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Agrément Certificate

21/5869

Product Sheet 1

SUNDOLITT EXTRUDED POLYSTYRENE INSULATION

SUNDOLITT XPS 300 FLOORING INSULATION

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet⁽¹⁾ relates to Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation, comprising a rigid extruded polystyrene (XPS) foam board, for use as thermal insulation in ground-bearing or suspended concrete ground floors, or between the joists of suspended timber ground-floors, in new or existing domestic and similar buildings.

(1) Hereinafter referred to as 'Certificate'.

CERTIFICATION INCLUDES:

- factors relating to compliance with Building Regulations where applicable
- factors relating to additional non-regulatory information where applicable
- independently verified technical specification
- assessment criteria and technical investigations
- design considerations
- installation guidance
- regular surveillance of production
- formal three-yearly review.



KEY FACTORS ASSESSED

Thermal performance — the product has a declared thermal conductivity (λ_D) value of between 0.041 and 0.033 $W \cdot m^{-1} \cdot K^{-1}$ depending on the thickness (see section 6).

Condensation risk — the product can contribute to limiting the risk of condensation (see section 7).

Floor loading — the product, when installed in accordance with this Certificate, can support a design loading for domestic applications (see section 9).

Durability — the product will have a life equivalent to that of the floor structure in which it is incorporated (see section 12).



The BBA has awarded this Certificate to the company named above for the product described herein. This product has been assessed by the BBA as being fit for its intended use provided it is installed, used and maintained as set out in this Certificate.

On behalf of the British Board of Agrément

Date of First issue: 8 March 2021

Hardy Giesler
Chief Executive Officer

The BBA is a UKAS accredited certification body – Number 113.

The schedule of the current scope of accreditation for product certification is available in pdf format via the UKAS link on the BBA website at www.bbacerts.co.uk
Readers MUST check the validity and latest issue number of this Agrément Certificate by either referring to the BBA website or contacting the BBA directly.

Any photographs are for illustrative purposes only, do not constitute advice and should not be relied upon.

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Regulations

In the opinion of the BBA, Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of the following Building Regulations (the presence of a UK map indicates that the subject is related to the Building Regulations in the region or regions of the UK depicted):



The Building Regulations 2010 (England and Wales) (as amended)

Requirement:	A1	Loading
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See section 9.2 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	C2(c)	Resistance to moisture
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See sections 7.1 and 7.5 of this Certificate.
Requirement:	L1(a)(i)	Conservation of fuel and power
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Requirement. See sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	7(1)	Materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is acceptable. See section 12 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	26	CO₂ emission rates for new buildings
Regulation:	26A	Fabric energy efficiency rates for new dwellings (applicable to England only)
Regulation:	26A	Primary energy consumption rates for new buildings (applicable to Wales only)
Regulation:	26B	Fabric performance values for new dwellings (applicable to Wales only)
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying these Regulations. See sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this Certificate.



The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation:	8(1)	Durability, workmanship and fitness of materials
Comment:		The product is acceptable. See section 12 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	9	Building standards applicable to construction
Standard:	1.1(b)	Structure
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clause 1.1.1 ⁽¹⁾ . See section 9.2 of this Certificate.
Standard:	3.15	Condensation
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Standard, with reference to clauses 3.15.1 ⁽¹⁾ , 3.15.4 ⁽¹⁾ and 3.15.5 ⁽¹⁾ . See sections 7.1 and 7.6 of this Certificate.
Standard:	6.1(b)	Carbon dioxide emissions
Standard:	6.2	Building insulation envelope
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying these Standards, with reference to clauses, or parts of, 6.1.1 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.1.6 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.1 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.3 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.4 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.5 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.6 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.7 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.9 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.10 ⁽¹⁾ , 6.2.11 ⁽¹⁾ and 6.2.13 ⁽¹⁾ . See sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this Certificate.
Standard:	7.1(a)(b)	Statement of sustainability
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements of Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, and therefore will contribute to a construction meeting a bronze level of sustainability as defined in this Standard. In addition, the product can contribute to a construction meeting a higher level of sustainability as defined in this Standard, with reference to clauses 7.1.4 ⁽¹⁾ [Aspects 1 ⁽¹⁾ and 2 ⁽¹⁾], 7.1.6 ⁽¹⁾ [Aspects 1 ⁽¹⁾ and 2 ⁽¹⁾] and 7.1.7 ⁽¹⁾ [Aspect 1 ⁽¹⁾]. See section 6.1 of this Certificate.

Regulation:	12	Building standards applicable to conversions
Comment:		Comments made in relation to this product under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause 0.12.1 ⁽¹⁾ and Schedule 6 ⁽¹⁾ .
		(1) Technical Handbook (Domestic).



