

AN 07 PROOF TESTING OF METAL ROOFING AND CLADDING FASTENERS

Introduction

The Metal Cladding and Roofing Manufacturers Association (MCRMA) has been made aware of reports that specifiers are calling on cladding companies and fastener manufacturers to conduct proof testing of fasteners used to attach metal-based roofing and cladding products and systems to secondary steelwork.

There is a general misconception that proof testing on these types of fasteners can be done to establish structural performance of the fastening when used in these circumstances.

Guidance

This advice note has been produced by the MCRMA in conjunction with member companies to clarify the situation that:

- Proof testing is testing of concrete and masonry anchors to check the quality of installation. It is performed by loading the fixture to a set load, to an installed anchor where the anchor had a protruding threaded section to allow for the connection of a test meter.
- Testing is done in accordance with BS 8539 *Code of Practice for the selection and installation of post-installed anchors in concrete and masonry*.
- Regarding installed self-drilling and self-tapping fasteners there is no threaded section to attach a test meter therefore proof testing cannot be performed to check the structural performance or quality of the installation.

However, it must be noted that installed fasteners can be tested and checked for leakage using a simple method of generating a differential air pressure between the inside and outside surfaces of the cladding around the area of the fastener.

Attention is drawn to advice contained in the following Guidance Documents from the MCRMA:

GD 32 Self drilling fastener installation tools

GD 33 Fasteners for metal roof and wall cladding: design, detailing and installation guide

Adoption by industry of the guidance outlined in this document will lead to better and more consistent standards of metal roofing and cladding construction. MCRMA member companies can advise on the suitability and performance of materials, systems and assemblies. Manufacturers are best placed to offer advice about their particular products and any variation from their published data during the design or construction process could result in the component or system failing prematurely or not complying with the guarantee or warranty conditions.

In addition, design information can be obtained from any of the independent roofing and cladding inspectors featured on the MCRMA web site at www.mcrma.co.uk

DISCLAIMER

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