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Agrément Certificate

17/5448

Product Sheet 1

CORDEK CLAY HEAVE PROTECTION

HEAVEGUARD COMPRESSIBLE FILL

This Agrément Certificate Product Sheet⁽¹⁾ relates to Heaveguard Compressible Fill, a low-density expanded polystyrene (EPS) board for limiting the pressure exerted on reinforced concrete ground beams or on the vertical face of concrete foundations, caused by the expansion of clay soils (clay heave) during the life of the structure.

(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

Resistance to pressure — the product has adequate short-term load resistance to support the weight of the reinforced concrete prior to setting and restrict the pressure on the hardened concrete caused by expansion of clay soils (see section 6).

Durability — the product will continue to perform effectively as a compressive material, to reduce the effects of clay heave for the life of the building (see section 8).

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 Second issue: 14 October 2022

Originally certificated on 21 August 2017

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, Heaveguard Compressible Fill, 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: A2 (a)
Comment:

Ground movement

The product helps to reduce the pressure exerted on reinforced concrete beams, or on the vertical face of concrete foundations, caused by the expansion of clay soil. See sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this Certificate.

Regulation: 7(1)
Comment:

Materials and workmanship

The product is acceptable. See section 8 and the *Installation* part of this Certificate.



The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

Regulation: 8(1)
Comment:

Fitness and durability of materials and workmanship

The product can contribute to a construction satisfying this Regulation. See section 8 and the *Installation* part of this Certificate.

Regulation: 9
Standard: 1.1(b)
Comment:

Building standards applicable to construction

Structure

The product contributes to satisfying the relevant requirements of this Standard, with reference to clause 1.1.4⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾. See sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this Certificate.

Standard: 7.1(a)
Comment:

Statement of sustainability

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.

Regulation: 12
Comment:

Building standards applicable to conversions

All comments given for the product under Regulation 9, Standards 1 to 6, also apply to this Regulation, with reference to clause 0.12.1⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and Schedule 6⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

(1) Technical Handbook (Domestic).

(2) Technical Handbook (Non-Domestic).



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

Regulation: 23(a)(i)(iii)
Comment: (b)(i)

Fitness of materials and workmanship

The product is acceptable. See section 8 and the *Installation* part of this Certificate.

Regulation: 30
Comment:

Stability

The product contributes to satisfying the relevant requirements of this Regulation. 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 2022

In the opinion of the BBA, the use of Heaveguard Compressible Fill, if installed, used and maintained in accordance with this Certificate, can satisfy or contribute to satisfying the relevant requirements in relation to *NHBC Standards*, Chapters 4.2 *Building near trees* (4.2.7 to 4.2.10), 4.3 *Strip and trench fill foundations* and 4.4 *Raft, pile, pier and beam foundations*.

Technical Specification

1 Description

1.1 Heaveguard Compressible Fill consists of green-coloured low-density EPS boards.

1.2 The boards are available in standard sizes⁽¹⁾ of:

- thickness (mm) 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 300
- length (mm) 2400
- width (mm) 600, 1200.

(1) Other sizes within the given ranges are available on request.

2 Manufacture

2.1 The EPS boards are manufactured from blocks using bead expansion moulding processes and wire cutting.

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 BSI (Certificates FM10541 and EMS 560847 respectively).

3 Delivery and site handling

3.1 Heaveguard Compressible Fill board packs are normally delivered to site wrapped in polythene. Each pack carries a label bearing the Certificate holder's name, product description, installation instructions and the BBA logo incorporating the number of this Certificate.

3.2 The boards must be stored flat and protected from high winds and prolonged exposure to sunlight.

3.3 Contact with solvents and organic-based materials should be avoided.

3.4 The product must not be exposed to flame or ignition. Careful consideration should also be given to the management of fire risk when in storage; detailed guidance is given in the health and safety data sheet of the product.

