



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 828 [2020]

HERMPAC BOARD AND BATTEN CAVITY SYSTEM

Appraisal No. 828 [2020]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ
Appraisal No. 828 [2015]

Amended 18 July 2022



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of
products for building and
construction.



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Product

- 1.1 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System is a cavity-based vertical timber weatherboard external wall cladding system for residential and light commercial type buildings where domestic construction techniques are used.
- 1.2 The system consists of vertically fixed Hermpac weatherboards and battens, ventilated cavity battens, flashings and accessories and is finished with an exterior grade premium penetrating oil, stain or an exterior grade paint system to Hermpac specifications.
- 1.3 The system incorporates a primary and secondary means of weather resistance (first and second line of defence) against water penetration by separating the cladding from the external wall frame with an 18 mm minimum drained cavity.

Scope

- 2.1 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System incorporating oil or stain finished Western Red Cedar, Yellow Cedar and DuraLarch boards and battens and paint finished Yellow Cedar, DuraLarch and AshinDura boards and battens has been appraised as an external vertically fixed wall cladding system for buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1; and,
 - constructed with timber framing complying with the NZBC; and,
 - with a risk score of 0-20, calculated in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 2; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Extra High.
- 2.2 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System incorporating oil or stain finished boards and battens has also been appraised for weathertightness and structural wind loading when used as an external vertically fixed wall cladding system for buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 with regard to building height and floor plan area; and,
 - constructed with timber framing subject to specific engineering design; and,
 - situated in specific design wind pressures up to a maximum design differential ultimate limit state (ULS) of 2.5 kPa.

- 2.3 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System incorporating paint finished Western Red Cedar boards and battens has been appraised as an external vertically fixed wall cladding system for buildings within the following scope:
- the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1; and,
 - constructed with timber framing complying with the NZBC; and,
 - with a risk score of 0-20, calculated in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 2; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Medium when dwangs or structural Vertibat cavity battens are at maximum 480 mm centres, and NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including Very High when dwangs or structural Vertibat cavity battens are at maximum 400 mm centres.
- 2.4 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System must only be installed vertically on vertical, flat surfaces.
- 2.5 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System is appraised for use with aluminium window and door joinery that is installed with vertical jambs and horizontal heads and sills. *[Note: The Appraisal of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System relies on the joinery meeting the requirements of NZS 4211 for the relevant Wind Zone or wind pressure.]*

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System, 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. The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System meets the requirement for loads arising from self-weight, wind, impact and creep [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (h), (j) and (q)]. See Paragraphs 9.1–9.5.

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (b) 15 years and B2.3.2. The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System meets this requirement. See Paragraphs 14.1–14.5.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System meets this requirement.

Technical Specification

- 4.1 System components and accessories supplied by Hermpac are as follows:

Hermpac Boards and Battens

- Hermpac boards and battens are manufactured from Canadian Coastal Western Red Cedar and Yellow Cedar. Selected weatherboards are also manufactured from DuraLarch and AshinDura.
- The board and batten lap and rebate profiles are in accordance with NZS 3617 and BRANZ Bulletin 411.
- The boards are minimum 18 mm thick, and are available in a range of widths. They are supplied in random lengths of up to 6.1 m. Lengths outside of the general specification may be available by special contract.
- Western Red Cedar and Yellow Cedar finger-jointed weatherboards [CedarOne and CedarLine] are minimum 17.5 mm thick, and are available in a range of widths and face profiles. They are supplied in random lengths up to 6.1 m. Lengths outside of the general specification may be available by special contract.

- Western Red Cedar, Yellow Cedar [including CedarOne and CedarLine] and DuraLarch boards and battens are supplied unfinished for site finishing with oil or stain or paint prior to installation, or prefinished using the flood coat application method by Machinecoat NZ Limited. AshinDura boards and battens are treated to Hazard Class H3.1 and must be paint finished only. They are supplied primed, or prefinished by Machinecoat NZ Limited. Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the Hermpac board and batten weatherboard profiles covered by this Appraisal. *[Note: This Appraisal is only valid when boards with profiles as listed are supplied by Hermpac.]*

