DIVISIONE RUBBERFUSE
IMPER ITALIA S.P.A.
sistemi impermeabilizzanti sintetici

rubberfuse news

N°15 - September 2006

Editorial

Last year has been a milestone in the Rubberfuse history. 10 years after the launch of our operations and the successful completion of projects totalling over 7 million m² in 30 countries, a new production line has been put in operation at Imper Italia's Eurodue plant. This new state of the art unit, dedicated to the manufacture of TPO/FPA membranes, is designed to meet most future requirements of our customers, in terms of both membrane types and volume.
The availability of such tool is clearly an important asset, as it will be of great help to go through the hectic times of today's economy. Already now, it did help reducing the impact of the increase affecting the cost of the membranes, which is generated by the sharp rise of oil and related raw materials. It will also allow us to keep our leading position in the non reinforced TPO marketplace.
M. Aughuet.

2006 Marketing & Sales Meeting

As per the established tradition, a group of marketing and sales managers of the Rubberfuse Team got together in Mappano early this year for the annual Distributor Marketing and Sales Meeting. The agenda covered a broad range of subjects such as market review, technology and good practice, strategy and other key issues. A tour of the new Sintofoil/Eurodue plant was also part of the program. The participants came from Spain, France, Holland and Belgium. During the session, each participant had the opportunity to discuss specific issues relating to their respective market, while learning from the experience of the others.

Rubberfuse covers Airbus assembly plants

The new EADS-Casa plant in Sevilla (Spain), where the final assembly of the new Airbus A400M aircraft will take place, is a superb addition to the Rubberfuse reference list. This 60.000 m² roof has recently been completed. Designed by Aéroport de Paris, the building includes several connecting zones, each covered by a curved roof. The roofing system uses Sintofoil ST 1.2mm thick mechanically attached. For sound insulation purposes, a perforated steel deck was specified, which led to using M-45 plate and HD (Heavy Duty) 6.1mm fastener, a fixing assembly specially designed for such peculiar substrate.

This impressive job follows other EADS projects, such as the 18.000m² Airbus plant in Puerto Real, the 10.000m² Eurocopter plant in Albacete, both in Spain and the 14.000m² plant in Chester, UK.
The installation of all Spanish projects has been carried out by by Acieroid, a Rubberfuse partner since over 12 years. To date, Acieroid successfully installed over 1.5 million of TPO/FPA Sintofoil membranes.

Sintofoil on the Palahockey, Torino 2006

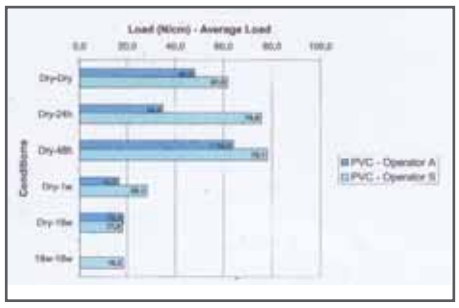
Established since 1936, and with a yearly production exceeding 20 million m² of roofing membranes and 5.000 tons of coatings, Imper Italia is known as a leading firm, especially in Italy of course, where about 70% of its production is sold. It was therefore no surprise that Architects selected products from the various divisions of Imper Italia, eg Imper, Betok, Skill and Rubberfuse for the waterproofing of various buildings of the Winter Olympic Games scheme.
The new Palahockey is one of these projects. Located in the Santa Rita District, it has been designed by Arata Isozaki and Pier Paolo Maggiora. A base 5m high, a volume in stainless steel measuring 183x100m offering seating for 12.000, this impressive new stadium has been used as ice hockey rink during the Olympic Games but actually it is now a "event factory". Sound absorption was an essential design factor, which explains that the Rubberfuse system is quite elaborated: it includes 10 distinct layers. Sintofoil RG 1.5mm, mechanically attached, is the roofing layer. The "lead grey" colour was selected in order to best harmonise with the steel structure of the building.