Assessment and Technical Investigations

The following is a summary of the assessment and technical investigations carried out on Heaveguard Compressible Fill.

4 General

4.1 Heaveguard Compressible Fill, when designed and installed in accordance with the recommendations of this Certificate, is effective in reducing the pressure exerted on ground beams in piled foundation construction and on the vertical face of trench-fill foundations up to two metres deep caused by the expansion of clay soils (clay heave) during the life of the structure.

4.2 It is essential that the correct minimum thickness is calculated from the expected expansion and that the product is installed in accordance with the *Installation* part of this Certificate.

4.3 It is important that the whole of the underside of concrete members are protected with Heaveguard Compressible Fill to prevent differential loading on the member and that the boards are carefully trimmed around the piles.

4.4 Heaveguard Compressible Fill must not be used below in-situ concrete floor slabs.

4.5 The following information is necessary to enable the required thickness of Heaveguard Compressible Fill to be calculated:

For ground beams and pile caps

- the maximum likely vertical ground movement due to clay heave (H mm) established from the site investigation
- the acceptable upward pressure on the concrete (P kN·m⁻²) as used in the design of the concrete foundation

For trench-fill foundations

- the expected lateral movement due to clay heave (H mm) established from the site investigation
- the maximum acceptable lateral pressure on the foundation as used by the designer of the foundation, W kN·m⁻² (W must not normally exceed 40 kN·m⁻²).

4.6 The thickness of Heaveguard Compressible Fill (see Figure 2) is established by:

- finding the value of the compressive strain (C %) from the graph shown in Figure 3 (using design value for P or W, see section 4.5), and
- calculating the thickness of Heaveguard Compressible Fill required (T mm) (see section 6) from the formula:

$$T = 100 \frac{H}{C} + I$$

Figure 1 Determination of thickness

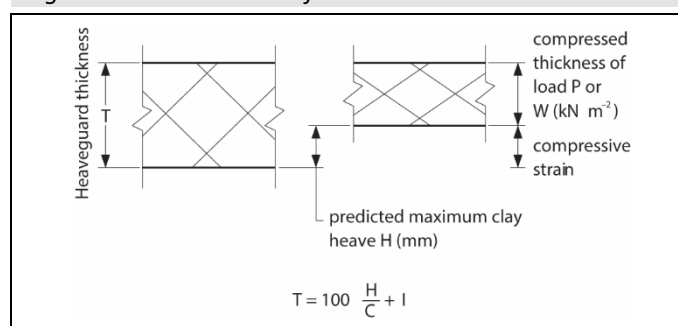
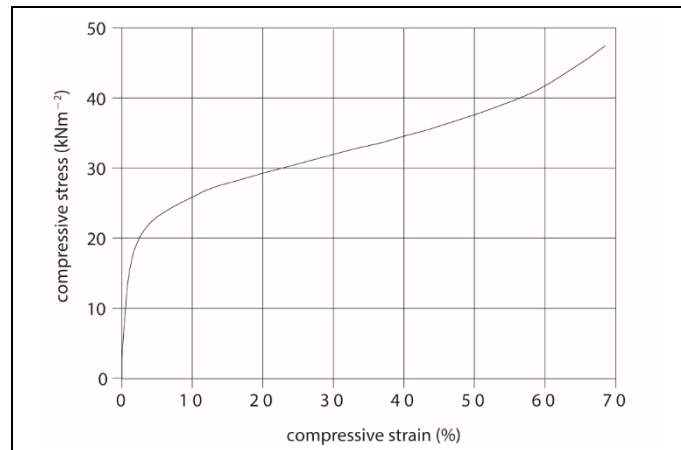


Figure 2 Compressible strain



5 Practicability of installation

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

5.2 Adequate supervision must be maintained to ensure correct installation (see section 10).

6 Resistance to pressure



6.1 The pressure transmitted/strain relationship of Heaveguard Compressible Fill is given in the graph shown in Figure 3, based on a strain rate of 2% per day.