Accessories

- **Hermpac external corner mouldings.**
- **Hermpac internal corner mouldings.**
- **Hermpac cover boards** – 18 mm thick boards in widths of 69 and 90 mm.
- **Hermpac eaves moulding** – 40 x 27 mm, 26 x 15 mm and 30 x 18 mm bevelled profile.
[Note: All timber accessories are manufactured from Canadian Coastal Western Red Cedar, Yellow Cedar or DuraLarch.]
- **Hermpac aluminium cavity closure** – an extruded aluminium cavity closure available 20 and 40 mm wide. The cavity closure is supplied in 2.4 and 3 m lengths.
- **Vertibat cavity battens** – 45 x 20 mm [V1], 45 x 40 mm [V3], 45 x 45 mm [V5], 70 x 20 mm [V2], 70 x 40 mm [V4] or 70 x 45 mm [V6] radiata pine battens treated to Hazard Class H3.1 or H3.2. Vertibat cavity battens 45 x 18 mm [V8 and V9] are available in Western Red Cedar [refer BRANZ Appraisal No. 1189]. The top and bottom edges are bevelled with a slope. The front and back face of the batten is grooved with 20 mm wide x 5 mm deep rebates at 100 mm centres. The grooves are offset on each face.
- **Vertibat cavity batten fixings** [for 40 or 45 mm thick battens when fixed to studs only] – 12 g x 65 mm long Grade 304 stainless steel screws [for 40 mm battens] and 12 g x 75 mm long Grade 304 stainless steel screws [for 45 mm battens].
- **Hermpac oil or stain finished board and batten fixings** [for Vertibat cavity battens fixed to dwangs] – silicon bronze, or Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved Hermpac crown head, rose head or flat head nails. The nail shank must be minimum 3.25 mm diameter and the length must allow minimum 30 mm penetration of the wall frame.
- **Hermpac oil or stain finished board and batten fixings** [for 40 or 45 mm Vertibat cavity battens fixed to studs only] – silicon bronze, or Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved Hermpac crown head, rose head or flat head nails. The nail shank must be minimum 2.8 mm diameter and the length must allow minimum 30 mm penetration of the Vertibat cavity batten.
- **Hermpac paint finished board and batten fixings** [for Vertibat battens fixed to nogs/dwangs] – Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved jolt head nails. The nail shank must be minimum 3.25 mm diameter and the length must allow minimum 35 mm penetration of the wall frame.
- **Hermpac paint finished board and batten fixings** [for 40 or 45 mm Vertibat battens fixed to studs only] – Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved jolt head nails. The nail shank must be minimum 3.25 mm diameter and the length must allow minimum 35 mm penetration of the Vertibat cavity batten.
- **Hermpac weatherboard screw fixing** – Grade 316 stainless steel starcap screws to give a minimum 21 mm penetration of wall framing or structurally fixed cavity batten
- **Hermpac clinch nails** – 50 x 2.0 mm Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved nails with an off-set flat head.
- **Hermpac cover board fixings** – 50 x 2.8 mm silicon bronze, or Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved Hermpac crown head, rose head or flat head nails.

4.2 Accessories used with the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System which are supplied by the building contractor are:

- **Flexible wall underlay** – building paper complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Table 23, or breather-type membranes covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as wall underlays.

- **Flexible building underlay support** – polypropylene strap, 75 mm galvanised mesh, galvanised wire, or additional vertical battens for securing the flexible building underlay in place and preventing bulging of the bulk insulation into the drainage cavity. *[Note: Mesh and wire galvanising must comply with AS/NZS 4534.]*
- **Rigid wall underlay** – plywood or fibre cement sheet complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Table 23, or rigid sheathing covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as rigid air barrier systems.
- **Flexible sill and jamb flashing tape** – flexible flashing tapes complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Paragraph 4.3.11, or flexible flashing tapes covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use around window and door joinery openings.
- **Window and door trim cavity air seal** – air seals complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Paragraph 9.1.6, or self-expanding, moisture cure polyurethane foam air seals covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal suitable for use around window, door and other wall penetration openings.
- **Vertibat cavity batten fixings** [18 and 20 mm thick battens] – 40 x 2.5 mm flat head hot-dip galvanised nails or 50 x 2.87 mm hot-dip galvanised gun nails to temporarily fix the battens in place prior to installation of the cladding.
- **Vertibat cavity batten fixings** [40 mm thick battens when fixed to dwangs] – 60 x 2.87 mm flat head hot-dip galvanised nails or 60 x 2.87 mm hot-dip galvanised gun nails to temporarily fix the battens in place prior to installation of the cladding.
- **Cavity closure strip** – uPVC, aluminium or stainless steel, punched with 3-5 mm diameter holes or slots complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.3.
- **Flashings** – including external corner flashing, internal corner flashing, horizontal inter-storey joint flashing, balustrade and parapet saddle flashing, and balustrade and parapet cap flashings. Refer to NZS 3604, Section 4 and NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 20 and Table 21 for durability and material compatibility requirements.
- **Aluminium joinery head flashings** – as supplied by the joinery manufacturer or contractor.
- **Flexible sealant** – sealant complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, or sealant covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as a weather sealing sealant for exterior use.