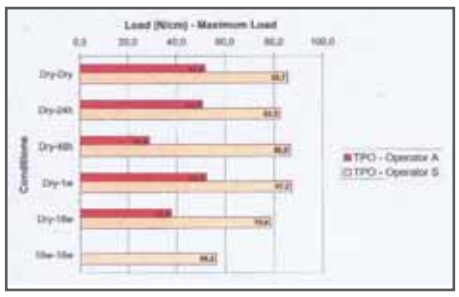
New start in BeNeLux

The change of management and the subsequent business shift of the former distributor led us to look for a new group to handle the distribution of the Rubberfuse product line in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg.
A distribution agreement has been recently signed with Mawipex, a niche market specialist, who was keen on adding TPO systems to its existing line, which includes mainly EPDM systems and shingles. Most interesting to note are the reasons why Mawipex went Rubberfuse:
- Rubberfuse is one of the best TPO systems on the market
- The Sintofoil membrane's formula is unchanged since it was developed
- Rubberfuse has a great track record
- The system concept is a professional marketing approach
- The Rubberfuse team is a group Mawipex trusts in

Earlier this year, the entire Mawipex staff attended a session in Marano Ticino, which covered the various aspects of the Rubberfuse product line. The session of course included a tour of the Eurodue production unit.
In order to meet the demanding Dutch and Belgian markets, where immediate delivery is a prerequisite, a comprehensive stock of membranes has been put in place in Rilland. The future looks great: showcase jobs have already been completed in Holland and Belgium and Rubberfuse is specified on several coming projects.

FPA/PVC evaluation program





"When it comes to welding, FPA is less user-friendly than PVC, especially when the material is wet". This statement from several British applicators needed to be properly addressed and the Rubberfuse group decided to put an end to it in a formal way. A comprehensive test program was set up, with sampling of 1.2mm polyester reinforced PVC and 1.2mm FPA Sintofoil ST being stored in water for a period ranging from 24 hours to 18 weeks. The welding session took place in the Mappano training/R&D Centre and lasted 2 days, with 2 operators in charge of the "hands-on" part: a Rubberfuse tech rep and a top level British specialist. Pieces of dry membranes were welded to the various "wet" samples, at temperatures varying from 300°C to 590°C. In order to reflect actual site conditions, no special cleaning or drying method was used.

The results clearly confirmed the advantages of Sintofoil, ie:

- Sintofoil has a wider temperature range.
- Sintofoil is less affected by water absorption

The conclusion is a statement made by a member of the staff who attended the session "It is apparently easier to blame the material rather than lack of training".

A copy of the complete report is available upon request.

Certification program

- France

The demanding Avis Technique procedure for Rubberfuse loose-laid/ballasted system is finally over with. The CSTB confirmed that the Technical Committee issued a favourable report. The approval covers all types of Sintofoil roofing membranes (ST, FB and RG).

As far as the mechanically attached system is concerned, the procedure is underway. According to CSTB's requirement, the relating Avis Technique will be issued once the ETAG certification program, currently carried out with ITC in Italy, will be completed. In the meantime, a renewal of the current certification has been obtained from Qualiconsult.

- Poland

Under the reference AT/2005-10-0027, Rubberfuse obtained the renewal of the certification from Izolacja COBR for the Sintofoil ST 1.2mm membrane.

- Czech Republic

The renewal of the CSI certification has been obtained by Rubberfuse's Distributor, Ravago Resinex CZ. The procedure has been handled via the TZUS Institute. The document (reference: C.010-017090) covers the use of all types of Sintofoil membranes: ST, FB and RG.

A key principle of Imper Italia's strategy is to offer a product line that meets the local industry standards and technical requirements. To date, Approval an/or Testing Certification has been obtained from the Authorities in the following countries (listed in alphabetical order): Belgium (UBAtc), Bulgaria (HNCN), Croatia (IGH), Czech Republic (TZUS), Europe (UEAtc wind testing), Germany (SKZ), France (CSTB and Qualiconsult), Holland (BDA-Intron), Hungary (EMI), Italy (ITC), Russia (GOST), Slovenia (ZAG), United Kingdom (BBA) and USA (FM).

