



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 1223 [2025]

**ELEPHANT
PLASTERBOARD®
GENERAL WALL AND
CEILING LININGS**

Appraisal No. 1223 [2025]



EPB
Plasterboard
INSTALLATION
GUIDE

March 2025

www.elephantplasterboard.co.nz

BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for
building and construction.



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Product

- 1.1 EPB Standard®, EPB CeilingSmart® and EPB MultiSmart® are a range of plasterboards for use as general internal wall and ceiling linings.

Scope

- 2.1 EPB Standard®, EPB CeilingSmart® and EPB MultiSmart® have been appraised for use as general internal wall and ceiling linings on timber and steel-framed buildings in new and existing buildings.
- 2.2 The use of the plasterboards for the following situations has not been assessed and is outside the scope of this Appraisal: structural (bracing), fire resistance ratings (FRR), wet areas and acoustic rated performance.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet or contribute to meeting the following provisions of the NZBC:

Clause B1 STRUCTURE: Performance B1.3.1, B1.3.2 and B1.3.4. Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings meet the requirements for loads arising from self-weight and impact [i.e. B1.3.3 (a) and (j)]. See Paragraph 9.1.

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (c) 5 years. Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings meet this requirement.



Technical Specification

4.1 The following products are supplied by Elephant Plasterboard [NZ] Ltd:

- EPB Standard®, EPB CeilingSmart® and EPB MultiSmart® are paper-bound, modified gypsum-plaster core sheet lining materials. The sheets are available in sheet thickness, width and sheet weight as described in Table 1. The sheets are available in lengths from 2.4 m up to 6 m. One or both edges are recessed for the application of stopping compounds. The face paper of all Elephant plasterboards is ivory in colour. Sheets are marked in multiple locations with a Product Identifier Code - see Table 1.

Table 1: Product Details

Product	Product Identifier Code	Thickness [mm]	Edge Type ^[1]	Width [mm]	Nominal Weight [kg/m²]
EPB Standard®	S10	10	TE/TE	1,200	6.9
EPB Standard® Horizontal	S10	10	TE/SE	1,200	6.9
EPB Standard® Horizontal - Wide	S10	10	TE/SE	1,350	6.9
EPB Standard®	S13	13	TE/TE	1,200	8.7
EPB CeilingSmart®	F10	10	TE/TE	1,200	7.4
EPB MultiSmart®	M10	10	TE/TE	1,200	8.9
EPB MultiSmart® Horizontal	M10	10	TE/SE	1,200	8.9
EPB MultiSmart® Horizontal - Wide	M10	10	TE/SE	1,350	8.9
EPB MultiSmart®	M13	13	TE/TE	1,200	12.1

Note [1]: TE/TE: Tapered both edges. TE/SE: Tapered one edge, square the other.

4.2 System components and accessories for use with Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings, which are supplied by the building contractor are:

Screws

- Minimum 25 mm x 6 g drywall, gold-passivated, bugle head, coarse thread screw with an 8 mm head for fixing to timber framing.
- Minimum 25 mm x 6 g drywall, gold-passivated, bugle head, self-tapping screw with an 8 mm head for fixing to steel framing

Adhesive

- Adhesive for adhering plasterboard to timber and steel framing must comply with AS 2753.

Jointing Compounds and Tapes

- Jointing compounds and jointing tapes must comply with ASTM C475 as specified in AS/NZS 2859.

Corner Beads

- Corner Beads must comply as set out in AS/NZS 2589.

Finishes

- Finishes such as paints and wallpapers have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Handling and Storage

5.1 The best results are achieved when Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings are treated as finishing material and protected from damage. Sheets must be stacked flat and kept dry at all times. Refer to the Technical Literature for limits on the stack height. Sheets must be carried on edge and not dragged.

5.2 All accessories must be kept dry.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- EPB Plasterboard Installation Guide, dated March 2025.
- 6.2 All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

General

- 7.1 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings provide a flat surface for the application of decorative surface finishes such as paint and wallpaper.
- 7.2 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings have not been assessed for use in the following situations and are therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal:
- bracing applications,
 - wet areas such as bathrooms and kitchens,
 - where a FRR is required,
 - where an acoustic rated system is required,
 - use externally on the building envelope.
- 7.3 EPB Standard®, EPB CeilingSmart® and EPB MultiSmart® plasterboards must not be exposed to temperatures of 50°C or greater for prolonged periods. Refer to appliance and fitting manufacturer's for installation details.

Framing

- 8.1 Timber wall framing behind Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings must be treated as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.
- 8.2 Supporting framing must comprise one of the following subject to the minimum sizes, dwang centres and all other frame requirements of the Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings Technical Literature:
- Timber framing must be designed and constructed in accordance with NZS 3604 or be to a specific design using NZS 3603 and AS/NZS 1170.
 - Steel framing must be designed and constructed in accordance with NASH Standard Part Two or be to a specific engineering design meeting the requirements of the NZBC, with studs at maximum 600 mm centres.
- 8.3 Refer to Paragraph 15.2 regarding recommended moisture content of timber framing.

