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# Agrément Certificate 24/7266

Product Sheet 3 Issue 1

## **INDIBREATHE FLEX INSULATION**

## INDIBREATHE FLEX FOR SUSPENDED TIMBER INTERMEDIATE AND GROUND FLOORS

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet<sup>(1)</sup> relates to IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors, a hemp and jute fibre insulation slab for use between the timber joists of intermediate floors and suspended timber ground floors of new and existing domestic and nondomestic buildings.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

#### The assessment includes

#### **Product factors:**

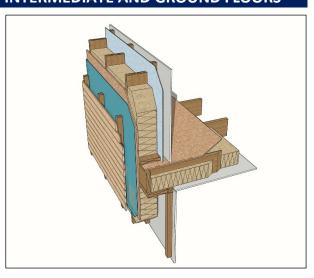
- compliance with Building Regulations
- compliance with additional regulatory or nonregulatory information where applicable
- evaluation against technical specifications
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- uses and design considerations

#### **Process factors:**

- compliance with Scheme requirements
- installation, delivery, handling and storage
- · production and quality controls
- maintenance and repair

#### Ongoing contractual Scheme elements†:

- regular assessment of production
- formal 3-yearly review



#### **KEY FACTORS ASSESSED**

- Section 1. Mechanical resistance and stability
- Section 2. Safety in case of fire
- Section 3. Hygiene, health and the environment
- Section 4. Safety and accessibility in use
- Section 5. Protection against noise
- Section 6. Energy economy and heat retention
- Section 7. Sustainable use of natural resources
- Section 8. Durability

The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the product described herein. This product has been assessed by the BBA as being fit for its intended use provided it is installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

Date of issue:7 October 2024

Hardy Giesler Chief Executive Officer

 $This \ BBA \ Agréement \ Certificate \ is is sued under the \ BBA's \ Inspection \ Body \ accreditation.$ 

The BBA is a UKAS accredited Inspection Body (No. 4345), Certification Body (No. 0113) and Testing Laboratory (No. 0357).

Readers MUST check that this is the latest issue of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA directly.

The Certificate should be read in full as it may be misleading to read clauses in isolation.

Any photographs are for illustrative purposes only, do not constitute advice and should not be relied upon.

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### SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT AND COMPLIANCE

This section provides a summary of the assessment conclusions; readers should refer to the later sections of this Certificate for information about the assessments carried out.

## **Compliance with Regulations**

Having assessed the key factors, the opinion of the BBA is that IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors, 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 Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement: C2(c) Resistance to moisture

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See section 3 of this

Certificate.

Requirement: L1(a)(i) Conservation of fuel and power

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Requirement; however, compensating

fabric measures may be required. See section 6 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 7(1) Materials and workmanship

Comment: The product is acceptable. See sections 8 and 9 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 25B Nearly zero-energy requirements for new buildings

Regulation: 26 CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates for new buildings

Regulation: 26A Fabric energy efficiency rates for new dwellings (applicable to England only)

Regulation: 26A Primary energy rates for new buildings (applicable to Wales only)
Regulation: 26B Fabric performance values for new dwellings (applicable to Wales only)
Regulation: 26C Target primary energy rates for new buildings (applicable to England only)

Regulation: 26C Energy efficiency rating (applicable to Wales only)

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying these Regulations; however, compensating

fabric/service measures may be required. See section 6 of this Certificate.



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

Regulation: 8(1) Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship

Comment: The product is acceptable. See sections 8 and 9 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 9 Building standards – construction

Standard: 3.15 Condensation

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses

 $3.15.1^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $3.15.4^{(1)(2)}$  and  $3.15.5^{(1)(2)}$ . See section 3 of this Certificate.

Standard: 6.1(b)(c) Energy demand

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses

6.1.1<sup>(1)</sup> and 6.1.2<sup>(2)</sup>; however, compensating fabric/service measures may be required.

See section 6 of this Certificate.

