



## BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 848 [2019]

## INNOVA™ STRATUM™ CONTOUR CAVITY CLADDING SYSTEM

Appraisal No. 848 [2019]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ  
Appraisal No. 848 [2019]

Amended 31 October 2024



### BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of  
products for building and  
construction.

**etex** inspiring ways  
of living

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## Product

- 1.1 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System is a cavity-based, external wall cladding system. It is designed to be used as an external wall cladding system for residential and light commercial type buildings where domestic construction techniques are used.
- 1.2 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System consists of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour fibre cement planks fixed over structural timber battens to form a cavity. The fibre cement planks are finished with an acrylic paint system.

## Scope

- 2.1 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System has been appraised as an external 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System has also been appraised for weathertightness and structural wind loading when used as an external 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 complying with the NZBC; and,
  - situated in specific design wind pressures up to a maximum design differential ultimate limit state (ULS) of 2.5 kPa.
- 2.3 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System must only be installed horizontally on vertical surfaces.
- 2.4 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System has been 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System, 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. The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System meets the requirements for loads arising from self-weight, earthquake, wind and impact [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (f), (h) and (j)]. See Paragraphs 9.1-9.4.

**Clause B2 DURABILITY:** Performance B2.3.1 (b) 15 years and B2.3.2. The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 10.1-10.4.

**Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E2.3.2. The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System meets this requirement. See Paragraphs 14.1-14.5.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System meets this requirement.

## Technical Specification

4.1 System components and accessories for the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd are:

### Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Planks

- Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks are 10 mm thick profiled fibre cement planks, manufactured from Innova™ standard fibre cement formulation. The planks are formed, cut to length, and then cured by high pressure autoclaving. The planks are profiled with an interlocking lap joint on the top and bottom edges. The plank is coated on the front face and four edges with a sealer and a primer. Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks are available in a width of 170 mm and are 4,200 mm long. The planks are manufactured to conform to the requirements of AS/NZS 2908.2.

### Accessories

4.2 Accessories used with Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System, which are supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd are:

- **Innova™ Stratum™ Contour cavity vent strip** - 33 mm wide PVC profile punched with 3-5 mm slots complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.3.
- **External and internal corners** - aluminium external box corner and 90° internal 'W' corner. The corners are available in 3,000 mm lengths.
- **'J' flashing** - aluminium 'J' flashing, available in 2,400 mm lengths.
- **Innova™ Edge Sealer** - acrylic sealer supplied in a 400 g can, to seal cut edges of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks prior to installation.

4.3 System components and accessories for the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System, which are supplied by the building contractor are:

- **Structural cavity battens** - nominal 50 mm wide by 25 mm thick (minimum finished size of 45 mm wide by 18 mm thick) SG8 framing grade pinus radiata, treated to Hazard Class H3.1.
- **Flexible wall underlay** - building paper complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23, or a breather-type membrane covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as a wall underlay.
- **Flexible wall underlay support** - polypropylene strap at 300 mm centres fixed horizontally and drawn taut for securing the building underlay in place and preventing bulging of the bulk insulation into the drainage cavity where cavity battens are installed at greater than 450 mm centres. [Note: Additional vertical battens may also be installed to provide support.]
- **Rigid wall underlays** - minimum 7 mm thick H3 treated plywood or 6 mm thick fibre cement complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23, or a rigid air barrier system covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal such as Innova™ Durabarrier™ Rigid Sheathing/Air Barrier, which is covered by BRANZ Appraisal No. 721.



- **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 and PEF rod 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 for use around window, door and other wall penetration openings.
- **Adhesive sealant** - Bostik Seal N' Flex Facade, for butt joints between Innova™ Stratum™ Contour plank ends.
- **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.
- **Aluminium joinery head flashing** - as supplied by the joinery manufacturer or the contractor.
- **Flashings** - balustrade and parapet cap flashings, and inter-storey joint flashings. Refer to NZS 3604, Section 4, and NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 20 for durability requirements.
- **Cavity batten fixings** - 65 x 2.8 mm Paslode RounDrive®, ring shank galvanised nails.

