



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 737 [2024]

PRIMAAqua™/ PRIMALiner™ WALL AND CEILING LININGS

Appraisal No. 737 [2024]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 737 [2019]



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products
for building and construction.



Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd

Web: www.primafibreceement.com

Marketed by:



Independent Building
Supplies

Web: www.ibs.co.nz



Hume Pine (NZ) Ltd

Web: www.humepine.co.nz



Tile Warehouse Limited

Web: www.tilewarehouse.co.nz



BRANZ

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Product

- 1.1 PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings are fibre cement sheets for use as internal and external ceiling linings, soffit linings and internal wall linings in dry or wet areas that are not subjected to direct sunlight, rain or snow.
- 1.2 PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings are suitable for use as a base for tiles, wallpaper, paint, and other interior finishes.

Scope

- 2.1 PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings have been appraised for use as interior wall and ceiling linings in timber and steel-framed buildings.
- 2.2 PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings have also been appraised as an external soffit lining for buildings situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Extra High.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the NZBC:

Clause B1 STRUCTURE: Performance B1.3.1, B1.3.2 and B1.3.4. PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings meet the requirements for loads arising from self-weight, wind and impact [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (h) and (j)]. See Paragraphs 11.1-11.5.

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (b) 15 years for soffit linings and B2.3.1 (c) 5 years for interior wall and ceiling linings. PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings meet these requirements. See Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings, when used as soffit linings, meet this requirement. See Paragraph 16.1.

Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E3.3.4, E3.3.5 and E3.3.6. PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings meet these requirements. See Paragraph 17.1.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. PRIMAAqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings meet this requirement.

Technical Specification

4.1 System components and accessories for PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings, which are supplied by Independent Building Supplies, Hume Pine (NZ) Ltd and Tile Warehouse Limited are:

PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Sheets

- PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets are manufactured by Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd from portland cement, top grade cellulose fibre, finely ground sand and water. The sheets are formed, cut to length and then cured by high-pressure autoclaving. They are produced in flat, smooth surfaced sheet material form, and are pink or grey in colour.
- PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets are manufactured to conform to the requirements of AS/NZS 2908.2. The sheets have square rebated edges to the two long edges for jointing and square edges at the top and bottom of the sheet. They are available in sizes and thicknesses as given in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: PRIMAaqua™ Sheet Size and Thickness

Length [mm]	Width [mm]	Thickness [mm]	
		6	9
1,800	1,200	✓	
2,400	900	✓	
	1,200	✓	✓
	1,350	✓	
2,700	1,200	✓	✓
3,000	900	✓	
	1,200	✓	✓
	1,350	✓	
3,600	900	✓	
	1,200	✓	
	1,350	✓	
4,200	1,200	✓	

Table 2: PRIMALiner™ Sheet Size and Thickness

Length [mm]	Width [mm]	Thickness [mm]			
		6	7.5	9	12
2,400	900	✓	✓	✓	✓
	1,200	✓	✓	✓	✓

4.2 Accessories used with PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings, which are supplied by the building contractor are:

- PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ fixings [soffit linings on timber frame] – 40 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails [for 6, 9 and 12 mm thick sheets in Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High] and 60 x 3.15 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails [for 6, 9 and 12 mm thick sheets in the Extra High Wind Zone]. *[Note: Hot-dip galvanising must comply with AS/NZS 4680.]*
- PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ fixings [interior wall and ceiling linings on timber frame] – 30 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails [for 6 and 7.5 mm thick sheets], and 40 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails [for 9 and 12 mm thick sheets]. *[Note: Hot-dip galvanising must comply with AS/NZS 4680.]*



- PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ fixings [soffit linings on steel frame] – 8 g x 20 mm [for 6 and 7.5 mm thick sheets] and 8 g x 30 mm [for 9 and 12 mm thick sheets] self-drilling AS 3566 Corrosion Class 3 or 4 screws in NZS 3604 defined corrosion zones, 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Grade 304 stainless steel screws in the sea spray zone.
- PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ fixings [interior wall and ceiling linings on steel frame] – 8 g x 20 mm [for 6 and 7.5 mm thick sheets] self-drilling self-embedding head screws and 8 g x 30 mm [for 9 and 12 mm thick sheets] self-drilling self-embedding head screws.