The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended)

Regulation:	23	Fitness of materials and workmanship
Comment:		The product is acceptable. See section 12 and the <i>Installation</i> part of this Certificate.
Regulation:	29	Condensation
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Regulation. See section 7.1 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	30	Stability
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying this Regulation. See section 9.2 of this Certificate.
Regulation:	39(a)(i)	Conservation measures
Regulation:	40(2)	Target carbon dioxide emission rate
Comment:		The product can contribute to satisfying these Regulations. See sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this Certificate.

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Information in this Certificate may assist the client, designer (including Principal Designer) and contractor (including Principal Contractor) to address their obligations under these Regulations.

See section: **3 Delivery and site handling (3.4)** of this Certificate.

Additional Information

NHBC Standards 2021

In the opinion of the BBA, Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation, if installed and used in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapters 5.1 *Substructure and ground bearing floors* and 5.2 *Suspended ground floors*.

CE marking

The Certificate holder has taken the responsibility of CE marking the product in accordance with harmonised European Standard BS EN 13164 : 2012.

Technical Specification

1 Description

Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation comprises a rigid extruded polystyrene (XPS) board. The boards have the nominal characteristics given in Table 1.

Table 1 Nominal characteristics

Size (mm)	1185 x 585 (1200 x 600 overall) 2385 x 585 (2400 x 600 overall)
Thickness (mm)	50, 60, 70, 80, 100, 120
Edge profile	15 mm rebated, or straight edge
Minimum compressive stress at 10% deformation (kPa)	300
Flatness (deviation from flatness – mm/m)	< 6
Colour	Orange

2 Manufacture

2.1 Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation is manufactured using polystyrene beads, propellant gases, colour pigments, and additives. In the manufacturing process the polystyrene beads are melted, and a blowing agent is added. The molten polystyrene is then extruded into a continuous sheet of the desired thickness under conditions of high temperature and pressure. The sheet is then cut to size on a cutting line.

2.2 As part of the assessment and ongoing surveillance of product quality, the BBA has:

- agreed with the manufacturer the quality control procedures and product testing to be undertaken
- assessed and agreed the quality control operated over batches of incoming materials
- monitored the production process and verified that it is in accordance with the documented process
- evaluated the process for management of nonconformities
- checked that equipment has been properly tested and calibrated
- undertaken to carry out the above measures on a regular basis through a surveillance process, to verify that the specifications and quality control operated by the manufacturer are being maintained.

2.3 The management system of the manufacturer has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001 : 2015 and BS EN ISO 14001 : 2015 by DNV.GL (Certificates 269876-2018-AQ-NOR-NA and 269875-2018-AE-NOR-NA respectively).

3 Delivery and site handling

3.1 The product is delivered to site in polythene shrink-wrapped packs, incorporating a label with the Certificate holder's trade name, product description and characteristics, and the BBA logo incorporating the number of this Certificate.

3.2 The product must be protected from prolonged exposure to sunlight and should be stored either under cover or protected with opaque polythene sheeting. Where possible, packs should be stored inside. If outside, the product should be stacked flat, and raised above ground level (to avoid contact with ground moisture).

3.3 The product is light and easy to handle, and care should be exercised to avoid crushing the edges or corners. If damaged, the product should be discarded.

3.4 The product must not be exposed to open flame or other ignition sources, or to solvents or other chemicals.

Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation.

Design Considerations

4 Use

4.1 Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation is satisfactory for use as floor insulation and is effective in reducing the thermal transmittance (U value) of ground-bearing or suspended concrete ground-floors or timber ground-floors, in new or existing domestic and similar buildings. The product can also be used on suitably designed beam-and-block

floors incorporating Type R2 semi-resisting or resisting blocks to BS EN 15037-2 : 2009 and self-bearing beams to BS EN 15037-1 : 2008.

4.2 Ground-bearing floors should only be used where the depth of compacted fill is less than 600 mm and is defined as non-shrinkable. Shrinkable fills are defined as material containing more than 35% fine particles (silt and clay) and with a plasticity Index of 10% or greater (shrinkable fills are susceptible to clay heave).

4.3 Ground-bearing concrete and suspended concrete ground-floors incorporating the product must include a suitable damp-proof membrane (dpm) laid beneath the insulation, in accordance with the relevant clauses of CP 102 : 1973, BS 8102 : 2009 and BS 8215 : 1991 (see section 13.5 of this Certificate).

4.4 Suspended concrete or timber ground-floors incorporating the insulation boards must include suitable ventilation of the sub-floor void (minimum 150 mm void between the underside of the floor and the ground surface) or a dpm. For suspended floors in locations where clay heave is anticipated, an additional void of up to 150 mm may be required to accommodate the possible expansion of the ground below the floor. In such cases where the risk of clay heave has been confirmed by geotechnical investigations by a competent individual, a total void of up to 300 mm may be required.