Finishing System Specification – Oil or Stain Finish

- 4.3 Prior to the installation of oil or stain finished boards, battens and accessories, the back, face, ends and edges of the Hermpac boards and battens not supplied prefinished must be sealed with an exterior grade premium penetrating oil or stain. At least two coats of an exterior grade premium penetrating oil or stain must be used over the front face of the Hermpac boards and battens and all cut ends to protect them and give the desired finish colour to the exterior walls. The oil or stain must be recommended for use as a wall cladding oil or stain by the manufacturer and must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Proprietary oil or stain systems have not been assessed, and are therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal. *[Note: Hermpac recommends the use of oils and oil based stains manufactured by Wood-X and Resene.]*

Finishing System Specification – Paint Finish

- 4.4 Prior to the installation of paint finish boards and battens that are supplied unprimed, the back, face, ends and edges of the Hermpac boards and battens must be primed in accordance with the Technical Literature for the relevant timber type. All exposed edges, including top edges at sills and all bottom edges of Hermpac boards, battens and accessories not supplied prefinished, must be finished with at least two coats of an exterior grade paint complying with any of Parts 7, 8, 9 or 10 of AS 3730 to protect the weatherboards and give the desired finish colour to the exterior walls. The paint must be recommended for use as a wall cladding paint for the selected timber by the manufacturer and must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Proprietary paint systems have not been assessed, and are therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal. *[Note: For Hermpac boards and battens, Hermpac recommends using paint with a colour that has a Light Reflectance Value [LRV] of $\geq 40\%$ for Western Red Cedar, Yellow Cedar or AshinDura, or $\geq 45\%$ for DuraLarch.]*

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of all materials supplied by Hermpac, whether on-site or off-site, is under the control of the building contractor. Hermpac boards and battens must be stacked flat and true, clear of the ground by a minimum of 150 mm and supported on dry and clean timber bearers at maximum 900 mm centres. They must be kept dry at all times either by storing within an enclosed building or when stored externally an additional secondary cover to the plastic wrapping is required. Care must be taken to avoid damage to edges, ends and the board surfaces.
- 5.2 Accessories must be stored so they are kept clean, dry and undamaged. All accessories must be used within the maximum storage period recommended by the manufacturer.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- Board & Batten Weatherboard Cavity System Installation Specification, May 2022V2.
 - All drawings referenced in HC-BBAT-000 and HC BBAT-001, dated 01/11/2021.
- 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

Framing

Timber Treatment

- 7.1 Timber wall framing behind the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System must be treated as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.

Timber Framing

- 7.2 Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604 for buildings or parts of buildings within the scope limitations of NZS 3604. 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. Where specific design is required, the framing must be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604. In all cases studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Where Vertibat cavity battens are fixed to dwangs, the dwangs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 480 mm centres. Where interior linings compliant with NZS 3604 Section 12 are installed directly to the interior face of the wall framing and Vertibat cavity battens are structurally fixed to studs in accordance with Paragraph 17.3 of this Appraisal, dwangs are not required. Refer to NZS 3604 Section 8.5.4 for further information.
- 7.3 Additional framing may be required at soffits, internal and external corners, and window and door openings for the support and fixing of cavity battens and the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System.
- 7.4 Timber wall framing behind where boards are joined over a cavity batten must be nominal 50 mm thickness [i.e. 45 mm minimum finished thickness].
- 7.5 Timber wall framing must have a maximum moisture content of 24% at the time of the cladding application. *[Note: If the Hermpac boards and battens are fixed to framing with a moisture content of greater than 24%, problems may occur at a later date due to excessive timber framing shrinkage.]*

