

PRACTITIONER EDUCATION SERIES

Proactive Inspections Program Findings: Separating Walls







Stuart Draffin

Director
Audits and Inspections

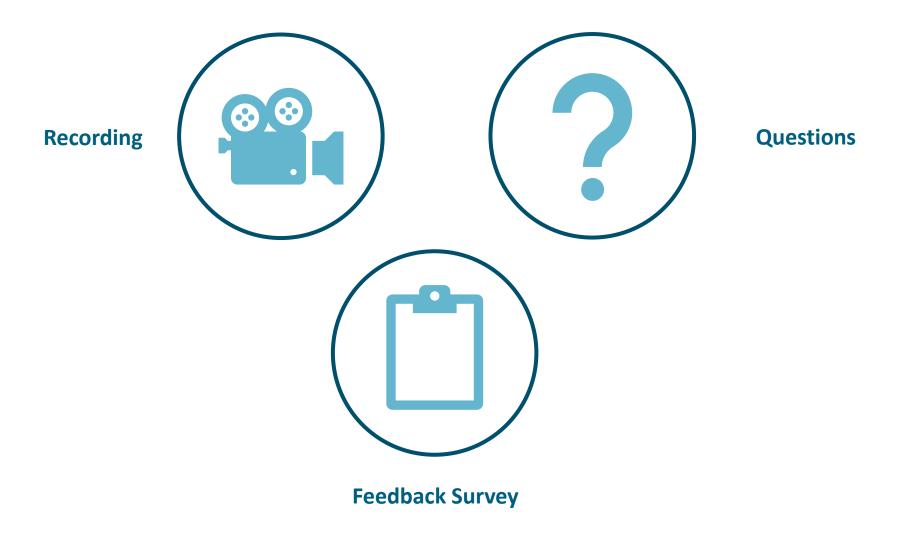
Nicholas Eastmure

Team Leader
Proactive Inspections Services

Alex Glennon

Senior Fire Safety Engineer Technical & Regulation

Before we begin



Common issues with separating walls

Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap

Health



Performance Requirements

P2.3.1 Spread of fire

- (a) A Class 1 building must be protected from the spread of fire from—
 - (i) another building other than an associated Class 10 building; and
 - (ii) the allotment boundary, other than a boundary adjoining a road or public space.(see Figure 2.3.1)
- (b) A Class 10a building must not significantly increase the risk of fire spread between Class 2 to 9 buildings.

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3.7.3.2 Separating walls

- (a) A separating wall between Class 1 buildings, or a wall that separates a Class 1 building from a Class 10a building which is not associated with the Class 1 building must—
 - (i) have either—
 - (A) an FRL of not less than 60/60/60; or
 - (B) be of masonry construction not less than 90 mm thick; and
 - (ii) commence at the footings or ground slab (see Figure 3.7.3.1), except for horizontal projections to which 3.7.3.5 applies (see Figure 3.7.3.4); and
 - (iii) extend-
 - (A) if the building has a non-combustible roof covering, to the underside of the roof covering (see Figure 3.7.3.1 and Figure 3.7.3.2); or
 - (B) if the building has a combustible roof covering, to not less than 450 mm above the roof covering (see Figure 3.7.3.1); and
 - (iv) comply with (b) to (e) and 3.7.3.3 as applicable.
- (b) A separating wall of lightweight construction must be tested in accordance with Specification C1.8 of the NCC Volume One.
- (c) A separating wall complying with (a)(iii)(A)—
 - must not be crossed by timber or other combustible building elements except for roof battens with dimensions of 75 x 50 mm or less, or roof sarking; and
 - (ii) must have any gap between the top of the wall and the underside of the roof covering packed with mineral fibre or other suitable *fire-resisting* material.
- (d) Where a building has a masonry veneer external wall, any gap between the separating wall and the external masonry veneer must be—
 - (i) not more than 50 mm; and
 - (ii) packed with a mineral fibre or other suitable fire resistant material with the packing arranged to maintain any weatherproofing requirements of Part 3.3.4.
- (e) Eaves, verandahs and similar spaces that are open to the roof space and are common to more than one Class 1 dwelling must be separated by a non-combustible vertical lining (see Figure 3.7.3.2 Diagram b).