Standard: 6.2 Building insulation envelope

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses

 $6.2.1^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $6.2.3^{(1)}$ ,  $6.2.4^{(2)}$ ,  $6.2.6^{(1)}$ ,  $6.2.7^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $6.2.8^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $6.2.9^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $6.2.10^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $6.2.11^{(2)}$  and  $6.2.12^{(1)}$ ; however, compensating fabric measures may be required. See section 6

of this Certificate.

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Standard: 7.1(a)(b) Statement of sustainability

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of Regulation 9,

Standards 1 to 6, and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting the bronze level of sustainability as defined in this Standard. In addition, the product can contribute to a construction meeting a higher level of sustainability as defined in this Standard, with reference to clauses  $7.1.4^{(1)}$ ,  $7.1.6^{(1)(2)}$ ,  $7.1.7^{(1)}$ ,  $7.1.9^{(2)}$  and  $7.1.10^{(2)}$ .

See section 6 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 12 Building standards – conversion

Comment: All comments made in relation to the product under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6,

also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause  $0.12.1^{(1)}$  and Schedule  $6^{(1)}$ .

(1) Technical Handbook (Domestic).

(2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



Regulation: 23(1)(a)(i) Fitness of materials and workmanship

Comment: (iii)(b)(i)(ii) The product is acceptable. See sections 8 and 9 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 29 Condensation

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Regulation. See section 3 of this

Certificate.

Regulation: 39(a)(i) Conservation measures

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying this Regulation; however, compensating

fabric measures may be required. See section 6 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 40(2) Target carbon dioxide emission rate Regulation: 43(1)(2) Renovation of thermal elements

Regulation: 43(b) Nearly zero-energy requirements for new buildings

Comment: The product can contribute to satisfying these Regulations; however, compensating

fabric/service measures may be required. See section 6 of this Certificate.

## **Additional Information**

### **NHBC Standards 2024**

In the opinion of the BBA, IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements in relation to NHBC Standards, Chapter 5.2 Suspended ground floors.

# **Fulfilment of Requirements**

The BBA has judged IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors to be satisfactory for use as described in this Certificate. The product has been assessed for installation between the joists of timber intermediate and suspended ground floors in new and existing domestic and non-domestic buildings.

#### **ASSESSMENT**

## Product description and intended use

The Certificate holder provided the following description for the product under assessment. IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors consists of a thermal insulation batt made from UK crops.

The product has the nominal characteristics given in Table 1.

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Table 1 Nominal characteristics			
Characteristic (unit)	Value		
Length (mm)	1200		
Width (mm)	370, 440, 570		
Thickness (mm)	20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80, 100, 120 and 140		
Edge profile	Square		
Colour	Beige		
Nominal density (kg·m <sup>-3</sup> )	34		

# **Product assessment – key factors**

The product was assessed for the following key factors, and the outcome of the assessment is shown below. Conclusions relating to the Building Regulations apply to the whole of the UK unless otherwise stated.

#### 1 Mechanical resistance and stability

Not applicable.

## 2 Safety in case of fire

Data were assessed for the following characteristics.

#### 2.1 Reaction to fire

2.1.1 The product was tested for reaction to fire and the classification is given in Table 2.

Table 2 Reaction to fire classification			
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber	BS EN 13501-1 : 2018	Value achieved	E <sup>(1)</sup>
Intermediate and Ground Floors			

<sup>(1)</sup> System Laboratories UK Ltd, Report no. 790 issue B, 8 July 2024, copies available from the Certificate holder on request.

2.1.2 The product must be protected from naked flames and other ignition sources during and after installation.

#### 2.2 Resistance to fire

- 2.2.1 Intermediate floors incorporating the product must be contained by a fire-resistant lining board manufactured in accordance with BS EN 520: 2004, with joints fully sealed and supported by timber joists or battens.
- 2.2.2 Where an intermediate floor incorporating the product is required to achieve a period of fire resistance, its performance must be confirmed by a suitably experienced and competent individual.