General

- 8.1 When the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System is used for specifically designed buildings up to 2.5 kPa design differential ULS wind pressure, only the weathertightness aspects of the cladding and maximum framing centres are within the scope of this Appraisal. All other aspects of the building need to be specifically designed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 8.2 Punchings in the cavity closure strip must provide a minimum ventilation opening area of 1,000 mm² per lineal metre of wall in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.3 b). *[Note: Vertibat cavity battens can be used to provide vermin proofing at the bottom of the cavity.]*
- 8.3 The ground clearance to finished floor levels as set out in NZS 3604 must be adhered to at all times. At ground level, paved surfaces, such as footpaths, must be kept clear of the bottom edge of the cladding system by a minimum of 100 mm, and unpaved surfaces by 175 mm in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 18.
- 8.4 At balcony, deck or roof/wall junctions, the bottom edge of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System must be kept above the top surface of any adjacent roof flashing by a minimum of 35 mm in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3.
- 8.5 All external walls of buildings must have barriers to airflow in the form of interior linings with all joints stopped for Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High, and rigid underlays for buildings in the Extra High Wind Zone and specifically designed buildings up to 2.5 kPa design differential ULS wind pressure. Unlined gables and walls must incorporate a rigid underlay or an air barrier which meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23. For attached garages, wall underlays must be selected in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3.4. Where rigid underlays are used, the board fixing lengths must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay.
- 8.6 Where the system abuts other cladding systems, designers must detail the junction to meet their own requirements and the performance requirements of the NZBC. Details not included within the Technical Literature have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Inter-storey Junctions

- 8.7 Inter-storey drained joints must be constructed in accordance with the Technical Literature. Inter-storey drained joints must be provided to limit continuous cavities to the lesser of 2-storeys or 7 m in height, in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.9.4 b).

Structure

Mass

- 9.1 The mass of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System is less than 30 kg/m². The system is therefore considered a lightweight cladding in terms of NZS 3604.

Impact Resistance

- 9.2 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System has good resistance to impact loads likely to be encountered in normal residential use. The likelihood of impact damage to the system when used in light commercial situations should be considered at the design stage, and appropriate protection such as the installation of bollards and barriers should be considered for vulnerable areas.

Wind Zones

- 9.3 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System incorporating oil or stain finished cedar or DuraLarch weatherboards is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High where buildings are designed to meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1, or up to 2.5 kPa design differential ULS wind pressure where buildings are specifically designed.

- 9.4 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System incorporating paint finished DuraLarch, AshinDura, and Yellow Cedar weatherboards is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 up to, and including, Extra High where buildings are designed to meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1.
- 9.5 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System incorporating paint finished Western Red Cedar weatherboards (fixed with jolt head nails) is suitable for use in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including Medium when dwangs or structural Vertibat cavity battens are at maximum 480 mm centres, and NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including Very High when dwangs or structural Vertibat cavity battens are at maximum 400 mm centres.

Durability

Serviceable Life

- 10.1 Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System installations are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 20 years provided the system is maintained in accordance with this Appraisal and the Hermpac board and batten weatherboards are continuously protected by a oil, stain or paint finish. *[Note: For oil or stain finished boards and battens, this opinion only covers serviceability with regards to structural and weathertightness performance. It does not cover appearance, which may deteriorate significantly, especially when proper and regular maintenance is not carried out.]*
- 10.2 Microclimatic conditions, including geothermal hot spots, industrial contamination and mild corrosive atmospheres, and contamination from agricultural chemicals or fertilisers can convert mildly corrosive atmosphere into aggressive environments for fasteners. The fixing of boards and battens in areas subject to microclimatic conditions requires specific design in accordance with NZS 3604 Paragraph 4.2.4, and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Maintenance