#### **Plank fixing**

- **Plank fixings** - 40 x 2.8 mm annular grooved stainless steel or hot-dip galvanised flat head nails. *[Note: Stainless steel must be Grade 304 or 316.]*
- **Starter plank fixing** - 50 x 2.8 mm annular grooved stainless steel or hot-dip galvanised flat head nails. *[Note: Stainless steel must be Grade 304 or 316.]*

#### **Paint System Specification**

- 4.4 Paint systems are not supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd and have not been assessed by BRANZ and are therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 4.5 All exposed faces and edges of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be finished with at least two coats of an exterior grade latex acrylic paint system complying with any of Parts 7, 8, 9 or 10 of AS 3730.

## **Handling and Storage**

- 5.1 Handling and storage of all materials supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd or the building contractor, whether on-site or off-site, is under the control of the building contractor. Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks 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 and surfaces. The planks must always be carried on edge.
- 5.2 Cavity battens and other 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:
- Stratum™, Stratum™ Duo, Stratum™ Trio – Horizontal and Vertical Installation Stratum™ Contour, dated August 2024.
  - Stratum Architectural Drawings STC-01 to STC-30, all dated February 2014.
- 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding 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. Dwangs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 800 mm centres.
- 7.3 Timber framing must have a maximum moisture content of 20% at the time of the application of the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System. *[Note: If the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System is fixed to framing with a moisture content of greater than 20%, problems may occur at a later date due to excessive timber shrinkage.]*

#### Cavity Battens

- 7.4 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System incorporates vertical cavity battens which form the nominal 20 mm cavity behind the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks.

#### Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Plank Set Out

- 7.5 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour plank end joints may be made off-stud provided the end joints are staggered. At the base of the wall, the planks must hang 50 mm below the supporting framing.
- 7.6 Additional framing may be required at soffits, internal and external corners and window and door openings for the support and fixing of plank ends.

### General

- 8.1 When the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System is used for specifically designed buildings up to 2.5 kPa ULS wind pressure, only the weathertightness aspects of the cladding and Innova™ Stratum™ Contour plank fixing 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 vent strip must provide a minimum ventilation opening area of at least 1,000 mm<sup>2</sup> per lineal metre of wall in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.3 b).
- 8.3 At ground level, the bottom edge of the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be kept clear of paved surfaces, such as footpaths, by a minimum of 100 mm and unpaved surfaces by 175 mm in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 18. The ground clearances to finished floor levels as set out in NZS 3604 must be adhered to.
- 8.4 At balcony, deck or low pitched roof/wall junctions, the bottom edge of the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be kept clear of any adjacent surface, or above the top surface of any adjacent roof flashing by a minimum of 35 mm in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3.6.
- 8.5 All external walls of buildings must have barriers to airflow in the form of flexible wall underlays and interior linings with all joints stopped for Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High, and rigid wall 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 sheathing or an air barrier [e.g. Innova™ Durabarrier™ Rigid Sheathing/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 cavity batten fixing lengths must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay.



- 8.6 Where penetrations through the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System are wider than the cavity batten spacing, allowance must be made for airflow between adjacent cavities. A minimum 10 mm gap must be left between the bottom of the vertical cavity batten and the flashing to the opening.
- 8.7 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 in the Technical Literature have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

#### **Inter-storey Junctions**

- 8.8 Inter-storey junctions must be constructed in accordance with the Technical Literature. Inter-storey joints must be provided to limit continuous cavities to the lesser of two-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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks when installed on the wall is 20.6 kg/m<sup>2</sup> at equilibrium moisture content [EMC]. The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System is therefore considered a light wall cladding in terms of NZS 3604.

#### **Impact Resistance**

- 9.2 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System has good resistance to impacts 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System 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.

#### **Plank Fixing**

- 9.4 The planks must be mechanically fixed with 40 x 2.8 mm flat head nails [refer to Paragraph 17.9]. The planks are fastened at each stud into the cavity batten with a concealed nail in the lap joint, positioned 20 mm from the top of the board. The base plank is also fixed with a 50 x 2.8 mm flat head nail positioned 75 mm up from the bottom of the board.

### **Durability**

- 10.1 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System meets the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 [b] 15 years for the Innova™ Stratum™ planks and flashings.