## 3 Hygiene, health and the environment

Data were assessed for the following characteristics.

#### 3.1 Water vapour permeability

 $3.1.1\,$  The product was tested for water vapour permeability and the result is given in Table 3.

Table 3 Water vapour resistivity			
Material	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors	BS EN 12086 : 2013	Value achieved	6.56 MN·s·g <sup>-1</sup> ·m <sup>-1</sup>

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3.1.2 For the purposes of assessing the risk of interstitial condensation, the water vapour resistivity value may be taken as given in Table 3.

### 3.2 Biological resistance

3.2.1 The product was tested for resistance to the growth of mould fungus and the result is given in Table 4.

Table 4 Resistance to the growth of mould fungus				
Material	Assessment method	Requirement	Result	
IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended	UKAD 040005-00-1201 : 2015, Annex B	Evaluation level ≤ 1	Pass	
Timber Intermediate and	and BS EN ISO 846 : 1997			
Ground Floors	(23°C and 95% RH for 4 weeks)			

3.2.2 On the basis of data assessed, the product has satisfactory resistance to fungal growth.

## 4 Safety and accessibility in use

Not applicable.

## 5 Protection against noise

Not applicable.

## 6 Energy economy and heat retention

Data were assessed for the following characteristics.

#### 6.1 Thermal conductivity

The product was tested for thermal conductivity and the results are given in Table 5.

Table 5 Thermal conductivity				
Product	Thickness	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended	20 – 100 mm	UKAD 040005-00-1201 : 2015	Declared	0.039 W·m <sup>-1</sup> ·K <sup>-1</sup>
Timber Intermediate and Ground Floors	120 – 140 mm		value (λ <sub>D</sub> )	0.042 W·m <sup>-1</sup> ·K <sup>-1</sup>

6.2.1 The U value of a completed floor will depend on the insulation thickness, the perimeter/area ratio and the floor type. Example U values are given in Table 6 of this Certificate.

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Table 6 U values — suspended timber ground floors <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)</sup>						
Target U value	IndiBreathe Flex thickness					
(W·m <sup>-2</sup> ·K <sup>-1</sup> )		(mm)				
		P/A	ratio (m·m²)			
	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	
0.11	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	
0.12	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	
0.13	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	
0.15	100 + 100	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	
0.18	80 + 60	80 + 60 + 50	100 + 100	(8)	(8)	
0.22	100	80 + 60	100 + 50	80 + 80	100 + 80	
0.25	40 + 30	80 + 30	80 + 50	80 + 60	80 + 60	

- (1) Floor construction 22 mm thick chipboard floor finish ( $\lambda$  = 0.13 W·m<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>) on timber floor joists ( $\lambda$  = 0.13 W·m<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>) (11%)
- (2) The depth of the joists = 100 to 200 mm depending on the depth of insulation between floor joists (11%) based on BRE Report BR 443 : 2019 (nogging every 3 m at 38 mm wide).
- (3) Edge insulation not included.
- (4) Ground conductivity 1.5 W·m<sup>-1</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>.
- (5) Wall thickness at the floor perimeter (w) = 0.3 m.
- (6) Supporting wall (U<sub>w</sub>) 1.5 W·m<sup>-2</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup>.
- (7) Ventilation area (ε) 0.0015 m<sup>2</sup>·m<sup>-1</sup>.
- (8) See section 6.2.3.
- 6.2.2 On the basis of data assessed, the product can contribute towards a construction satisfying the national Building Regulations in respect of energy economy and heat retention.
- 6.2.3 For improved energy or carbon savings, designers must consider appropriate compensating fabric/service measures.

### 7 Sustainable use of natural resources

Not applicable.

#### 8 Durability

- 8.1 The potential mechanisms for degradation and the known performance characteristics of the materials in this product were assessed.
- 8.2 Specific test data were assessed for the following.