- 11.1 Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the performance requirements of the NZBC are continually met and to ensure the maximum serviceability of the system.
- 11.2 Regular cleaning (at least annually) of the oil, stain or paint coating is required to remove grime, dirt and organic growth, and to maximise the life and appearance of the coating. Grime may be removed by brushing with a soft brush, warm water and detergent.
- 11.3 Recoating of the oil or stain finish will be necessary throughout the life of the cladding system. Recoating must be carried out on average every 2-3 years or in accordance with the oil or stain manufacturer's instructions. Recoating will be required more frequently on exposed northern and western facing walls. When recoating, care must be taken to ensure bottom edges and board and batten edges are well covered and penetrated with the oil or stain.
- 11.4 Recoating of the paint finish will be necessary throughout the life of the cladding system. Repainting must be carried out on average every 7-10 years or in accordance with the paint manufacturer's instructions. When repainting, care must be taken to ensure bottom edges and shiplap edges are well covered with the paint.
- 11.5 Annual inspections must be made to ensure that all aspects of the cladding system, including flashings and joints remain in a weatherproof condition. Any damaged areas or areas showing signs of deterioration, which would allow water ingress must be repaired immediately. Sealant, oil or stain coatings, flashings, boards or the battens must be repaired in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.6 Minimum ground clearances as set out in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature must be maintained at all times during the life of the system. *[Note: Failure to adhere to the minimum ground clearances given in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature will adversely affect the long term durability of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System.]*

Control of External Fire Spread

Vertical Fire Spread

- 12.1 This Appraisal only covers buildings 10 m or less in height. NZBC Functional Requirement C3.2 identifies that external vertical fire spread to upper floors only needs be considered for buildings with a building height greater than 10 m. Control of external vertical fire spread is therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Horizontal Fire Spread

- 12.2 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System has not been assessed for a peak heat release or total heat released rating and therefore cannot be used within 1 m of the relevant boundary or Risk Group SI Buildings.
- 12.3 Refer to NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM2 for fire resistance rating and control of external fire spread requirements for external walls.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 13.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1, and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

External Moisture

- 14.1 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System, when installed in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature, will prevent the penetration of moisture that could cause undue dampness or damage to building elements.
- 14.2 The cavity must be sealed off from the roof and sub-floor space to meet code compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.5.
- 14.3 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System allows excess moisture present at the completion of construction to be dissipated without permanent damage to building elements to meet code compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.6.
- 14.4 The details given in the Technical Literature for weather sealing are based on the principle of having a first and second line of defence against moisture entry for all joints, penetrations and junctions. The ingress of moisture must be excluded by detailing joinery and wall interfaces as shown in the Technical Literature. Weathertightness details that are developed by the designer are outside the scope of this Appraisal, and are the responsibility of the designer for compliance with the NZBC.
- 14.5 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System, where there is a designed cavity drainage path for moisture that penetrates the cladding, does not reduce the requirements for junctions, penetrations, etc. to remain weather resistant.

Internal Moisture

- 15.1 Buildings must be constructed with an adequate combination of thermal resistance and ventilation, and space temperature must be provided to all habitable spaces, bathrooms, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate.

Water Vapour

- 15.2 The Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System is not a barrier to the passage of water vapour, and when installed in accordance with this Appraisal will not create a risk of moisture damage resulting from condensation.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 16.1 All design and building work must be carried out in accordance with the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System Technical Literature and this Appraisal by competent and experienced tradespersons conversant with the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System. Where the work involves Restricted Building Work [RBW] this must be completed by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner [LBP] with the relevant License class.

Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System Installation

Wall Underlay and Flexible Sill and Jamb Tape Installation

- 17.1 The selected wall underlay and flexible sill and jamb tape system must be installed by the building contractor in accordance with the underlay and tape manufacturer's instructions prior to the installation of the cavity battens and the rest of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System. Flexible wall underlay must be installed horizontally and be continuous around corners. Underlay must be lapped 75 mm minimum at horizontal joints and 150 mm minimum over studs at vertical joints. Generic rigid wall underlay must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and be overlaid with a flexible wall underlay. Proprietary systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Particular attention must be paid to the installation of the building underlay and sill and jamb tapes around window and door openings to ensure a continuous seal is achieved and all exposed wall framing in the opening is protected.