Structure

Impact Resistance

- 9.1 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings provide adequate resistance to soft body impacts expected in areas where the product will be used. Where a higher degree of impact resistance is required, Elephant Plasterboard (NZ) Ltd recommend the use of EPB MultiSmart® sheets.

Durability

- 10.1 With normal maintenance, Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings will meet the performance requirement of NZBC B2.3.1 [c] 5 years as given in Table 1 of NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.

Serviceable Life

- 10.2 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 50 years as general wall and ceiling linings. The ability of Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings to remain durable is dependent on the sheets being protected and remaining dry in service and being maintained in accordance with this Appraisal.

Maintenance

- 11.1 The building must be maintained weathertight and all lining systems protected from internal and external moisture.
- 11.2 Impact damage to Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings, resulting in small holes and cracks, may be patched, stopped and finished. For larger areas of damage, expert advice on repair must be sought from Elephant Plasterboard [NZ] Ltd.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 12.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings from heat sources such as fire places, heating appliances and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

Fire Affecting Areas Beyond the Fire Source

Internal Surface Finishes

- 13.1 EPB Standard®, EPB CeilingSmart® and EPB MultiSmart® have a Material Group Number of 1-S without an applied finish. When an applied finish is used over Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings, the Material Group Number must be obtained from the manufacturer or supplier of the finish product or system, for the complete lining system. Refer to NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1, Paragraph 4.2 or NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2, Paragraph 4.17.1 and Table 4.3 to determine where the sheets may be used according to its Group Number.

Internal Moisture

- 14.1 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings are for use in dry internal situations. For wet areas, Elephant Plasterboard [NZ] Ltd recommends the use of EPB AquaSmart® plasterboard. *[Note: EPB AquaSmart® plasterboard has not been assessed by BRANZ and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.]*

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 15.1 Installation of Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings must be in accordance with the instructions given in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature. Where the installation is Restricted Building Work (RBW) the installation must be completed by, or under the supervision of, a Licenced Building Practitioner with the relevant License Class.

General

- 16.1 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings must be installed in accordance with the Technical Literature. For inspection, reference must be made to Technical Literature.

Framing

- 16.2 To achieve an acceptable decorative finish, the walls must not be lined unless the moisture content of the timber framing is less than 18%. Elephant Plasterboard [NZ] Ltd recommends a moisture content of 8-18% where buildings are to be air conditioned or centrally heated.

Cutting

- 16.3 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings are easily cut by scoring the face paper with a sharp short-bladed trimming knife and then snapping the plasterboard away from the cut face and cutting the back paper, or by sawing. Use of a metal straight-edge facilitates clean, straight cuts. Cut edges can be tidied up by using a knife. Paper dags should be removed.

Fixing Sheets

- 16.4 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Lining sheets may be installed vertically or horizontally. Sheets are fixed with drywall screws or plasterboard clouts at 300 mm centres around the perimeter of the sheet, and with adhesive on all intermediate studs. Adhesive must not be used under fasteners. A 5-10 mm gap must be left between the floor and the bottom of the sheet.

Penetrations and Sealants

- 16.5 All cut-outs for penetrations must be made neatly using a hole saw. Cut-outs should be made approximately 12 mm diameter greater than the penetrations.

Jointing and Finishing

- 16.6 Jointing and finishing must be carried out in accordance with the Technical Literature.

Health and Safety

- 17.1 Dust resulting from the sanding of stopping and finishing compounds may be a respiratory irritant, and the use of a suitable respirator is recommended.

Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

- 18.1 Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings have been assessed for the following properties:
- dimensional properties; and,
 - flexural strength; and,
 - nail pull resistance; and,
 - edge and field hardness; and,
 - humidified deflection.

Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment of the durability of the systems was made by BRANZ technical experts and found to be satisfactory.
- 19.2 Site inspections were carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation of the systems, and to view completed installations.
- 19.3 The Technical Literature has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

- 20.1 The manufacture of Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings has not been examined by BRANZ, but the details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained and found to be satisfactory. BRANZ undertakes an ongoing review of product quality on an inwards goods basis.
- 20.2 Elephant Plasterboard [NZ] Ltd is responsible for the quality of the product supplied.
- 20.3 The quality of the application and finish on-site is the responsibility of the installation, stopping and finishing contractors.
- 20.4 Designers are responsible for the design of buildings.
- 20.5 Building owners are responsible for maintenance in accordance with the instructions of Elephant Plasterboard [NZ] Ltd.

Sources of Information

- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design actions.
- AS/NZS 2588:2018 Gypsum plasterboard.
- AS/NZS 2589:2017 Gypsum linings - Application and finishing.
- NASH Standard Part Two: 2019 Light steel-framed buildings.
- NZS 3603:1993 Timber structures standard.
- NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Elephant Plasterboard® General Wall and Ceiling Linings** are fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided they are used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Elephant Plasterboard (NZ) Ltd**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Elephant Plasterboard (NZ) Ltd:**
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
 - d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Elephant Plasterboard (NZ) Ltd**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Elephant Plasterboard (NZ) Ltd** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Claire Falck
Chief Executive
Date of Issue:
15 May 2025