6.2 Heaveguard Compressible Fill must not be used where the depth of in-situ concrete is greater than 600 mm in ground beam construction.

6.3 Test data indicates that, when loaded to $22.5 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ (ie the maximum depth of concrete plus a 300 mm allowance for concrete heaping), for a period of 15 minutes, a 200 mm thick board of Heaveguard Compressible Fill compresses by 3%. When selecting the thickness using the procedures given in section 4, an instantaneous deflection allowance (I) of 10 mm should be added to the thickness if T is greater than 100 mm.

6.4 Test data indicates that when a 200 mm thick specimen is loaded to $15 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ (ie 600 mm of concrete), the deflection from 15 minutes after applying the load to 16 hours is less than 2 mm.

7 Maintenance

As the product is confined underneath the concrete ground beams and placed at the vertical face of deep trench foundations and has suitable durability (see section 8), maintenance is not required.

8 Durability



Heaveguard Compressible Fill is dimensionally stable under varying conditions of temperature and humidity. The product is rot-proof and water-resistant and will continue to perform effectively as a compressible fill for the life of the building.

9 Reuse and recyclability

The product comprises EPS, which can be recycled.

10 General

10.1 The excavations for the ground beams or foundations must be carried out generally in accordance with BS 6031 : 2009, paying particular attention to safety procedures.

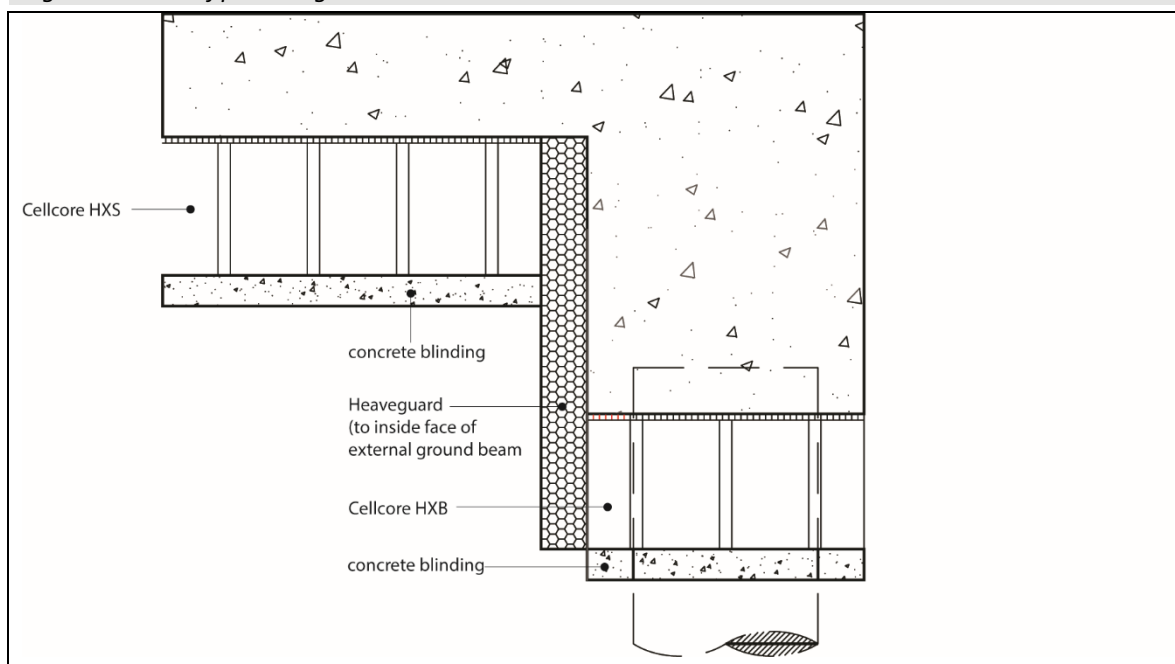
10.2 All fixing should be carried out from outside the trench. Precautions should be taken to ensure the face of the excavation does not collapse during installation of the product, for example by bridging the trench.