Vertibat Cavity Batten Installation [to Dwangs/Nogs]

- 17.2 Vertibat cavity battens must be installed horizontally over the building underlay to the wall framing [dwangs] at maximum 480 mm centres. [Refer to Paragraph 9.5 for the maximum dwang spacings for paint finished Western Red Cedar boards and battens fixed with jolt head nails.] The battens must be installed with the top edge sloping away from the wall underlay towards the back of the boards. The cavity battens must be fixed in place with 40 x 2.5 mm flat head hot-dip galvanised nails or 50 x 2.87 mm hot-dip galvanised gun nails [for 18 and 20 mm thick battens], or 60 x 2.8 mm flat head hot-dip galvanised nails or 60 x 2.87 mm hot-dip galvanised gun nails [for 40 mm thick battens] to temporarily fix the battens in place prior to installation of the cladding. *[Note: Stainless steel finishing brads or nails can also be used.]*

Vertibat Cavity Batten Installation [to Studs]

- 17.3 40 or 45 mm thick Vertibat cavity battens must be installed horizontally over the building underlay to the wall framing [studs] at maximum 480 mm centres. [Refer to Paragraph 9.5 for the maximum dwang/nog spacings for paint finished Western Red Cedar boards and battens fixed with jolt head nails.] The battens must be installed with the top edge sloping away from the wall underlay towards the back of the boards. The cavity battens must be fixed in place with one 12 g x 65 mm long Grade 304 stainless steel screw at each stud crossing [maximum 600 mm centres] for 40 mm thick battens or one 12 g x 75 mm long grade 304 stainless steel screw at each stud crossing for 45 mm thick battens.

Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System Installation

- 17.4 Hermpac boards and battens may be cut on-site by power or hand saw. Holes and cut-outs may be formed by using a hole saw.
- 17.5 Hermpac boards and battens must be dry prior to installation.
- 17.6 Before oil or stain finished Hermpac board and battens are installed, the back, face and edges must be sealed with an exterior grade oil or oil-based penetrating stain. During installation, cut ends must be sealed with an exterior grade oil or oil-based penetrating stain.
- 17.7 During the installation of paint finished Hermpac boards and battens, cut ends must be sealed with two coats of an exterior grade alkyd oil or acrylic based timber primer.

- 17.8 Before the boards are installed, the corner detail must be prepared to suit the selected option, e.g. external box corner. The necessary flashings must be installed before commencing board fixing and the cavity closure must be installed continuously around the bottom of the cavity.
- 17.9 Hermpac boards must be installed starting at the corner of the wall section being clad. The first board must be installed plumb to assist with the installation of subsequent boards. The boards must overhang the bottom plate by a minimum of 50 mm.
- 17.10 Immediately prior to installing the boards over the internal and external corner flashings, a continuous bead of sealant must be applied to the face of the flashing along the fixing line.
- 17.11 Hermpac boards and battens must be installed with an expansion gap of approximately 7 mm between boards. Weathergrooves to boards and battens must be aligned. Hermpac recommends that the edges of each board is restrained using the Hermpac clinch nail at every cavity batten.
- 17.12 Fix boards and battens in full lengths where possible. Where joints are unavoidable, scarf the board and batten over a cavity batten and fix with one fixing through the overlapping board. Scarf joints must be made on a 30° downwards angle away from the framing.

Nail-Fixing Weatherboards

- 17.13 Hermpac Board and Batten weatherboards must be pre-drilled with a hole diameter slightly smaller than that of the nail. Each weatherboard is to be fixed with one nail per board at every cavity batten.
- 17.14 For nail-fixing of the weatherboards, silicon bronze or Grade 316 stainless steel annular grooved Hermpac crown head, rose head, flat head or jolt head nails must be used. The nail length must allow minimum 30 mm penetration (35 mm for jolt head) of the timber framing or structurally fixed cavity batten. Note that jolt head nails are for paint finish only.
- 17.15 Fixing must be located in the centre of each board and batten and a minimum of 32 mm from the end of the board/batten. Crown head, rose head or flat head nails must finish flush onto the surface of the weatherboard, not into or below the surface. Nails must be installed with a slight upslope to reduce capillary draw. Jolt head nails must be punched a maximum of 2 mm beneath the surface of the board.

Screw-Fixing Weatherboards

- 17.16 Hermpac Board and Batten weatherboards must be pre-drilled with a hole diameter slightly smaller than that of the screw. Each weatherboard is to be fixed with one screw per board at every cavity batten.
- 17.17 For screw-fixing of the weatherboards, Grade 316 stainless steel Hermpac starcap screws must be used. The screw length must allow minimum 21 mm embedment of the framing timber or structurally fixed cavity batten.
- 17.18 Fixing must be located a minimum of 32 mm from the end of the board. The base of the screw head must finish flush onto the surface of the weatherboard, not into or below the surface.