4.5 The overlay to the insulation boards should be:

- a vapour control layer (VCL) (see section 7.2)

and :

- a cement-based floor screed of minimum 65 mm thickness⁽¹⁾, laid in accordance with the relevant clauses of BS 8204-1 : 2003 and/or BS 8204-2 : 2003, and BS 8000-9 : 2003

or

- a wood-based floor [eg tongue-and-groove plywood to BS EN 636 : 2012, flooring grade particle board (Types P4 to P7) to BS EN 312 : 2010 or oriented strand board (OSB) of type OSB/3 or OSB/4 to BS EN 300 : 2006] of a suitable thickness to be determined by a suitably competent and experienced individual, installed in accordance with DD CEN/TR 12872 : 2014 and BS EN 12871 : 2013

or

- a concrete slab to BS EN 1992-1-1 : 2004.

(1) NHBC only accept ground-bearing floor slabs with at least 100 mm thick concrete including monolithic screed.

4.6 Where a concrete screed or slab finish is to be laid directly over the product, a polyethylene separating layer/VCL must be installed between the insulation and the concrete to prevent chemical attack and seepage between the boards (see section 13.7). Any gaps between insulation boards or around service openings, visible prior to installing the concrete, must be filled with expanding foam or strips of insulation.

4.7 Loadbearing internal walls must not be built on the insulation.

4.8 If present, mould or fungal growth should be treated prior to the application of this product.

5 Practicability of installation

The product is designed to be installed by a competent general builder, or a contractor, experienced with this type of product.

6 Thermal performance



6.1 Calculations of the thermal transmittance (U value) of a floor should be carried out in accordance with BS EN ISO 6946 : 2017, BS EN ISO 13370 : 2017 and BRE Report BR 443 : 2006 using the declared thermal conductivity (λ_D) values below for the insulation.

50 mm = $0.033 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$

60-80 mm = $0.034 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$

100 mm = $0.036 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$

120 mm = $0.041 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$.

6.2 The U value of a completed floor will depend on the thickness of the product, the perimeter/area ratio and the floor type. Calculated U values for example constructions are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Example U values⁽¹⁾ — ground floor construction

Floor type	U value (W·m ⁻² ·K ⁻¹) ⁽⁵⁾	Insulation thickness (mm)				
		P/A ratio				
		0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0
Ground-bearing concrete floor ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾	0.13	140 (70 + 70)	190 (70 + 70 + 50)	210 (100 + 60 + 50)	220 (100 + 70 + 50)	220 (100 + 70 + 50)
	0.15	130 (70 + 60)	160 (80 + 80)	180 (100 + 80)	190 (70 + 70 + 50)	190 (70 + 70 + 50)
	0.20	60	120	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)
	0.22	50	100	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)
	0.25	50	70	100	100	120
Suspended concrete ground-floor ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	0.13	170 (100 + 70)	210 (100 + 60 + 50)	210 (100 + 60 + 50)	220 (100 + 70 + 50)	220 (100 + 70 + 50)
	0.15	140 (70 + 70)	170 (100 + 70)	180 (100 + 80)	190 (70 + 70 + 50)	190 (70 + 70 + 50)
	0.20	80	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)
	0.22	70	100	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)
	0.25	50	80	100	100	100
Suspended timber ground-floor ⁽³⁾	0.13	220 (100 + 70 + 50)	-	-	-	-
	0.15	180 (100 + 80)	210 (100 + 60 + 50)	230 (100 + 80 + 50)	-	-
	0.20	120	140 (70 + 70)	160 (80 + 80)	160 (80 + 80)	170 (100 + 70)
	0.22	80	130 (70 + 60)	140 (70 + 70)	140 (70 + 70)	150 (80 + 70)
	0.25	60	100	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)	130 (70 + 60)

(1) Ground-bearing concrete floor construction (Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation on top of slab, under screed finish) — 65 mm concrete screed $\lambda = 1.15 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$, polyethylene separating layer, insulation, dpm, 100 mm concrete oversite, 150 mm sand blinded hardcore.

(2) Suspended concrete ground-floor construction (Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation on top of beam-and-block, below screed finish) — 65 mm concrete screed $\lambda = 1.15 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$, polyethylene separating layer, insulation, beam-and-block floor (12%) beam $\lambda = 2.00 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$, dense block infill $\lambda = 1.13 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$, ventilated void.

(3) Suspended timber ground-floor construction (Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation between floor joists) — floor deck thermal resistance $0.169 \text{ m}^2\cdot\text{K}\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$, (based on 22 mm chipboard $\lambda = 0.13 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$, insulation (87%) between 47 mm wide joists at 400 mm centres. The depth of the joists = the depth of insulation between floor joists (11%), based on BRE Report BR 443 : 2019 (38 mm wide nogging every 3 metres).

(4) 30 mm edge insulation of Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation ($\lambda = 0.033 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$) at 65 mm deep [outside the scope of this Certificate]

(5) Where a construction is used with the dpm above the insulation on a slab on the ground, a moisture correction factor should be considered for the thermal conductivity used, in accordance with BS EN ISO 10456 : 2007.