#### **Serviceable Life**

- 10.2 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System installations are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 30 years provided the paint coating to the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks is maintained in accordance with this Appraisal, and the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks and fixings are continuously protected by a weathertight coating and remain dry in service. Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be painted within three months of installation.
- 10.3 Coastal locations can be very corrosive to fasteners, especially locations within distances of up to 500 m from the sea including harbours, or 100 m from tidal estuaries and sheltered inlets, and otherwise as shown in NZS 3604, Figure 4.2. These coastal locations are defined in NZS 3604 as Zone D. To achieve an extended serviceable life in Zone D, structural cavity battens and Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be fixed with stainless steel or protected hot-dip galvanised steel fasteners. Fasteners outside Zone D may be hot-dip galvanised steel.

- 10.4 Microclimatic conditions, including geothermal hot spots, industrial contamination and corrosive atmospheres, and contamination from agricultural chemicals or fertilisers can convert mildly corrosive atmosphere into aggressive environments for fasteners. The fixing of structural battens and Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks 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 paint coating is recommended to remove grime, dirt and organic growth, 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 Paint systems must be recoated at approximately 5-10 year intervals in accordance with the paint manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.4 Annual inspections must be made to ensure that all aspects of the cladding system, including the paint coating system, flashings and any sealed joints remain in a weatherproof condition. The planks must be checked to ensure the fixings are sound. Any damaged areas or areas showing signs of deterioration which would allow water ingress must be repaired immediately. Sealant and paint coatings must be repaired in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.5 Minimum ground clearances as set out in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature must be maintained at all times during the life of the cladding. *[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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System.]*

### Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 12.1 Separation or protection must be provided to the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System 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.

### Fire Affecting Areas Beyond the Fire Source

- 13.1 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.

#### Vertical Fire Spread

- 13.2 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

- 13.3 Where the external wall is not protected by a sprinkler system or separated from the relevant boundary as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1 or NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2, the cladding system will need to be installed over a fire resistance rated (FRR) external wall with the required FRR.

#### External Cladding Systems

- 13.4 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks achieves a Type A classification suitable for use on external walls in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1, Table 5.3.1.1 and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2, Section 5.8.





### External Moisture

- 14.1 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System, when installed and maintained 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 subfloor spaces to meet compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.5.
- 14.3 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System allows excess moisture present at the completion of construction to be dissipated without permanent damage to building elements to meet compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.6.
- 14.4 The details given in the Technical Literature for weather sealing are based on the principles 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System, where there is a designed cavity drainage path for moisture that penetrates the cladding, does not reduce the requirement for joints, 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, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate.

### Water Vapour

- 15.2 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding 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 Installation of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks and accessories supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd and the building contractor must always be carried out in accordance with the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.

### System Installation

#### Building Underlay and Flexible Sill and Jamb Tape Installation

- 17.1 The selected building 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 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System. Flexible building 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 sheathing materials must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and be overlaid with a flexible wall underlay. Proprietary systems (e.g. Innova™ Durabarrier™ Rigid Sheathing/Air Barrier) 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.
- 17.2 Where studs are at greater than 450 mm centres and a flexible wall underlay is being used, a building underlay support must be installed over the underlay at maximum 300 mm centres horizontally.

### **Cavity Battens**

- 17.3 Structural cavity battens must be installed vertically over the building underlay to the wall studs at maximum 600 mm centres where the studs are at 600 mm centres, or at 400 mm centres when studs are at 400 mm centres. The battens must be fixed in place with 65 x 2.8 mm Paslode RounDrive®, ring shank galvanised nails, at maximum 300 mm centres alternately offset from the centre line by 12 mm. Where a rigid underlay is used, the length of the nail must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay.

### **Aluminium Joinery Installation**

- 17.4 Aluminium joinery and associated head flashings must be installed by the building contractor in accordance with the Technical Literature. A nominal 10 mm 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.

### **Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Plank Installation**

- 17.5 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks may be cut using either hand or power tools. 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.
- 17.6 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be dry prior to installation. Cut edges must be sealed with Innova™ Edge Sealer, prior to plank installation.