Table 7 Dimensional stability			
Product assessed	Assessment method	Requirement	Result
IndiBreathe Flex for Suspended	BS EN 1604 : 2013	Length, width and reduction	Pass
Timber Intermediate and	(70°C and 90% RH for 48 hours)	in thickness ≤ 3 % change	
Ground Floors			

#### 8.3 <u>Service life</u>

Under normal service conditions, the product will have a life equivalent to the structure in which it is incorporated, provided it is designed, installed and maintained in accordance with this Certificate and the Certificate holder's instructions.

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### **PROCESS ASSESSMENT**

Information provided by the Certificate holder was assessed for the following factors:

#### 9 Design, installation, workmanship and maintenance

- 9.1 Design
- 9.1.1 The design process was assessed, and the following requirements apply in order to satisfy the performance assessed in this Certificate.
- 9.1.2 Timber floor constructions must be designed and constructed in accordance with the relevant recommendations of:
- BS 5250 : 2021BS EN 351-1 : 2023
- BS EN 1995-1-1: 2004 and its UK National Annex.
- 9.1.3 Construction elements must be designed and constructed to incorporate the normal precautions against moisture ingress before application of the product.
- 9.1.4 The guidance given in the documents supporting the national Building Regulations must be followed when the product is installed in close proximity to certain pipes and/or heat-producing appliances.
- 9.1.5 Calculations of the thermal transmittance (U value) of a floor must be carried out in accordance with BS EN ISO 6946: 2017 and BRE Report BR 443: 2019.
- 9.1.6 Care must be taken in the overall design and construction of junctions with other elements and openings to minimise thermal bridges and air infiltration; the detailed guidance that can be found in the documents supporting the national Building Regulations must be followed.

Interstitial condensation

9.1.7 Floors will adequately limit the risk of interstitial condensation when they are designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2021.

Surface condensation

- 9.1.8 In England and Wales, floors will limit the risk of surface condensation adequately where the thermal transmittance (U value) does not exceed 0.7 W·m<sup>-2</sup>·K<sup>-1</sup> at any point and the junctions with other elements are designed in accordance with section 9.1.6 of this Certificate.
- 9.1.9 For buildings in Scotland, constructions will be acceptable where the thermal transmittance (U value) of the floor does not exceed 1.2  $W \cdot m^{-2} \cdot K^{-1}$  at any point, and the floor is designed and constructed in accordance with the relevant parts of BS 5250 : 2021. Further guidance may be obtained from BRE Report BR 262 : 2002 and section 9.1.6 of this Certificate.
- 9.2 Installation
- 9.2.1 Installation instructions provided by the Certificate holder were assessed and judged to be appropriate and adequate.
- 9.2.2 Installation must be carried out in accordance with this Certificate and the Certificate holder's instructions. A summary of instructions and guidance is provided in Annex A of this Certificate.
- 9.2.3 Existing constructions must be in a good state of repair, with no evidence of damp. Defects must be made good prior to installation.

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- 9.2.4 De-rating of electric cables must be considered in areas where the product restricts the flow of air. The use of suitable conduit or trunking is recommended.
- 9.2.5 Where recessed lighting is used, provisions must be made to prevent the fitting overheating.
- 9.2.6 Any mould or fungal growth found to be present must be treated.
- 9.2.7 Installation must not be carried out until the moisture content of any timber is less than 20% by mass.
- 9.2.8 The installer must wear appropriate personal protective equipment when installing overhead or in closed spaces with poor ventilation.
- 9.2.9 Where multiple layers of batts are required to make up the thicknesses needed to meet specific U value requirements (see Table 6), joints should be offset by a minimum of 100 mm.

#### 9.3 Workmanship

Practicability of installation was assessed by the BBA on the basis of the Certificate holder's information. To achieve the performance described in this Certificate, installation of the product must be carried out by a competent general builder, or a contractor, experienced with this type of product.

#### 9.4 Maintenance and repair

The product, once installed, does not require any maintenance, and has suitable durability provided the floor structure is maintained in good condition, and the void below the floor is ventilated in accordance with BS 5250 : 2021.