Junctions

6.3 Care must be taken in the overall design and construction of junctions with other elements and openings to minimise thermal bridges and air infiltration. Detailed guidance can be found in the documents supporting the national Building Regulations.

7 Condensation risk

Interstitial condensation



7.1 Floors will adequately limit the risk of interstitial condensation when they are designed and constructed in accordance with BS 5250 : 2011, Annex F and the relevant guidance.

7.2 When the product is used above the dpm on a ground-bearing floor or suspended concrete floor, a VCL is installed on the warm side of the insulation to limit the risk of interstitial condensation, unless a risk assessment shows this is not necessary.

7.3 For suspended ground timber ground floors, it is not necessary to introduce a VCL if adequate sub-floor cross-ventilation is provided.

7.4 For the purposes of assessing the risk of interstitial condensation, the water vapour resistivity of the product may be taken as $750 \text{ MN}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$. The product, therefore, will provide a significant resistance to water vapour transmission.

Surface condensation



7.5 Floors will adequately limit the risk of surface condensation when the thermal transmittance (U value) does not exceed $0.7 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ at any point, and the junctions with walls are designed in accordance with section 6.3 of this Certificate.



7.6 In Scotland, floors will adequately limit the risk of surface condensation when the thermal transmittance (U value) does not exceed $1.2 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ at any point. Guidance may be obtained from BS 5250 : 2011, Annex F. Further guidance may be obtained from BRE Report BR 262 : 2002 and section 6.3 of this Certificate.

8 Behaviour in relation to fire

The product has a reaction to fire classification⁽¹⁾ of Class F_(FL) to BS EN 13501-1 : 2018.

(1) MPA Stuttgart report 903 7467 000-2 13.09.2019. Copies can be obtained from the Certificate holder.

9 Floor loading

9.1 The compressive strength of the product (compressive stress at 10% deformation to BS EN 826 : 2013) is $\geq 300 \text{ kPa}$.



9.2 The product is suitable for domestic occupancies when covered with a suitable floor overlay (see section 4.5), and is capable of resisting a uniformly distributed load of $1.5 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ or a concentrated load of 2 kN for category A1 and A2 (domestic) situations as defined in BS EN 1991-1-1 : 2002, National Annex Table NA.2. Further assessment by a suitably competent and experienced individual is necessary in the case of duty walkways and floors subject to physical activities.

9.3 The performance of the floor construction will depend on the insulation properties and type of floor overlay used (including thickness and strength). Where the product is used under a concrete slab, resistance to concentrated and distributed loads is a function of the slab specification. Further guidance on the suitability of floor overlays can be found in BS EN 13810-1 : 2002, DD CEN/TS 13810-2 : 2003, BS 8204-1 : 2003 and BS EN 312 : 2010, and from the flooring manufacturer.

10 Incorporation of services

10.1 De-rating of electrical cables should be considered where the insulation restricts air cooling of cables; the product must not be used in direct contact with electrical heating cables or hot water pipes. Where underfloor heating systems are to be used, the advice of the Certificate holder should be sought.

10.2 Where possible, electrical conduits, gas and water pipes or other services should be contained within ducts or channels within the concrete slab of ground bearing floors. Where this is not possible, the services may be accommodated within the insulation, provided they are securely fixed to the concrete slab. Electrical cables that are likely to come into contact with the insulation must be protected by a suitable conduit or PVC-U trunking. With hot pipes, the insulation must be cut back to maintain an air space.

10.3 Where water pipes are installed below the insulation, they must be pre-lagged with close-fitting pipe insulation. Pipes installed above the insulation will not require lagging, although some provision needs to be made for expansion and contraction.

10.4 Where the product is installed on a floor of a suspended beam-and-block design, all services must be installed in accordance with a BBA Certificate for that floor and/or with the relevant codes of practice.

10.5 To provide support for a particle board cover on overlay board floors where access to the services is desirable, a duct may be formed by mechanically fixing to the floor, timber bearers of the same thickness as the insulation. The duct should be as narrow as possible and not exceed 400 mm in width or the maximum particle board spans given in DD CEN/TR 12872 : 2014 without intermediate support. Services should be suitably fixed to the floor base and not to the insulation boards (see section 6.3 regarding limiting heat loss).

10.6 On suspended timber ground floors, all the services should be incorporated beneath the existing floor, above the insulation if possible.

11 Maintenance

As the product is confined within the floor by the overlay and has suitable durability (see section 12), maintenance is not required.

12 Durability



The product is durable, rot-proof, dimensionally stable and, when installed with the overlays specified in this Certificate, will remain effective as an insulating material for the life of the building in which it is incorporated.

Installation

13 General

13.1 Installation of Sundolitt XPS 300 Flooring Insulation must be in accordance with the Certificate holder's installation instructions and the requirements of this Certificate.

