accomplished to achieve this industry breakthrough.

"It is a clear step change for the fibre cement industry globally, given the benefits it delivers. This is an absolute elevation on what is in the market at this time."

Mr Spiden said CeminSeal™ was developed as a result of ongoing feedback from contractors and builders in the market.

"One of the most commonly referred to issues in the fibre cement market is joints and the strength of a particular joint, be it external or internal. What we have achieved with CeminSeal™ Wallboard is 95% stronger joint and compound adhesion, ensuring less risk of joints cracking.

"The new embedded technology is a part of the manufacturing process at CSR's Australian factory, giving longer lasting protection and performance," Mr Spiden said.

Cemintel has extensively researched and tested the new CeminSeal™ range both independently and throughout the market.

"As well as testing the CeminSeal™ range in research and development labs, we have also been engaging a number of external suppliers throughout the manufacturing process to ensure we deliver the highest quality wallboard product on the market," Mr Spiden said.

The installation process of CeminSeal™ has not changed from standard wallboard. The same method still applies with the added bonus of quicker and easier installation due to easier cutting, shorter setting times of compounds and greater paint adhesion.

Aimed at builders, contractors and developers, CeminSeal™ Wallboard is tinted yellow with a distinct face print to ensure it is easily identified, and CeminSeal™ Soffit is tinted lilac.

For more information contact Cemintel™ on 1300 CEMINTEL (1300 236 468 35) or visit cemintel.com.au





Everything else is just plasterboard

CSR's new solutions for hospital projects

As state infrastructure spending on hospitals climb with the government stimulus injection, a brighter spotlight has been cast on niche building materials to meet this growing demand.

Only too happy to step up to the plate is CSR's Commercial Marketing Manager, Rob Ferrari, with the CSR Lightweight Building Solutions package for hospitals, which is a collection of products combined in different ways to give complete solutions to the different applications in a hospital.

Rob Ferrari sees CSR Lightweight Building Solutions package for hospitals as a holistic approach to meeting the unique design challenges in hospitals, which is a positive result considering market trends are encouraging a renewed focus in this area.

"The CSR Lightweight Building Solutions package fits perfectly to the needs of hospital design in areas of high acoustic and impact performance, fire resistance and durability and we are excited to be in the right place at the right time to supply this package to hospitals searching for solutions," Rob Ferrari said.

"Just this past 12 months we've worked on major hospital developments and upgrades including Bathurst Hospital, Auburn Hospital and Macquarie Private Hospital, supplying tens of thousands of square metres of product.

"The reason that we're having most success with this package is through the integration of products and systems from our vast product portfolio to meet varying requirements in different areas of the hospitals.

"EC08™ Impact plasterboard, for example, has a high density core for added strength, which is perfect for regions subject to crowd damage. It also has a heavy duty facing material to resist surface damage, so can be used in areas subject to occasional damage from patient's beds or wheelchairs.

"Cemintel™ Wallboard has a high surface density for major scuff resistance which is perfect for the most heavy duty areas subject to regular damage from sharp and heavy forces like electric trolleys and heavy medical equipment.

"An important concern in all hospitals is also fire safety and minimising noise transference, but not all rooms and corridors have the same degree of need to solve these problems," said Rob Ferrari. "So customers also have the opportunity to combine fire and acoustic properties with impact resistant products to meet their need in particular areas of the hospital.

"This all leads to a more efficient and more comprehensive solution to the entire hospital's functional success," said Rob Ferrari.

For more information on CSR Lightweight Building Solution packages for hospital projects, call designLINK on 1800 621 117.

Major Hospital Projects Planned/committed by State:

- NSW:** Stage 2 RNS Hospital Redevelopment - \$780m 2010-2011
Liverpool Hospital Redevelopment - \$440m, 2014
- QLD:** Ipswich Hospital Redevelopment - \$250m, 2010-2015
Gold Coast Hospital - \$1.5b, 2010-2014
- SA:** The new Royal Adelaide Hospital - \$1.7b
- WA:** Fiona Stanley Hospital - \$1.8b, 2010-2013

A guide to meeting or exceeding the Bushfire Code

Following the devastating fires that destroyed parts of Victoria, an update to the Australian Standard AS 3959 'Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas' was issued. It includes a new definition of bushfire attack levels (BAL) based on heat flux, methods for assessing a site, and construction details for each BAL.