Aluminium Joinery Installation

- 17.19 Aluminium joinery and associated head flashings must be installed by the building contractor in accordance with the Technical Literature. A 7.5–10 mm nominal gap must be left between the joinery reveal and the wall framing so a PEF rod and air seal can be installed after the joinery has been secured in place.

Finishing

- 17.20 The coating manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times for application of the oil or stain finish.
- 17.21 To prevent swelling of the boards and battens around punched fixings, the fixing must be filled immediately, or alternatively the weatherboard and the head of the fixing must be primed with a premium alkyl timber primer.

- 17.22 The paint coating manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times for the application of the paint finish. Hermpac boards and battens must be painted as soon as practicable following fixing and must be clean and dry before commencing. If the Hermpac boards and battens are exposed to the weather for more than 2 months they must be reprimed with one coat of primer prior to the application of the finishing coats. Allow the recommended drying time between coats and follow the temperature limitations for application.

Inspection

- 17.23 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System installations.

Health and Safety

- 18.1 Cutting of Hermpac board and batten weatherboards must be carried out in well ventilated areas and dust masks, eye and hearing protection must be worn.
- 18.2 Safe use and handling procedures for the components that make up the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System are provided in the relevant manufacturer's Technical Literature.

Basis of Appraisal

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

Tests

- 19.1 The following testing has been completed by BRANZ:
- BRANZ expert opinion on NZBC E2 code compliance for Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System was based on testing and evaluation of all details within the scope and as stated within this Appraisal. The VertiLine Shiplap Cedar Weatherboard Cavity System was tested to NZBC Verification Method E2/VM1. The testing assessed the performance of the Vertibat cavity battens, foundation detail, window head, jamb and sill details, meter box head, jamb and sill details, vertical joints, internal and external corners and balustrade to wall junction. The results of the test were used in the evaluation of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System. In addition to the NZBC Verification Method E2/VM1 weathertightness test, the weathertightness performance limits of various Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System board joints were determined. The details contained within the Technical Literature have been reviewed, and an opinion has been given by BRANZ technical experts that the system will meet the performance levels of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 for cavity-based weatherboard claddings.
 - Fastener pull through testing. BRANZ determined design wind suction pressures, and by comparing these pressures with AS/NZS 1170 pressure coefficients, the fixing requirements were determined for timber framed walls.

Other Investigations

- 20.1 Structural and durability opinions have been provided by BRANZ technical experts.
- 20.2 The performance of cedar weatherboard wall cladding products in New Zealand has been considered, including the structural and durability performance, and non-hazardous nature.
- 20.3 Site inspections have been carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation.
- 20.4 The Technical Literature for the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

- 21.1 The manufacture of Hermpac board and batten weatherboards 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.
- 21.2 The quality of materials, components and accessories supplied by Hermpac is the responsibility of Hermpac.
- 21.3 Quality of installation on-site of components and accessories supplied by Hermpac and the building contractor is the responsibility of the installer.
- 21.4 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of framing systems and joinery, building underlays, flashing tapes, air seals, cavity battens and the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System in accordance with the instructions of Hermpac.
- 21.5 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the Hermpac Board and Batten Cavity System in accordance with the instructions of Hermpac.

Sources of Information

- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design actions.
- AS/NZS 4534:2006 Zinc and zinc/aluminium-alloy coatings on steel wire.
- BRANZ Bulletin Number 411, April 2001, Recommended Timber Cladding Profiles.
- NZS 3602:2003 Timber and wood-based products for use in building.
- NZS 3603:1993 Timber structures standard.
- NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- NZS 3617:1979 Specification for profiles of weatherboards, fascia boards and flooring.
- NZS 4211:2008 Specification for performance of windows.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.

Amendments

Amendment No. 1, dated 18 July 2022

This Appraisal has been amended to remove reference to Cavibat cavity battens, add Yellow Cedar back into the Appraisal, add CedarOne and CedarLine, add the option of screw-fixing of the weatherboards and adjust the minimum thickness of the weatherboards.



In the opinion of BRANZ, the **Hermipac Board and Batten Cavity System** 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 **Herman Pacific 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. **Herman Pacific 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 **Herman Pacific 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 **Herman Pacific Limited** or any third party.

For BRANZ



Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

27 May 2020