10.3 Adequate supervision of the installation must be maintained and Cordek specialists must have right of access to the site to ensure the product is being installed correctly.

11 Procedure

11.1 The product can be installed under ground-beams and pile caps in piled construction, and must be installed as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Detail of pile and ground beam



11.2 The trenches are excavated as normal, but taking account of the required thickness of Heaveguard Compressible Fill.

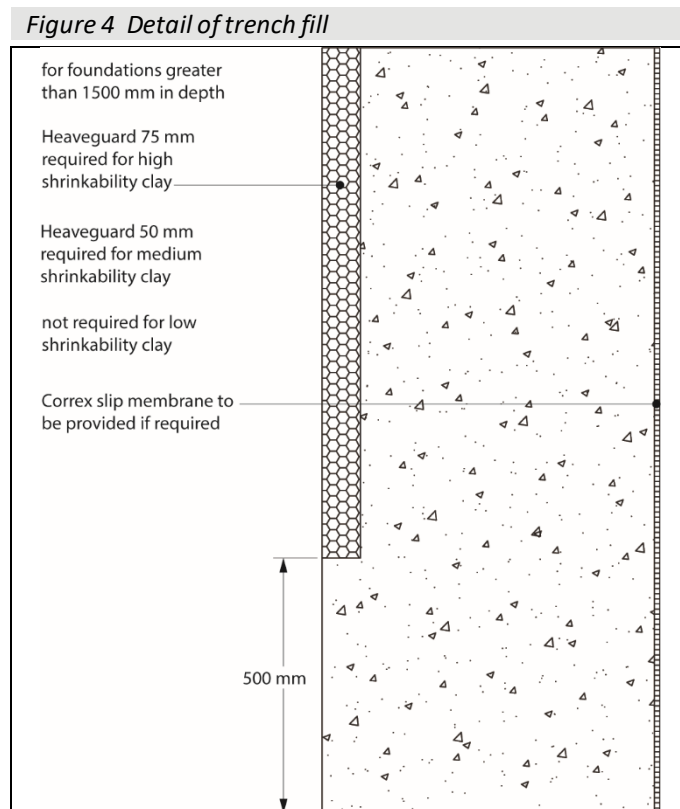
11.3 The bottom of the excavation must be flat, even and properly compacted. In certain situations, this may require blinding the trench bottom with concrete or granular material.

11.4 Heaveguard Compressible Fill is laid closely butted on the prepared excavation, ensuring that the whole area of the ground beam is covered. Small gaps between boards should be filled with EPS pieces or must be backfilled with as-dug or granular material.

11.5 Where concrete piles protrude into the trench, the boards should be cut to suit with a fine-toothed saw.

11.6 Sufficient brick or concrete spacing blocks must be used to ensure that the correct depth of concrete cover to the reinforcement is achieved. The quantity and type of spacers must ensure that the load transmitted to the product does not exceed $15 \text{ kN}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$, therefore preventing penetration into the board (typically 75 x 75 mm blocks at 500 mm centres).

Vertical faces of trench-fill foundations (see Figure 4)