13.2 Typical methods of installation are shown in Figures 1 to 4. Reference should also be made to BRE Report BR 262 : 2002.

Figure 1 Ground-bearing concrete floor – screed overlay

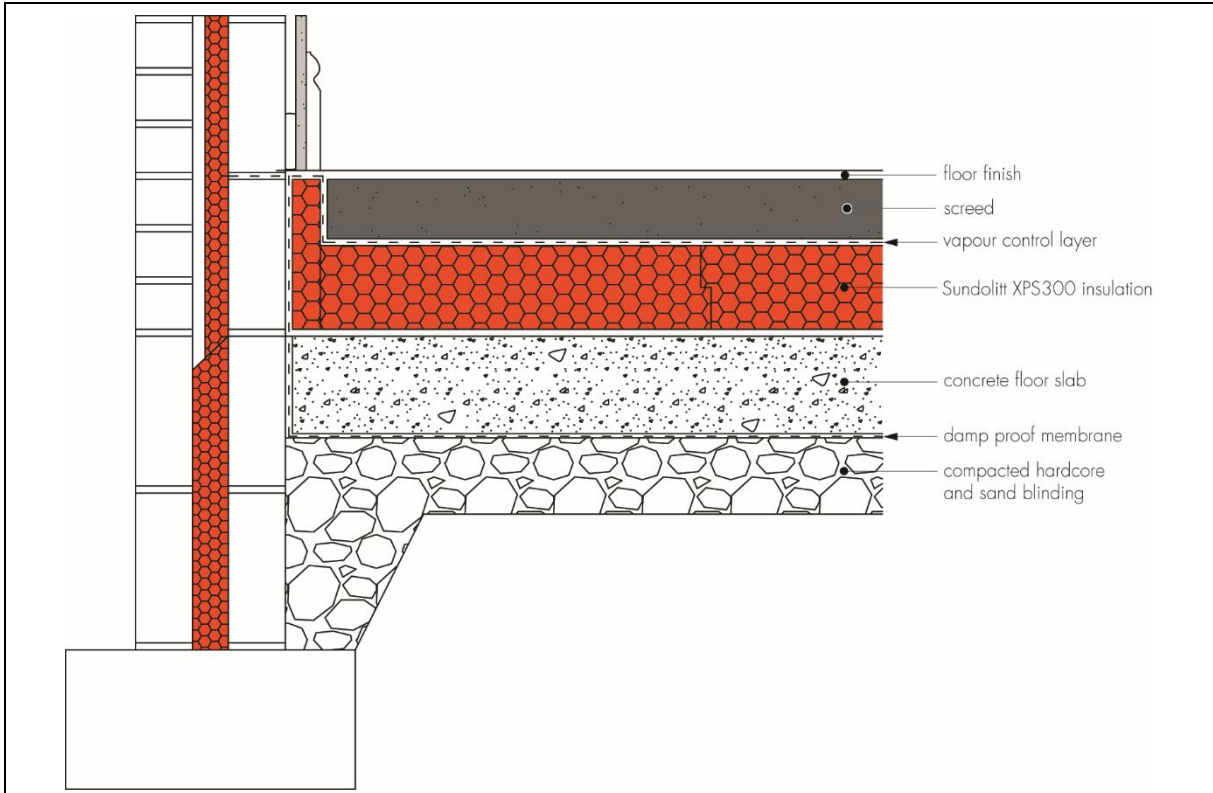


Figure 2 Ground-bearing concrete floor – concrete slab overlay

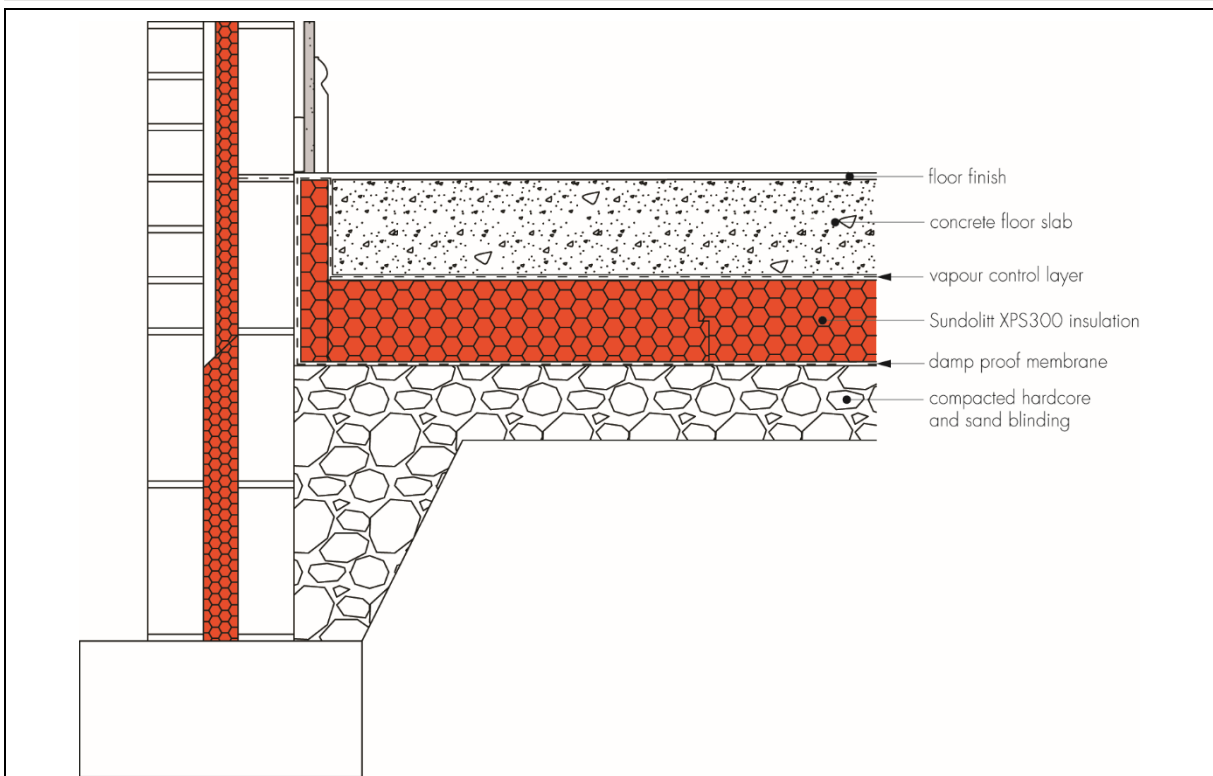


Figure 3 Suspended concrete beam-and-block floor – screed overlay

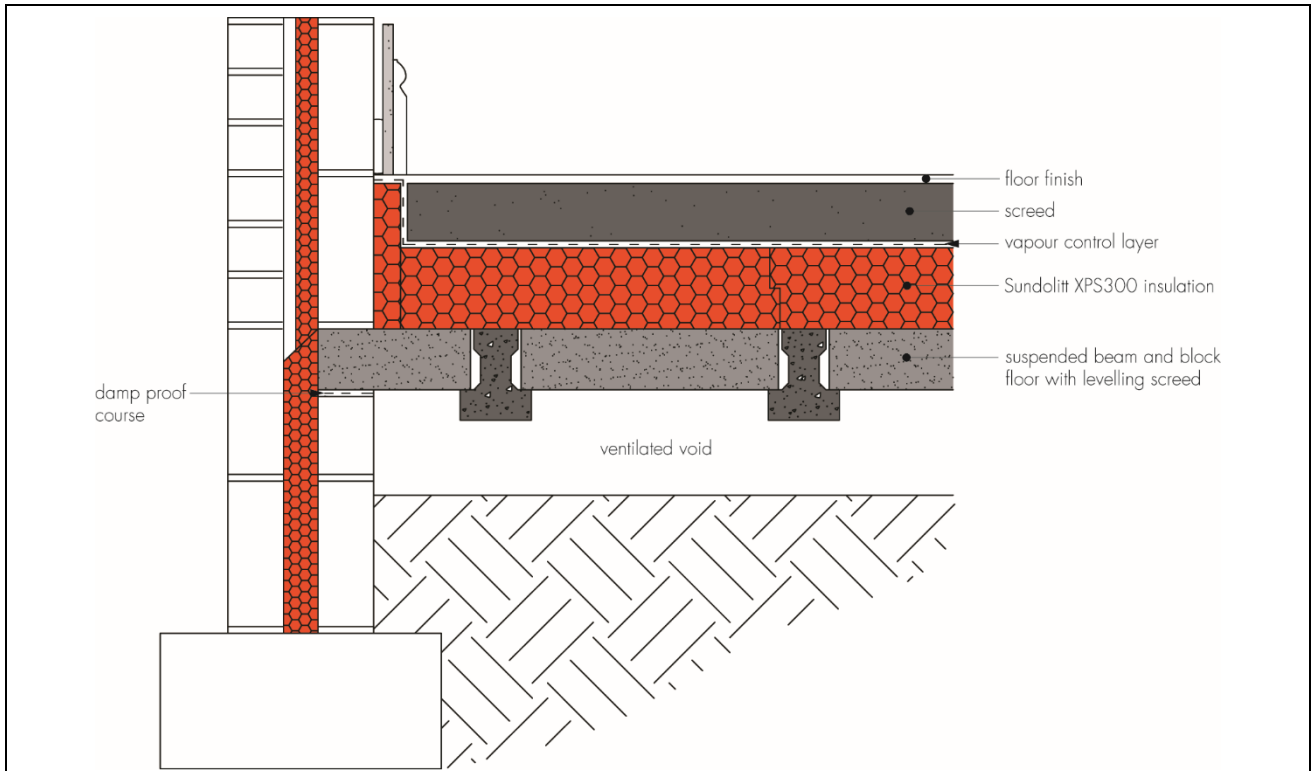
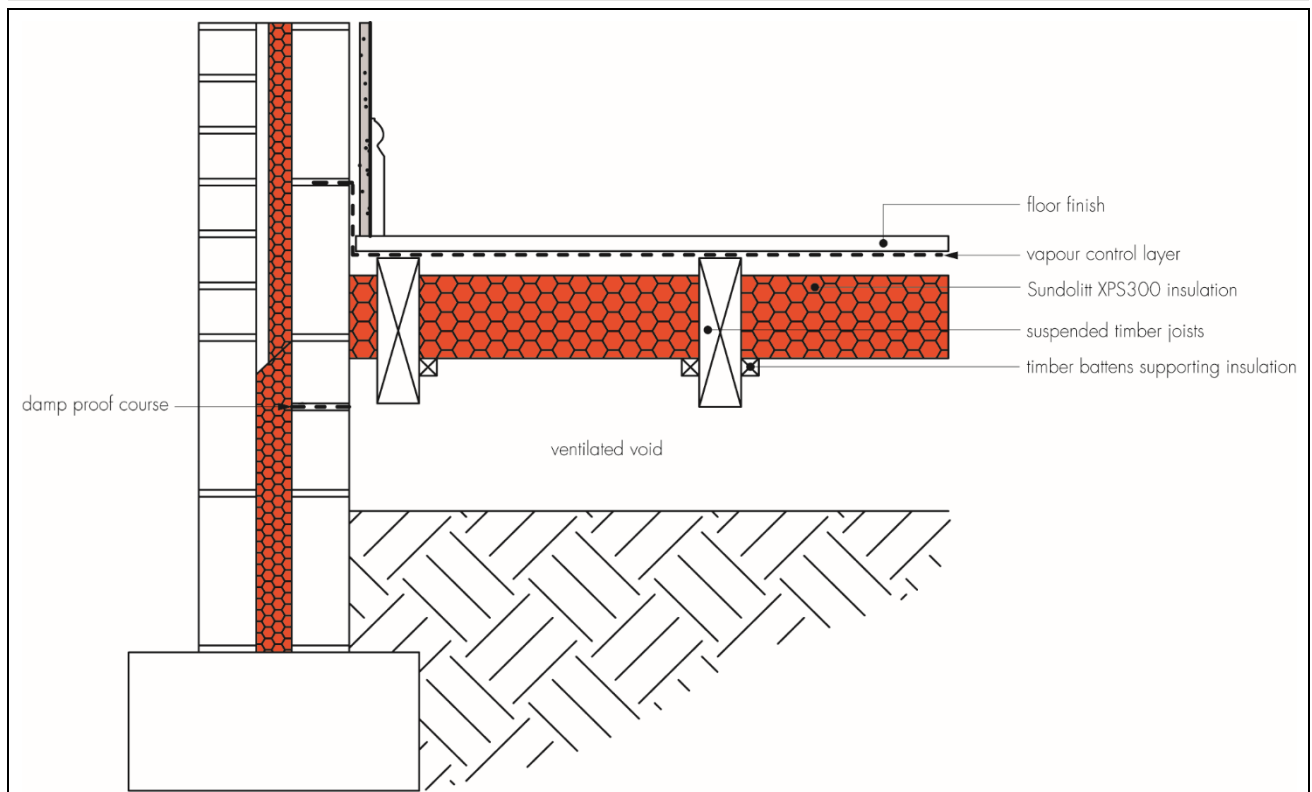


Figure 4 Suspended timber floor – board overlay



13.3 In ground-bearing concrete floors, the concrete floor slab over which the product is laid should be left for as long as possible to maximise drying out and dissipation of constructional moisture, in accordance with BS 8203 : 2017, Section 3.1.2.

13.4 The concrete floor surface should be smooth, level and flat to within 5 mm when measured with a two-metre straight-edge. Irregularities greater than this must be removed. Minor irregularities (up to 10 mm deep) may be levelled with mortar or thin screed.

13.5 Where the insulation is used over ground-bearing concrete floor slabs, a suitable dpm in accordance with CP 102 : 1973 should be laid to resist moisture from the ground. If a liquid-type dpm is applied to the slab, it should be of a type compatible with the product and be allowed to dry out fully before the insulation is laid.

13.6 Where the insulation is used on hardcore bases beneath ground-bearing concrete slabs, the hardcore must be compacted and blinded with a thin layer of sand before application of the dpm, followed by the insulation boards.

13.7 A VCL is installed on the warm side of the insulation to inhibit the risk of interstitial condensation if necessary (see section 7.2). Where a concrete screed or slab finish is to be laid directly over the product, a polyethylene separating layer/VCL must be installed between the insulation and the concrete to prevent seepage between the boards.