[Note: The screw type specified above is suitable for fixing PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ to steel frame with a 0.55 mm to 0.75 mm base metal thickness. For steel frame with 0.8 mm to 1.6 mm base metal thickness, use self-drilling embedding head Wing Tek screws.]

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of all materials supplied by Independent Building Supplies, Hume Pine (NZ) Ltd, Tile Warehouse Limited or the building contractor, whether on-site or off-site, is under the control of the building contractor. PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings must be stacked flat, off the ground and supported on a level platform. They must be kept dry at all times either by storing under cover or by providing waterproof covers to the stack. Care must be taken to avoid damage to edges, ends and surfaces. The sheets must always be carried on edge.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- PRIMALiner™ Technical Manual, V4, 1804.
 - PRIMAaqua™ IBS Design and Installation Guide, Oct 2021.
- 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 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings may be used as wall and ceiling linings in the following areas:
- **Wet areas** - wall areas enclosing a shower compartment or shower over bath. The sheets are designed to be used in these areas as substrates for wet area membranes and ceramic tiles, and other wet area finishes.
 - **Semi-wet or dry areas, or wall areas adjacent to sanitary fixtures such as baths, tubs and basins** - the sheets are designed to be used in these areas as substrates for ceramic tiles, paint, wallpaper or other finishes.
 - **External ceiling and soffits** - the sheets are designed to be used in these areas as a substrate for paint finishes.

Framing

Timber Framing

- 8.1 Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604, or buildings or parts of buildings outside the scope of NZS 3604 must be to a specific design in accordance with NZS 3603 and AS/NZS 1170. In all cases, studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Dwargs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 1,200 mm centres and additionally 25 mm above a preformed shower tray, sink, tub or other fixtures, and in any other areas to support baths, towel rails, soap holders and the like.
- 8.2 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings must not be joined off the framing. Timber framing where sheets are joined must be nominal 50 mm thickness [i.e. 42 mm minimum finished thickness]. In tiled areas, dwargs must be provided directly behind all horizontal sheet joints.



- 8.3 Wall framing around bath enclosures and shower compartments may be checked a maximum of 20 mm to accommodate the bath or shower tray flange. Alternatively, furrings may be fixed to the wall to ensure the face of the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets will finish in front of the upturn on the fixture.
- 8.4 Supporting framing for soffits and ceilings must be at maximum 600 mm centres for NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High, and at 400 mm centres for Extra High Wind Zones.
- 8.5 Timber framing must have a maximum moisture content of 16% at the time of the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheet application. *[Note: If PRIMAaqua™ or PRIMALiner™ sheets are fixed to framing with a moisture content of greater than 16% problems may occur at a later date due to excessive timber shrinkage.]*

Steel Framing

- 8.6 Steel framing must be to a specific design meeting the requirements of the NZBC.
- 8.7 The minimum framing specification is 'C' section studs and nogs of overall section size of 64 mm web and 38 mm flange. Steel thickness must be minimum 0.55 mm. In all cases, studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Dwargs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 1,200 mm centres and additionally 25 mm above a pre-formed shower tray, sink, tub or other fixtures, and in any other areas to support baths, towel rails, soap holders and the like. In tiled areas, dwargs must be provided directly behind all horizontal sheet joints. Furrings must be fixed to the wall framing around bath enclosures and shower compartments to accommodate the bath or shower tray flange to ensure the face of the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets will finish in front of the upturn on the fixture.
- 8.8 Supporting framing for soffits and ceilings must be at maximum 600 mm centres for NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High, and at 400 mm centres for Extra High Wind Zones.
- 8.9 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings must not be joined off of the framing. In tiled areas, dwargs must be provided behind all horizontal sheet joints.

PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Sheet Set Out

- 8.10 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets may be installed vertically or horizontally.

Control Joints

- 9.1 Control joints must be installed in walls to allow for structural movement. They must be positioned in both directions at 7.2 m maximum centres for non-tiled walls, and at 4.8 m maximum centres for tiled walls. Control joints must be constructed as set out in the Technical Literature.