The Victorian and Australian Capital Territory governments, and several councils, have already introduced the standard for residential buildings, and it is expected to be referenced in BCA 2010, to take effect in all remaining states.

Cemintel™ has compiled an easy reference guide to assist in selection of external walls, eaves, decks and floors for each of the BALs.

To obtain a copy of the Guide, contact Cemintel™ on 1300 CEMINTEL.

BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVELS AND CORRESPONDING CONSTRUCTION SECTIONS WITHIN THE NEW BUILDING STANDARD*	
Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)	Description of predicted bushfire attack and levels of exposure
BAL - LOW	There is insufficient risk to warrant specific construction requirements
BAL - 12.5	Ember attack
BAL - 19	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux between 12.5 and 19 kW m ²
BAL - 29	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux between 19 and 29 kW m ²
BAL - 40	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux with the likelihood of exposure to flames
BAL - FZ	Direct exposure to flames from fire front in addition to heat flux and ember attack

* Source: Building in Victoria after the bushfires

Young plasterer accepts industry's highest honour



An up-and-coming premium plasterer, Daniel Dotta, and his company Featuroom, has been honoured as the 'People's Choice' winner in the recent Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries (AWCI) Awards, which attracted near 250 of the industry's best to the event on the Gold Coast.

Daniel Dotta and Featuroom beat all the major winners from the State and National Awards to secure the 'People's Choice' award after first winning the nation's best 'Commercial Development Project under \$1,000,000' prize with his project for Brisbane's Cloudland Nightclub.

Each year, the AWCI hosts the Awards in order to recognise the quality workmanship of its members and non-members in the building and construction industry.

With strict criteria for judging, the AWCI carefully examines the producer's performance in terms of detail, difficulty and overall appearance.

As the director of Featuroom, a recently established renovation company in Queensland, Daniel Dotta adopts a unique approach to all his projects to modernise rooms without making any major structural alterations.

His philosophy is to develop the focal points of a room such as lighting, space and colour in order to greatly improve aesthetic appeal, and achieve effective results by using the latest material and products.

"Featuroom is a new direction, which incorporates modern design elements of architecture," says Daniel. "We try to push the boundaries of using plasterboard and lightweight construction in order to bring modern design into the residential house,"

Daniel implements products from plasterboard manufacturer Gyprock™ in many of his projects, including the Gyprock™ Flexible Plasterboard which is specifically designed for curved wall and ceiling systems.



"In the Cloudland project we used a lot of Gyprock™ Flexible Plasterboard. There were a lot of curves, parabolic arches, domes and circular work which isn't really supplied by other brands," commented Daniel.

With years of experience in the plasterboard industry, Daniel hopes that manufacturing companies begin to adopt the eco-friendly approach that Gyprock™ is currently incorporating into its products.

"We'd like to adopt an eco-option as products develop, especially the use of ECO8™ in interior set outs as a method of recycling materials," says Daniel.

For more information on Gyprock products, contact Gyprock on 1300 306 556 or visit gyprock.com.au.

Building Australia's Future

The recent Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) conference, in September on the Gold Coast, provided a great opportunity to discuss contemporary issues relating to the built environment, reports Michael Ryan, CSR DesignLINK.

The conference featured presentations on topical issues relating to the built environment and the BCA, including climate change, performance through innovation and energy efficiency.

The climate change sessions included discussion on design for resistance to hail damage, revealing that in Sydney, storms with hailstones up to 70mm in diameter have a 15 to 20 year return period. These would be sufficient to damage almost all houses of current design. Urban flooding and 'dry proofing' of houses, trends from the Department of Climate Change, and measures for environmental assessment and life cycle analysis were some of the other main topics.

Presentations on performance through innovation included a global perspective on bush fire regulations (notably Australia and the US due to the coincidence of population in bushland and dry seasonal conditions), an aging population, and the management of dementia in building design. The roles of standards and regulations were also discussed.