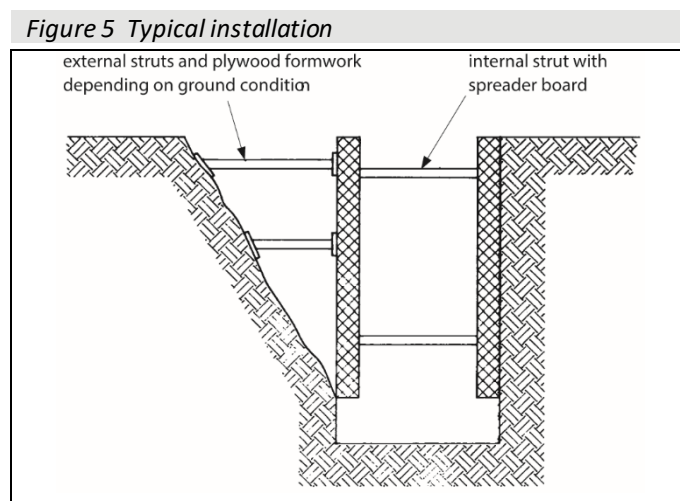


11.7 The excavation must be founded below the movement zone of the clay and the board positioned 500 mm above the trench bottom, in accordance with NHBC requirements.

11.8 To ensure the product remains in the correct position and to prevent breakage, the boards should be adequately supported on both faces prior to concreting (see Figure 5).

11.9 Internal support must be provided in the form of struts with adequate spreader plates.

11.10 External support may be provided by the face of the excavation except in flinty or boulder clay, where sharp projections may cause damage and/or where the trench sides do not provide adequate support (see Figure 5).



11.11 Heaveguard Compressible Fill must be adequately restrained to prevent uplift during concrete placement.

11.12 Small infill panels must be securely fixed in position.

12 Tests

Tests were carried out and the results assessed to determine:

- density
- dimensional accuracy
- effect of density on pressure transmitted
- the pressure transmitted through the board when subjected to constant strain of 2% per day
- load capacity
- reduction in pressure transmitted when subjected to 50% compression
- compression under sustained loading.

13 Investigations

13.1 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.

13.2 Site visits were carried out to assess the practicability of installation, including site handling and storage.

13.3 An assessment was made of the performance characteristics and durability of the product.

Bibliography

BS 6031 : 2009 *Code of practice for earthworks*

BS EN ISO 9001 : 2015 *Quality management Systems*

BS EN ISO 14001 : 2015 *Environmental management systems*

14 Conditions

14.1 This Certificate:

- relates only to the product/system that is named and described on the front page
- is issued only to the company, firm, organisation or person named on the front page – no other company, firm, organisation or person may hold or claim that this Certificate has been issued to them
- is valid only within the UK
- has to be read, considered and used as a whole document – it may be misleading and will be incomplete to be selective
- is copyright of the BBA
- is subject to English Law.

14.2 Publications, documents, specifications, legislation, regulations, standards and the like referenced in this Certificate are those that were current and/or deemed relevant by the BBA at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate.

14.3 This Certificate will remain valid for an unlimited period provided that the product/system and its manufacture and/or fabrication, including all related and relevant parts and processes thereof:

- are maintained at or above the levels which have been assessed and found to be satisfactory by the BBA
- continue to be checked as and when deemed appropriate by the BBA under arrangements that it will determine
- are reviewed by the BBA as and when it considers appropriate.

14.4 The BBA has used due skill, care and diligence in preparing this Certificate, but no warranty is provided.

14.5 In issuing this Certificate the BBA is not responsible and is excluded from any liability to any company, firm, organisation or person, for any matters arising directly or indirectly from:

- the presence or absence of any patent, intellectual property or similar rights subsisting in the product/system or any other product/system
- the right of the Certificate holder to manufacture, supply, install, maintain or market the product/system
- actual installations of the product/system, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any works and constructions in which the product/system is installed, including their nature, design, methods, performance, workmanship and maintenance
- any loss or damage, including personal injury, howsoever caused by the product/system, including its manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal
- any claims by the manufacturer relating to CE marking.

14.6 Any information relating to the manufacture, supply, installation, use, maintenance and removal of this product/system which is contained or referred to in this Certificate is the minimum required to be met when the product/system is manufactured, supplied, installed, used, maintained and removed. It does not purport in any way to restate the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, or of any other statutory, common law or other duty which may exist at the date of issue or reissue of this Certificate; nor is conformity with such information to be taken as satisfying the requirements of the 1974 Act or of any statutory, common law or other duty of care.