13.8 Where a screed or concrete slab is laid over the insulation, vertical upstands of insulation should be provided and be of sufficient depth to fully separate the screed or slab from the wall. If used, a suitable cavity wall insulation material should be extended below the dpc level to provide edge insulation to the floor.

13.9 To limit the risk of damage from condensation and other sources of dampness, the product and overlays should only be laid after the construction is made substantially weathertight, eg after glazing. During construction, the product and overlay must be protected from damage by traffic and moisture sources such as water spillage and plaster droppings.

14 Procedure

14.1 The boards are cut to size (using a sharp knife or fine-toothed saw), as necessary, and laid with closely butted, staggered cross-joints, ensuring that all spaces are completely filled.

14.2 The laying pattern should ensure that all cut edges are at the perimeter of the floor or some other feature, eg matwells, thresholds or access ducts. Spreader boards should be used to protect the insulation.

Cement-based screed overlay (Figures 1 and 3)

14.3 Perimeter edge pieces are cut and placed around the edges. A polyethylene VCL, at least 0.125 mm thick (500 gauge), is laid over the insulation. The VCL should have 150 mm overlaps, taped at the joints and turned up 100 mm at the walls. A properly compacted screed of a minimum 65 mm thickness is then laid over. The relevant clauses of BS 8204-1 : 2003 should be followed.

Concrete slab overlay (ground-bearing only) (Figure 2)

14.4 Perimeter edge pieces are cut and placed around the edges. A polyethylene VCL, at least 0.125 mm thick (500 gauge), is laid over the insulation. The VCL should have 150 mm overlaps, taped at the joints and turned up 100 mm at the walls. The concrete slab is laid to the required thickness in accordance with BS 8000-9 : 2003 and BS 8204-1 : 2003.

Timber based board overlay (Figure 4)

14.5 Before laying the plywood, particle board or OSB overlays, preservative-treated timber battens in accordance with BS 8417 : 2011 are positioned at doorways and access panels. Adequate time should be allowed for preservatives to be fixed and the solvents from solvent-based preservatives to evaporate.

14.6 Where the insulation is laid above a dpm, a polyethylene VCL of at least 0.125 mm (500 gauge) thickness is laid between the insulation and the timber board overlay. The VCL should have 150 mm overlaps, taped at the joints and turned up 100 mm at the walls.

14.7 Timber based overlay boards as specified in section 4.5, are laid with staggered cross-joints, in accordance with DD CEN/TR 12872 : 2014 and BS EN 12871 : 2013.

14.8 An expansion gap between the overlay board and the perimeter walls should be provided at a rate of 2 mm per metre run or a minimum of 10 mm, whichever is the greater.

14.9 Where there are long uninterrupted lengths of floor (eg corridors), proprietary expansion joints should be installed at intervals on the basis of a 2 mm gap per metre run of overlay board.

14.10 Before the overlay boards are interlocked, a waterproof PVA adhesive is applied to the joints.

14.11 Once the overlay board is laid, temporary wedges are inserted between the walls and the floor to maintain tight joints until the adhesive has set.

14.12 When the wedges are removed and before the skirting boards are fixed, a suitable compressible filler (eg foamed polyethylene) should be fitted around the perimeter of the floor between the overlay board and the walls.

14.13 Where there is a likelihood of regular water spillage in rooms (eg in kitchens, bathrooms, and shower and utility rooms), additional overlay board protection should be considered, eg a continuous flexible vinyl sheet flooring with welded joints, which is turned up at abutments and cove skirting.

Suspended timber floor (Figure 4)

14.14 Insulation boards can be supported between timber joists using saddle clips or timber beads. Where timber beads are used, a void may be incorporated above the insulation to accommodate services, if required.

14.15 Saddle clips are placed at intervals not exceeding 1 m along the timber floor joists. Where the product is to be installed on only one side of the joist, twin clips can be cut into single clips and nailed into place with galvanized nails.

14.16 If saddle clips are not used, the product may be retained using preservative-treated timber battens. The battens should be wide enough to retain the product in place, and secured with corrosion-protected nails at a depth that will accommodate the thickness of the product.

14.17 The product should be cut to fit tightly between joists and pushed down onto the spikes of the saddle clips, or onto the beads. Small gaps should be insulated with cut strips of the product.

Technical Investigations

15 Tests

Results of tests were assessed to determine :

- thermal conductivity
- compressive stress at 10% deformation
- water vapour resistivity
- dimensional stability
- dimensional accuracy.

16 Investigations

16.1 Data on durability and properties in relation to fire were evaluated.

16.2 A calculation was undertaken to confirm the declared thermal conductivity (λ_D).

16.3 A series of U value calculations was carried out.

16.4 A condensation risk analysis was carried out.

16.5 The manufacturing process was evaluated, including the methods adopted for quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

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