The energy efficiency topics almost needed a conference on their own. The range included comparison of current rating tools with the deemed-to-comply (DTC) clauses; the change of ratings from energy use to green house gas production; regulation of cooking, clothes drying and lighting appliances; new products such as aerogels (transparent panels with high R value); views on mass versus energy flow for comfort; and thermal performance in theory and in reality.





Bradford Insulation and Fricker Ceilings provide acoustic and energy efficient solutions in Brisbane Airport upgrade

Bradford Insulation and Fricker Ceilings products were used in Brisbane International Airport Terminal's upgrade, helping to deliver an energy efficient and acoustically sound expansion.

The \$340 million Brisbane Airport Corporation development was undertaken by Bovis Lend Lease and comprised a 60m extension to the main terminal building, and a 225m addition to the northern concourse, plus the refurbishment of several sections of the existing airport structure. The project, which has put Brisbane Airport in the top 100 globally, commenced in January 2007 and was completed in December 2008.

About four million passengers used Brisbane Airport's International Terminal in 2007 and this is anticipated to rise to around six million by 2015. A crucial aspect of the Brisbane International Airport Terminal upgrade was the development of modern facilities to accommodate new generation aircraft, including the new airbus A380.

Due to the specification requirements surrounding noise and energy efficiency, a suite of ceiling and insulation products were required for the airport upgrade including:

- 2000 square metres of 50mm thick rigid fiberglass batt with thermofoil bonded to the face and mechanically fixed to slab soffits;
- 3000 square metres of 50mm thick fiberglass insulation used in partition walls;
- 1200 square metres of 25mm thick Anticon fixed to slab soffits;
- 500 square metres of Enviroseal Wall Wrap sarking; and
- 16,000 Fricker perforated metal pan ceiling tiles with 20 unique tile types developed to meet the various acoustic and aesthetic requirements, including Bradford black fiberglass insulation combined with Aquachek™ plasterboard in some areas

Bradford Insulation and Fricker Ceilings worked closely with the project team to deliver a total insulation and ceiling package, including the black fibreglass insulation for ceiling tile inserts, which were sourced through Bradford Asia.

For more information on Bradford Insulation visit bradfordinsulation.com.au, or contact 1800 333 332.

Correction

Please note that system CSR 932 on page D16 of the 2007 Red Book™ contains a typographical error. The system is specified and drawn as having lining both sides but the lining table states One Side. This should read Both Sides as per the other systems in the table, the drawing and the specification. A new PDF file of the Red Book™ is available from gyprock.com.au



Superchek™ proves popular with premium homes



With less than one year in the market, Gyprock Superchek™ is the only Australian plasterboard which combines a number of crucial attributes to create a premium product that is tougher, quieter and safer than standard plasterboard.

Gyprock Superchek™ plasterboard is rapidly being snapped up by builders all over Australia, particularly in the premium home market. Recently installed in a \$2million-plus home and earmarked to plaster five new homes in Port Melbourne, Victoria, Superchek is fast becoming the must-have product when building top-of-the range homes.

Gyprock Superchek™ has a heavy duty, high quality facing material and a more resilient, denser core. The combination of these features provides resistance to the damage of everyday knocks, improves the acoustic performance of a wall, and improves fire resistance.

Premium home developer, Seidler Homes has just developed a four-bedroom luxury home in Lower Plenty, Victoria, complete with home cinema and pool cabana. Architect Builder, Chris Seidler and Purchasing Manager, Tony Gacovski, chose to use Superchek™ throughout the entire home, including the outbuildings.

“All our projects offer premium results. Our clients understand that to get a premium home, it requires the best of the best to be installed. From European appliances, cutting edge lighting or award winning landscaping, they understand that the building products also have to be of high standard to complete the picture.

“We heard about Superchek™ and thought it was a great idea and knew we had to try it. Our builder is very happy with the installation and the end result, and we have plans to use it as a standard inclusion for all our future projects starting with the Port Melbourne housing project,” Tony Gacovski said.

Gyprock Superchek™ requires impact with twice the force of standard plasterboard to leave an indent. Walls lined with Superchek™ provide a noticeable sound reduction of about 15%. And it is fire resistant, defending against the spread of flames for 20% longer than standard plasterboard giving the homeowner more time to react to fire and greater peace of mind.