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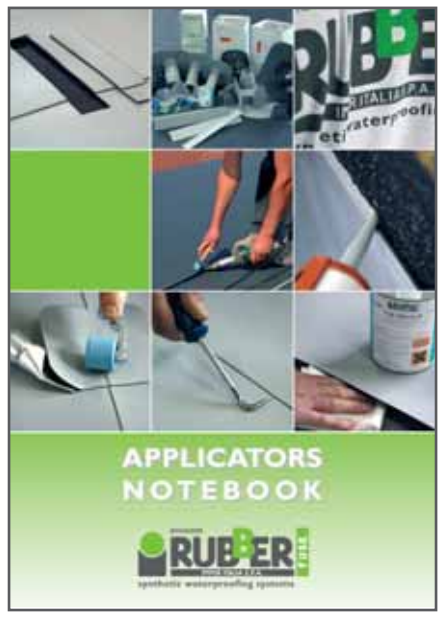
Authorised Applicator Notebook

A key marketing principle aimed at enforcing total quality is to have Rubberfuse systems installed by authorised applicators. A "Rubberfuse AA" badge is granted to roofing professionals who went thru the procedure, which includes participating to a technical training session in the Rubberfuse training centre and having satisfactorily installed the first job following the session under the monitoring of our technical representative.

Many applicators having gone to the AA procedure made the comment that it would help a great deal to dispose of a notebook which they would use as a "technical reminder". Good comment, indeed. Appropriate action has consequently been taken, so the Rubberfuse Authorised Applicator Notebook is now available to all Rubberfuse authorised applicators. This pocket size (A5) document, currently available in English and Italian, covers the basics of the Rubberfuse technology, from membrane data to step by step description of the most used details. It is worth noting that the notebook is not a sales tool; dedicated to AA's, the distribution will consequently be restricted to them.



Roca selects Rubberfuse. Again.

Roca, the Barcelona based world leading sanitary ware company, is a Rubberfuse "repeat customer". The first Roca's TPO/FPA roof was installed in Spain as early as 1995, and several others did follow since. All are performing all right. So, when Roca decided to build a new plant in Tosno, near St Petersburg (Russia), they did not take any chance, and selected the usual TPO/FPA specification. This one actually is the 4th Rubberfuse "export project" for Roca. It follows other units previously installed in Portugal and Poland. The selected system for this 30.000m^2 roof is quite typical for industrial buildings: Sintofoil ST 1.2mm thick mechanically secured on steel deck and 120mm Rockwool insulation boards. In order to reduce thermal bridging, a great concern in this cold region, Rubberfuse "thermal shut" fixings were the obvious choice. The application was handled by a local staff supervised by experts from Acieroid.

A nice reference in Dublin

The Bath Apartment Complex is a perfect demonstration of aesthetics that can be achieved with a Rubberfuse system. This 500m^2 roof has been completed in July this year by Base Roofing Ltd. It uses Sintofoil grey mechanically attached on timber with M-45 plates and BS 5.5 fasteners. The Rubberfuse decorative standing seam profiles give the barrel vault portions a look similar to standing seam metal roof. Since Moy Materials started the Rubberfuse operations in Ireland last year, 20.000m^2 of TPO/FPA membranes have already been installed and a number of specifications have been secured.

Tech corner

- Curve for scupper

Connecting curves compatible to the 100x65mm Rubberfuse scupper are now available. Two different sizes are on offer, to fit rainwater pipes having a diameter of either 80mm or 100mm.

- Geberit FPA roofdrains available

The Pluvia product line now includes roofdrains with a Sintofoil ST 1.2mm flange. This will certainly be good news for applicators, since this type of roofdrain is frequently used all over Europe.

Join the move away from PVC

The Healthy Building Network (HBN) is a network of green buildings professionals, environmental and health activists who are interested in promoting healthier building materials as a mean of improving public health and preserving the global environment.

In a recent article, the Washington DC based group indicates that "PVC is the worst plastic from an environmental health perspective, posing hazards in its manufacture, product life and disposal". According to HBN, dioxin, ethylene dichloride and vinyl chloride are unavoidably created in the production of PVC and can cause severe health problems.

The article also indicates that while the construction industry has been unaware of the problems associated with PVC, fortunately, for each use, there is a wide range of cost effective materials that pose less of a health hazard to workers and public at large. For roofing membranes, several alternative options are mentioned, including TPO of course.

Architectural firms, governments and major corporations all over the world (Nike, Mattel, Lego, General Motors, Volkswagen, Honda) have begun to switch to alternative materials.

More information is available on the HBN site: www.healthybuilding.net