#### 10 Manufacture

- 10.1 The production processes for the product have been assessed, and provide assurance that the quality controls are satisfactory according to the following factors:
- 10.1.1 The manufacturer has provided documented information on the materials, processes, testing and control factors.
- 10.1.2 The quality control operated over batches of incoming materials has been assessed and deemed appropriate and adequate.
- 10.1.3 The quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken have been assessed and deemed appropriate and adequate.
- 10.1.4 The process for management of non-conformities has been assessed and deemed appropriate and adequate.
- 10.1.5 An audit of the production location was undertaken, and it was confirmed that the production process was in accordance with the documented process, and that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated.
- † 10.2 The BBA has undertaken to review 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.

#### 11 Delivery and site handling

- 11.1 The Certificate holder stated that the product is delivered to site shrink-wrapped in polythene packs containing a label with the product description and characteristics, the manufacturer's name, and the BBA logo incorporating the number of this Certificate.
- 11.2 Delivery and site handing must be performed in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions and this Certificate, including:
- 11.2.1 Where possible, packs should be stored inside. If stored outside, the product must be raised above ground level out of contact with ground moisture and protected from rain.

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- 11.2.2 Packs must be stacked on pallets on their sides when shipping and storing to avoid compression of the batt thicknesses. Pallets of products must not be stacked.
- 11.2.3 The product must not be exposed to naked flame or other ignition sources. Care must be taken to avoid contact with solvents and with materials containing volatile organic compounds. If damaged, the product must be discarded.

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### **ANNEX A – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION †**

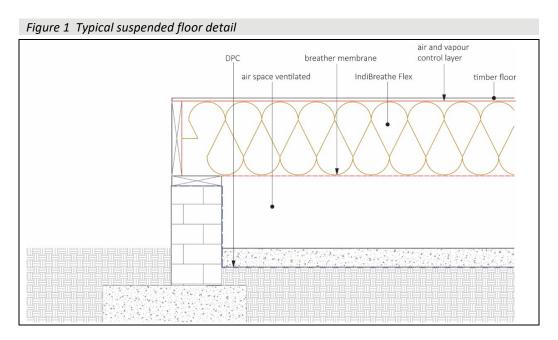
Supporting information in this Annex is relevant to the product but has not formed part of the material assessed for the Certificate.

# <u>Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015</u> Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

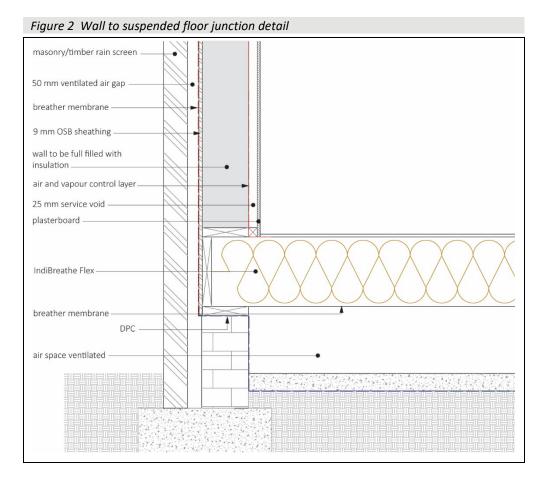
Information in this Certificate may assist the client, designer (including Principal Designer) and contractor (including Principal Contractor) to address their obligations under these Regulations.

