

IKEA GOES SOLAR

SFS intec



SFS intec's SOL-F anchor posts were specified to secure 39,000 solar panels across ten IKEA UK stores, helping to significantly reduce its CO² consumption over the next 25 years.

IKEA worked with GS Solar UK Company Ltd which installed the solar panels, to source high performance fastenings, capable of meeting the store's high wind exposure ratings. A total of 8,520 lightweight, thermally broken SOL-F anchor posts at 32mm in height, were mechanically fastened to the steel deck of the flat roof by Topek Southern Limited, over a nine month period.

James Cooney, Contracts Director at Topek Southern Ltd, commented on the installation: “The majority of the flat roof constructions were made up of a typical lightweight metal deck, vapour control layer (VCL), insulation board and single ply membranes, so it was clear that a sturdy fastening and mounting system was required to negate any unwanted stress to the roof, especially when under wind pressure.

“The high wind exposure rating of most stores meant that securing the system to the 1-2mm thick single ply membrane was not feasible as this would have transferred the wind load directly through the membrane layer, carrying huge risks. Due to the nature of the lightweight roof construction, ballasted systems were also ruled out.

“The specified SOL-F system from SFS intec was the ideal product for this type of installation. Taking us a speedy 15 minutes per post to fit, we were able to quickly core out the insulation layer without damaging the VCL layer to install the distance spacer, before fitting the upper clamping plate to make a weather tight seal.

“Given the high quantity of posts that we installed across each store, especially during some of the wettest recorded weather in recent years, it was testament to our team of installers and SFS intec’s product that we were able to fit each one successfully and without delay or difficulty.”

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