Finishing

- 10.1 The sheets must be stopped and waterproofed if required. They may then be finished by tiling, painting, wall-papering or applying any other finishing suitable for use over fibre cement sheets.
- 10.2 Wet areas as defined by AS 3740 must be protected with a BRANZ appraised waterproof membrane system complying with AS/NZS 4858.
- 10.3 Tiling must be carried out in accordance with AS 3958.1, or the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling. A flexible adhesive complying with AS 2358 and a compatible flexible waterproof membrane must be used. All tiles must be fixed in accordance with the tile adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- 10.4 Waterproofing systems and wall finishes have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Structure

Impact Resistance

- 11.1 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings have adequate resistance to impact loads likely to be encountered in normal residential use.
- 11.2 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings 9 and 12 mm thick sheets are designed for use in applications where higher than normal residential impacts can be expected, such as may be encountered in non-residential buildings.

Wind Resistance

- 11.3 When used as an external ceiling/soffit lining on timber-framed buildings, PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS3604 up to, and including, Extra High.
- 11.4 When used as an external ceiling/soffit lining on steel-framed buildings, PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Very High.

Sheet Fixings (for External Ceilings and Soffits)

- 11.5 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets must be fixed to the soffit framing at maximum 150 mm centres along sheet edges and maximum 300 mm centres in the body of the sheet. The fixings must be positioned a minimum of 12 mm from all sheet edges, and a minimum of 50 mm from sheet corners. The fastener heads must finish proud of the sheet surface.

Durability

- 12.1 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings meet the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 [b] 15 years when used in accordance with this Appraisal as soffits and wall linings in 'wet areas', and the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 [c] 5 years when used in 'semi-wet' or dry areas.

Serviceable Life

- 12.2 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Lining installations are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 30 years, provided the finish system is maintained in accordance with this Appraisal to ensure the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets and fixings are continuously protected by a water-resistant finishing system and remain dry in service.

Maintenance

- 13.1 Regular maintenance is essential for PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Lining installations to continue to meet the NZBC durability performance provision and to maximise their serviceable life.
- 13.2 In wet areas, annual inspections must be made to ensure that all aspects of the finishing system remain in a waterproof condition. The sheets must remain dry at all times to ensure the sheet fasteners and framing remain durable. Any damaged areas or areas showing signs of deterioration which would allow water ingress, must be repaired immediately as for new work.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 14.1 Separation or protection must be provided to the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Lining from heat sources such as fireplaces, 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.

Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

Interior Surface Finishes

- 14.2 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets have not been tested for a material group number. NZBC Verification Method C/VM2 Appendix A Table A1 specifies that a fibre cement sheet ≥ 6.0 mm thick and coated with a waterborne or solvent borne paint coating ≤ 0.4 mm thick, that the substrate and coating achieve a Group Number of G1-S. Alternatively, the finish system proprietor may be able to provide the Material Group Number for the complete lining system.

- 14.2 Support and sealing of the substrate have not been considered and are outside of the scope of the Appraisal.

External Moisture

- 15.1 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings, when installed in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature, prevent the penetration of moisture that could cause undue dampness or damage to building elements.

Internal Moisture

- 16.1 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings can be installed and finished as wall linings to provide surfaces that are impervious and easily cleaned, and will prevent water from penetrating behind linings or to concealed spaces.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 17.1 Installation must always be carried out in accordance with the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant License Class.