### **Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Plank Fixing**

- 17.7 Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be installed starting at the bottom of the wall. A cant strip (H3.1 treated timber or fibre cement) must be fixed behind the bottom course of planks to ensure the planks are set at the correct angle. The cant strip must be continuous around the perimeter of the building. The bottom course of planks must overhang the bottom plate by a minimum of 50 mm.
- 17.8 The first course of planks must be full length, i.e. 4,200 mm and commence from an external corner. Jointing of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks can be made off the stud using a butt joint. Off-stud joints may be located centrally between the studs, but must be no closer than 100 mm to the edge of a stud. A bead of Bostik Seal N' Flex Facade must be applied to the end of the plank before the corresponding plank is fixed. Subsequent courses of planks must be installed so that the vertical plank joints are staggered by 600 mm minimum from joints in the previous course.
- 17.9 The bottom course of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be fixed to the cavity battens with 50 x 2.8 mm flat head nails positioned 75 mm up from the bottom of the board, and a 40 x 2.8 mm flat head nail in the lap. Pre-drilling of the plank for 50 x 2.8 mm nails is recommended. Each subsequent board is fixed with a 40 x 2.8 mm flat head nail in the lap. The nails must be positioned a minimum of 10 mm from all plank ends and may need to be pre-drilled.

### **Finishing**

- 17.10 The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be finished with a paint coating system that will protect it from moisture. A latex exterior paint system complying with any of Parts 7, 8, 9 or 10 of AS 3730 is suitable.
- 17.11 The paint coating manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times for application of the paint finish. Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks must be dry before commencing painting.

### **Inspection**

- 17.12 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System installations.



## Health and Safety

- 18.1 Safe use and handling procedures for the components that make up the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System are provided in the manufacturer's Technical Literature.
- 18.2 Cutting of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks 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

- 19.1 Wind face load testing for the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System was completed by BRANZ. BRANZ determined design wind suction pressures, and by comparing these with the NZS 3604 design wind speeds and AS/NZS 1170 pressure coefficients, the fixing requirements were determined for timber-framed walls.
- 19.2 BRANZ expert opinion on NZBC Clause E2 code compliance for the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System was based on testing and evaluation of all details within the scope and as stated within this Appraisal. The Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System was tested to the version of NZBC Verification Method E2/VM1 contained within the NZBC Clause E2, Amendment 5. The testing assessed the performance of the foundation detail, window head, jamb and sill details, meter box head, jamb and sill details, vertical and horizontal joints, internal and external corners. In addition to the weathertightness test, 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 drained cavity claddings.
- 19.3 Innova™ Nuline™ Plus weatherboard has been tested in accordance with AS/NZS 3837 and achieved a Type A classification. Testing was carried out as per NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS1, Appendix E, Section E.5.1 and NZBC Acceptable Solution C/AS2, Appendix C, Section C7.1. The results were used to provide an assessment of the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System.

### Other Investigations

- 20.1 Structural, durability and fire opinions have been given by BRANZ technical experts.
- 20.2 Site inspections have been carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation and to examine completed installations.
- 20.3 The Technical Literature for the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

### Quality

- 21.1 The manufacture of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks 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. BRANZ has taken note of the CodeMark Certification across a range of Etex Australia Pty Ltd fibre cement products.
- 21.2 The quality of materials, components and accessories supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd is the responsibility of Etex Australia Pty Ltd. The quality control system of the Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks manufacturer has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of ISO 9001 by SAI Global.
- 21.3 Quality of installation on-site of components and accessories supplied by Etex Australia Pty Ltd 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, wall underlays, flashing tapes, air seals, joinery head flashings, cavity battens and Innova™ Stratum™ Contour planks in accordance with the instructions of Etex Australia Pty Ltd.
- 21.5 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding System in accordance with the instructions of Etex Australia Pty Ltd.

## Sources of Information

- AS 3730 Guide to the properties of paints for buildings.
- AS/NZS 1170 Structural design actions.
- 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.
- NZS 3603:1993 Timber structures standard.
- NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- 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 06 August 2021

This Appraisal has been amended to reflect building code updates relating to fire.

### Amendment No. 2, dated 28 March 2023

This Appraisal has been amended to update the Technical Literature.

### Amendment No. 3, dated 31 October 2024

This Appraisal has been amended to update the Appraisal Holder, product name, Technical Literature and to reflect the building code updates relating to fire in Paragraphs 12.1 and 13.1-13.4.



**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 848 (2019)

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Appraisal No. 848 (2019)  
23 May 2019

INNOVA™ STRATUM™ CONTOUR  
CAVITY CLADDING SYSTEM



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Innova™ Stratum™ Contour Cavity Cladding 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 **Etex Australia Pty 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. **Etex Australia Pty 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 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 **Etex Australia Pty 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 **Etex Australia Pty Ltd** or any third party.

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**For BRANZ**

**Chelydra Percy**

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

23 May 2019