### Additional information on installation

- A.1 Installation must be in accordance with the Certificate holder's instructions and this Certificate.
- A.2 The batts are light to handle and can be cut easily with a 'wavy-bladed' insulation saw. For large volume work, a straight-knife textile bandsaw may be used.
- A.3 The product is self-supporting by friction fitting between the timber joists.
- A.4 An OSB board may be used as a cutting surface to provide grip; a pre-cut slit in the middle of the board as a saw guide is useful.
- A.5 For cutting narrow strips off, it can be helpful to place a piece of OSB board on top to compress slightly and use as a saw guide.
- A.6 Care must be taken not to apply the product to flue pipes or electrical cables that are not contained within a suitable conduit or trunking.
- A.7 After completion, a survey should be performed to check that electrical cables and flues are not obstructed. Corrective measures must be taken to clear any such obstruction.
- A.8 The product should be cut to fit tightly between the timber joists. Typical installation details are shown in Figures 1 to 4.

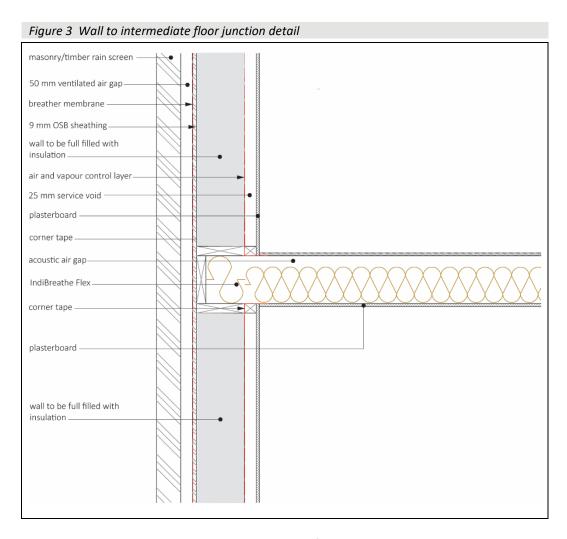


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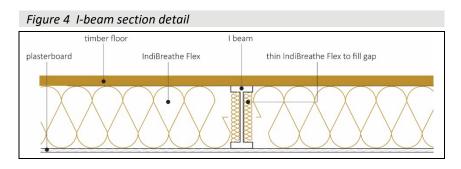


A.9 When installing in intermediate floors, it is best practice to not fill the void to the full height and leave an air gap in order to optimise acoustic dampening (see Figure 3).

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A.10 When installing between engineered I beams, a thin piece of IndiBreathe Flex should be placed at the end before filling the remaining void with a full batt as in Figure 4.



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# **Bibliography**

BRE Report BR 262: 2002 Thermal insulation: avoiding risks

BRE Report BR 443: 2019 Conventions for U-value calculations

BS 5250 : 2021 Management of moisture in buildings — Code of practice

BS EN 351-1 : 2023 Durability of wood and wood-based products — Preservative-treated solid wood — Classification of preservative penetration and retention

BS EN 520 : 2004 + A1 : 2014 Gypsum plasterboards — Definitions, requirements and test methods

BS EN 1604 : 2013 Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of dimensional stability under specified temperature and humidity conditions

BS EN 1995-1-1: 2004 + A2: 2014 Eurocode 5: Design of timber structures — General — Common rules and rules for buildings

NA to BS EN 1995-1-1 : 2004 + A1 : 2008 UK National Annex to Eurocode 5 : Design of timber structures — General — Common rules and rules for buildings

BS EN 12086 : 2013 Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of water vapour transmission properties

BS EN 13501-1 : 2018 Fire classification of construction products and building elements — Classification using data from reaction to fire tests

BS EN ISO 846: 1997 Plastics — Evaluation of the action of microorganisms

BS EN ISO 6946 : 2017 Building components and building elements — Thermal resistance and thermal transmittance — Calculation method

UKAD 040005-00-1201 : 2015 Factory-made thermal and/or acoustic insulation products made of vegetable or animal fibres

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## **Conditions of Certificate**

#### **Conditions**

#### 1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product 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.
- 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.
- 3 This Certificate will be displayed on the BBA website, and the Certificate Holder is entitled to use the Certificate and Certificate logo, provided that the product 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.
- 4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.
- 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 or any other product
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product
- actual installations of the product, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to UKCA marking and CE marking.

6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal of this product which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product 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.

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