System Installation

PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Sheet Installation

- 18.1 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets may be cut by scoring and snapping, hand guillotine, hand or power saw. Holes and cut-outs may be formed by drilling a number of holes around the perimeter of the opening required and tapping out the centre with a hammer, or by using a hole saw.
- 18.2 Site edge recessing of cut sheets may be carried out using a tool designed for that specific purpose. An angle grinder run down the sheet edge to produce a square taper may also be used, but will be less accurate. A dust mask must be worn when using an angle grinder. The recess depth must not exceed 1.5 mm, and should be approximately 30 mm wide.
- 18.3 Prior to fixing sheets, a check must be made to ensure all sheet joints will be supported by framing. The recommended method of installation for sheets is horizontal fixing, with end-joints on studs and staggered a minimum of 600 mm horizontally. Joints over door or window openings must be avoided. If vertical joints are located near the opening, they must be a minimum of 200 mm from opening studs, and must be formed on a stud. For horizontal installation, bottom sheets must be fitted first, and kept clear of the floor by a minimum of 6 mm.
- 18.4 In tiled areas, a silicone sealant-filled expansion gap of 6 mm must be allowed between sheets at all internal corners and around all plumbing penetrations.
- 18.5 When PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets are used in shower compartments using preformed shower trays, the sheets must overhang the shower tray upstand. Sheets must be sealed to the preformed shower tray upstand rebate with a 6 mm wide bead of silicone sealant. For straight sided preformed trays, the sheets and flashing must overlap inside the tray by approximately 25 mm, and a sealant bead must be placed behind the sheet to ensure no moisture can pass between the sheet and the shower tray upstand.
- 18.6 All sheet fasteners must be positioned a minimum of 12 mm from the sheet edge, and 50 mm from the sheet corner. Fasteners must be at maximum 200 mm centres in the body of the sheet and at all joints.
- 18.7 Fixing to timber framing of PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ soffits is carried out using 40 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails (for 6, 9 and 12 mm thick sheets). Fixing to timber framing of PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ interior wall and ceiling linings is carried out using 30 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails (for 6 and 7.5 mm thick sheets) and 40 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised flat head nails (for 9 and 12 mm thick sheets). Fixing to steel framing is carried out with 8 g x 20 mm (for 6 and 7.5 mm thick sheets) self-drilling self-embedding head screws and 8 g x 30 mm (for 9 and 12 mm thick sheets) self-drilling self-embedding head screws.

Finishing

- 18.8 Joints, corners and fastener head indentations must be stopped using two coats of bedding compound. For flat joints and internal comers, paper-reinforcing tape must be embedded in the first bedding coat. Joints in non-tiled areas may be further finished with a topping and finishing compound. Where sheets are to be a substrate for tiling, joints, fastener heads and corners must be stopped with bedding compound only, finishing compounds must not be used. Stopping compounds must be allowed to dry for at least 24 hours before sanding.
- 18.9 PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets may be tiled, painted, wallpapered or finished with other impervious materials such as polyvinylchloride [vinyl] sheet. Application of the selected finish must be carried out in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions.

Inspections

- 18.10 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings installations.

Health and Safety

- 19.1 Safe use and handling procedures for the components that make up PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings are provided in the manufacturer's Technical Literature.
- 19.2 Cutting of PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets must be carried out in well ventilated areas, and a dust mask and eye protection must be worn. When power tools are used for cutting, grinding or forming holes, safety measures as set out in the Technical Literature must be undertaken because of the amount of dust generated.

Basis of Appraisal

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

Tests

- 20.1 Wind suction tests were conducted by BRANZ to demonstrate the required soffit fixing and soffit lining pull-off strength for both steel and timber framing for Wind Zones of NZS 3604.

Other Investigations

- 21.1 A durability assessment has been provided by BRANZ technical experts.
- 21.2 The practicability of installation has been assessed by BRANZ.
- 21.3 The Technical Literature for PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

- 22.1 The manufacture of PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets has not been examined by BRANZ, but details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 22.2 The quality management system of the PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheet manufacturer, Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd, has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of ISO 9001.
- 22.3 Quality of installation on-site of components and accessories supplied by Independent Building Supplies, Hume Pine [NZ] Ltd, Tile Warehouse Limited and the building contractor is the responsibility of the installer.
- 22.4 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of framing systems and joinery, building wraps, flashing tapes, air seals, joinery head flashings, cavity battens and PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ sheets in accordance with the instructions of Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd.
- 22.5 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ Wall and Ceiling Linings in accordance with the instructions of Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd.



Sources of Information

- AS 3740:2010 Waterproofing of domestic areas.
- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design action – General principles.
- AS/NZS 2908.2:2000 Cellulose-cement products – Flat sheet.
- AS/NZS 3837:1998 Method of test for heat and smoke release rates for materials and products using an oxygen consumption calorimeter.
- AS/NZS 4680:2006 Hot-dip galvanised [zinc] coatings on fabricated ferrous articles.
- AS/NZS 4858:2004 Wet area membranes.
- NZS 3602:2003 Timber and wood-based products for use in building.
- 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.



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23 May 2024

PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™
WALL AND CEILING LININGS



In the opinion of BRANZ, **PRIMAaqua™/PRIMALiner™ 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 **Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd**, 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. **Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd**:
 - 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 quality of work;
 - 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 **Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd**.
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 **Saint-Gobain Prima Sdn Bhd** or any third party.

For BRANZ

Claire Falck

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

23 May 2024