



**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 743 [2019]

**THERMAKRAFT  
COVERTEK 405 FIRE  
RETARDANT SELF-  
SUPPORTING ROOF  
UNDERLAY**

**Appraisal No. 743 [2019]**

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ  
Appraisal No. 743 [2011]

Amended 9 July 2019



**BRANZ Appraisals**

Technical Assessments of  
products for building and  
construction.

**Thermakraft** THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

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## Product

- 1.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is a synthetic building underlay for use under roof claddings. The product consists of a micro-porous water resistant film laminated to two layers of non woven spun-bonded polyolefin.

## Scope

- 2.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay has been appraised for use as a self-supporting roof underlay on buildings within the following scope:
- the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 with regards to building height and floor plan area; and,
  - with masonry tile roof cladding; and,
  - with metal tile and profiled metal roof cladding; and,
  - 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, Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay, if used, designed, 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 B2 DURABILITY:** Performance B2.3.1 (a), not less than 50 years, B2.3.1 (b), 15 years and B2.3.2. Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2.

**Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E2.3.2. When used as part of the roof cladding system, Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay will contribute to meeting this requirement. See Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay meets this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.



## Technical Specification

- 4.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is a synthetic building underlay for use under roof claddings. The product consists of a micro-porous water resistant film laminated to two layers of non woven spun-bonded polyolefin. Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is coloured white on the top and bottom faces.
- 4.2 The product is supplied in rolls 1.250 m wide x 20 m and 40 m long and 2.55 m wide x 29.4 m long. The product is printed with the Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay logo repeated along the length of the roll. The rolls are wrapped in clear polythene film.

### Accessories

- 4.3 Accessories used with Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay which are supplied by the installer are:
  - Fixings - stainless steel staples, clouts, screws or proprietary underlay fixings, or other temporary fixings to attach the roof underlay to the framing.

## Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of the product, whether on or off site, is under the control of the installer. The rolls must be protected from damage and weather. They must be stored on end, under cover, in clean, dry conditions and must not be crushed.

## Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. 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

### Timber and Steel Framing

- 7.1 Timber and steel roof framing must be provided in accordance with the requirements of the NZBC and the roof cladding manufacturer.

### General

- 7.2 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is intended for use as an alternative to conventional kraft paper roof underlays, which are fixed over timber or steel framed roofs in order to limit the entry of wind into the roof cavity, and to assist in the moisture management of the roof cladding system.
- 7.3 The material also provides a degree of temporary weather protection during early construction. However, the product will not make the roof weathertight and some wetting of the underlying structure is always possible before the roof cladding is installed. Hence, the entire building must be closed-in and made weatherproof before moisture sensitive materials such as ceiling linings and insulation materials are installed.
- 7.4 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay must not be exposed to the weather or ultra violet light for a total of more than 7 days before being covered by the roof cladding.
- 7.5 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is suitable for use under roof claddings on buildings as a roof underlay as called up in NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23. Refer to Table 1 for the material properties of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay.



**Table 1: NZBC E2/AS1, Table 23 Requirements**

<b>NZBC E2/AS1, Table 23 Roof Underlay Properties</b>	<b>Property Performance Requirement</b>	<b>Results</b>
Absorbency	$\geq 150 \text{ g/m}^2$	Pass $> 150 \text{ g/m}^2$
Vapour Resistance	$\leq 7 \text{ MN s/g}$	Pass
Water Resistance	$\geq 100 \text{ mm}$	Pass
pH of Extract	$\geq 6$ and $\leq 9$	Pass
Shrinkage	$\leq 0.5\%$	Pass
Mechanical	Edge tear and tensile strength	Edge tear [Average]: Machine direction = 204 N Cross direction = 191 N Tensile strength [Average]: Machine direction = 3.94 kN/m Cross direction = 3.66 kN/m

- 7.6 Thermakraft Covertek 405 is suitable for use in residential and commercial roofs with roof pitches of minimum 3°. The product must not span unsupported more than 1200 mm in one direction. Spans greater than 1200 mm require additional support such as galvanised wire mesh or safety mesh.
- 7.7 At roof pitches of 10° or more, Thermakraft Covertek 405 may be run horizontally or vertically.
- 7.8 At roof pitches less than 10° (minimum 3°), Thermakraft Covertek 405 may be run horizontally, or vertically if installed over a roof underlay support.
- 7.9 Refer to Table 2 for a summary of the roof underlay support requirements.



**Table 2: Roof Underlay Support Requirements**

Roof Pitch	Span	Roof Underlay Support Required?	
		Horizontally Installed	Vertically Installed
10° or more	Greater than 1200 mm	Yes	Yes
	1200 mm or less	No	No
Less than 10° (Minimum 3°)	Greater than 1200 mm	Yes	Yes
	1200 mm or less	No	Yes

### Structure

8.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is suitable for use in Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High.