Superchek™ can be installed throughout the entire house, excluding wet areas, eliminating the need for designers to specify different plasterboards for every part of the home, as well as making the installation process more streamlined for contractors.

Gyprock National Product Manager, Tim Ohlback, said: “Superchek™ is a premium, high grade building material. In a market where quality and longevity is paramount products of this ilk create a tangible point of difference for the builder to offer to the homeowner.”

Superchek™ is a high density recessed edge plasterboard and is available in 10mm thick and a range of lengths.

For more information on Superchek™, contact Gyprock on 1300 306 556 or visit gyprock.com.au.

Gyprock™ Website and DesignLINK hotline

Gyprock™ recently redesigned its website with a clear focus on both the professional and the homeowner.

The website revamp included new tools, calculators and Gyprock™ technical and consumer forums, open to all visitors and monitored by Gyprock™ experts providing regular feedback.

According to website statistics, the site has attracted a steady stream of new visitors each month with numbers reaching to 17,000 visits per month since the revamp.

During January to September 09, almost 150,000 people visited the site, with nearly one million page views.

The consumer forum has proved popular with homeowners visiting the forum to ask questions about small DIY projects or products to suit their renovations. Whilst the technical forum, in the professional pages, has proved to be successful within the industry for those needing one

off questions answered with many visitors viewing the existing answered questions already listed.

Gyprock™ will also be adding to its page for Green Building Professionals with a comprehensive list of green building products, solutions, resources and case studies.

DesignLINK hotline – the Gyprock™ technical advice centre, has also received a spike in calls.

For more information visit gyprock.com.au or call DesignLINK on 1800 621 117



Cemintel launches a new and innovative solution for external ceilings

Cemintel™ Fibre Cement Systems has recently launched its SoffitLine™ system, which offers an innovative solution for designers who want a reliable flush jointed external ceiling.

The past decade has seen an increasing trend towards large covered areas in commercial buildings, and some external ceilings can be found in nearly 60% of social buildings, such as cinemas, restaurants and recreational activity centres, and 20% of office buildings. A high proportion of these were specified as flush jointed and, with exposure to the elements have often resulted in cracked joints.

Drew Spiden, General Manager of Cemintel™ Fibre Cement Systems, says: "We acknowledged there was a clear need for a reliable solution in the marketplace and embarked on a mission to design it.

"Our investigation identified moisture absorption by the sheet and the joint system to be a major factor in system failures."

Drew Spiden says SoffitLine™ represents a significant breakthrough in soffit design. "After extensive design work and testing, Cemintel™ has produced a technically superior solution which minimises visible joint cracking, reduces moisture absorption by over 80% and increases joint strength by up to 50%."

The SoffitLine™ system is the latest edition to the CeminSeal™ family of products.

A breakthrough in fibre cement technology, CeminSeal™ sheets offer waterblocking technology that provides a more stable sheet and maximum paint adhesion. CeminSeal™ Soffit sheets are designed for use with SoffitLine™ acrylic jointing system designed specifically for water resistance, high strength and to minimise sanding. The system supports industry best practice and specifies an isolated frame design, with modules for expansion and separation from structural movement.

The SoffitLine™ system has been used in several large development projects with resounding success. One of these is Dutton St Apartments in Yagoona, Sydney, the latest project from construction and development company, Kane Developments, an affiliate of the JSN Hanna group.

Administration Manager for Kane Developments, Jim Hanna, says: "When we learnt from Cemintel™ that they had designed a unique, best practice soffits solution we were keen to use it for the Dutton St project. We pride ourselves on ensuring that the products we use in all our developments are of the highest standards.

"Knowing that the SoffitLine™ system will provide a long-lasting and reliable solution means that there are great benefits to be realised in the future, not just for us as the developer, but for the subsequent owners of the apartments."

The new Ceiling Systems manual contains information for the design of ceilings in residential and commercial applications. It sets out installation details for fixing to joists and to Rondo suspension framing. It also has systems for express jointed exterior ceilings and for interior ceilings.

For more information or a copy of the manual, visit cemintel.com.au or call CEMINTEL (1300 236 468 35).