### Durability

9.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay meets code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (a), not less than 50 years for roof underlays used where the roof cladding durability requirement or expected serviceable life is not less than 50 years, e.g. behind masonry roof tile cladding, and code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (b), 15 years for roof underlays used where the roof cladding durability requirement is 15 years.

### Serviceable Life

9.2 Provided it is not exposed to the weather or ultra-violet light for a total of more than 7 days, and provided the roof cladding is maintained in accordance with the cladding manufacturer's instructions and the roof cladding remains weather resistant, Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay is expected to have a serviceable life equal to that of the roof cladding.

### Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

10.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay has an AS 1530 Part 2 Flammability Index of not greater than 5 and meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 Part 6, Table 6.2 for surface finish requirements for suspended flexible fabrics, and therefore it may be used with no restrictions in all buildings.

### Prevention of Fire Occurring

11.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay from heat sources such as fire places, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 – C/AS6 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

### External Moisture

12.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay must only be used under roof claddings that meet the requirements of the NZBC, such as those covered by NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, or roof claddings covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal.

12.2 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay, when installed in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal, will assist in the total cladding system's compliance with NZBC Clause E2.



## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirements

- 13.1 Installation must always be carried out in accordance with the Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.

### Underlay Installation

- 14.1 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay must be fixed at maximum 300 mm centres to all framing members with large-head clouts 20 mm long, 6-8 mm stainless steel staples, self drilling screws or proprietary underlay fixings. The membrane must be pulled taut over the framing before fixing.
- 14.2 Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay may be run horizontally or vertically. Refer to Table 2 for a summary of roof underlay support requirements. The roof underlay must extend from the ridge and overhang the fascia board by 20-25 mm.
- 14.3 Vertical laps must be no less than 150 mm wide. Horizontal laps must also be no less than 150 mm, with the direction of the lap ensuring that water is shed to the outer face of the underlay. End laps must be made over framing and be no less than 150 mm wide. To assist with achieving the correct lap dimension, Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay has a 150 mm lap line printed continuously along the top face.
- 14.4 When fixing the product in windy conditions, care must be taken due to the large sail area created.
- 14.5 Any damaged areas of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay, such as tears, holes or gaps around service penetrations, must be repaired. Damaged areas can be repaired by covering with new material lapping the damaged area by at least 150 mm and taping, or by taping small tears.

### Inspections

- 14.6 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay installations.

## Basis of Appraisal

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

### Tests

- 15.1 The following tests have been carried out on Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23: tensile strength, edge-tear resistance and resistance to water vapour transmission in accordance with AS/NZS 4200.1, shrinkage in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.3, resistance to water penetration in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.4, surface water absorbency in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.6 and pH of extract in accordance with AS/NZS 1301.421s. A range of these tests were completed before and after Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay was exposed to ultra-violet light.
- 15.2 The Flammability Index of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay has been evaluated in accordance with AS 1530.2.

## Other Investigations

- 16.1 A durability opinion has been given by BRANZ technical experts.
- 16.2 An evaluation of the expected performance of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay in direct contact with metal roof cladding has been completed by BRANZ.
- 16.3 The practicability of installation of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay has been assessed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 16.4 The Technical Literature, including installation instructions, has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.



## Quality

- 17.1 The manufacture of Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 17.2 The quality of supply to the market is the responsibility of Thermakraft Limited.
- 17.3 Building designers are responsible for the design of the building, and for the incorporation of the roof underlay into their design in accordance with the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.
- 17.4 Quality of installation is the responsibility of the installer in accordance with the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.

## Sources of Information

- AS 1530.2: 1993 Test for Flammability of Materials.
- AS/NZS 1301.421s: 1998 Determination of the pH value of aqueous extracts of paper, board and pulp - cold extraction method.
- AS/NZS 4200.1: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - materials.
- AS/NZS 4201.3: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Shrinkage.
- AS/NZS 4201.4: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Resistance to water penetration.
- AS/NZS 4201.6: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test - Surface water absorbency.
- NZS 3604: 2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods for New Zealand Building Code External Moisture Clause E2, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Third Edition July 2005 [Amendment 8, 30 November 2018].
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.

## Amendments

### Amendment No. 1, dated 9 July 2019

This Appraisal has been amended to update Table 1.



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20 March 2019

THERMAKRAFT COVERTEK  
405 FIRE RETARDANT SELF-  
SUPPORTING ROOF UNDERLAY



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Thermakraft Covertek 405 Fire Retardant Self-Supporting Roof Underlay** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Thermakraft Limited**, 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. **Thermakraft Limited**:
  - 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 **Thermakraft Limited**.
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 **Thermakraft Limited** or any third party.

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**For BRANZ**

**Chelydra Percy**

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

20 Month 2019