Objective

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3.7.3.2 Separating walls

- (a) A separating wall between Class 1 buildings, or a wall that separates a Class 1 building from a Class 10a building which is not associated with the Class 1 building must—
 - (i) have either—
 - (A) an FRL of not less than 60/60/60; or
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 - (iii) extend-
 - (A) if the building has a non-combustible roof covering, to the underside of the roof covering (see Figure 3.7.3.
 and Figure 3.7.3.2); or
 - (B) if the building has a combustible roof covering, to not less than 450 mm above the roof covering (see Figure 3.7.3.1); and
 - (iv) comply with (b) to (e) and 3.7.3.3 as applicable.
- (b) A separating wall of lightweight construction must be tested in accordance with Specification C1.8 of the NCC Volume One.
- (c) A separating wall complying with (a)(iii)(A)
 - i) must not be crossed by timber or other *combustible* building elements except for roof battens with dimensions of 75 x 50 mm or less, or roof sarking; and
 - (ii) must have any gap between the top of the wall and the underside of the roof covering packed with mineral fibre or other suitable *fire-resisting* material.
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- (e) Eaves, verandahs and similar spaces that are open to the roof space and are common to more than one Class 1 dwelling must be separated by a non-combustible vertical lining (see Figure 3.7.3.2 Diagram b).

Note: **FRL** = Fire Resistance level

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Fire Resistance

The Gyprock Party Wall systems in this manual have been assessed by Exova Warringtonfire in accordance with the general principles of AS1530.4. They are suitable for the stated FRL when designed in accordance with the noted building and structural considerations, and when installed in accordance with the details in this manual. The load bearing element of the FRL applies only to walls supporting non-fire rated structures such as floors and roofs within the same fire compartment.

FIRE RESISTANCE LEVEL (FRL) RATING OF INTERTENANCY WALLS

The fire resistance level (FRL) rating performance of the PowerPanel⁵⁰ Intertenancy Wall System detailed in this guide has been derived from CSIRO fire assessment report FCO-3255.

Fire Resistance

The Partiwall® system has been fire tested at CSIRO's laboratory at North Ryde in Sydney. The performance of various system configurations has been assessed in CSIRO's assessment number FSV 0381, FCO-2256, FCO-2713, FCO-1446 and FCO-2016.

The Partiwall system provides Fire Resistance Levels (FRL) of 60/60/60 and 90/90/90. In the case of a fire, the structural adequacy and load bearing capacity is provided by the wall frame on the other side of SHAFTLINER™ fire barrier.

FIRE

The GTEK[™] Protect System has been fire tested at Exova Warringtonfire AUST Pty Ltd in VIC.

The GTEK[™] Protect System provides Fire Resistance Levels (FRL) of 60/60/60. In the case of a fire, the structural adequacy and load bearing capacity is provided by the wall frame on the other side of the GTEK[™] Protect 25mm.

Objective

Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

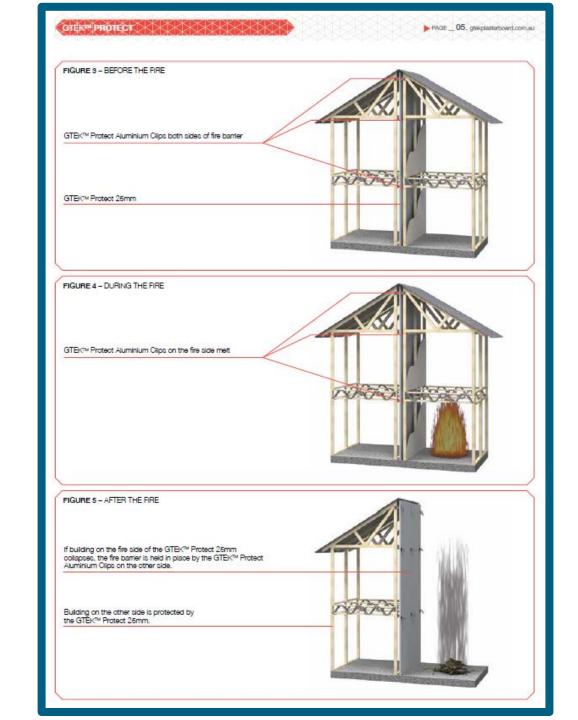
External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

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Damage

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Clips/brackets

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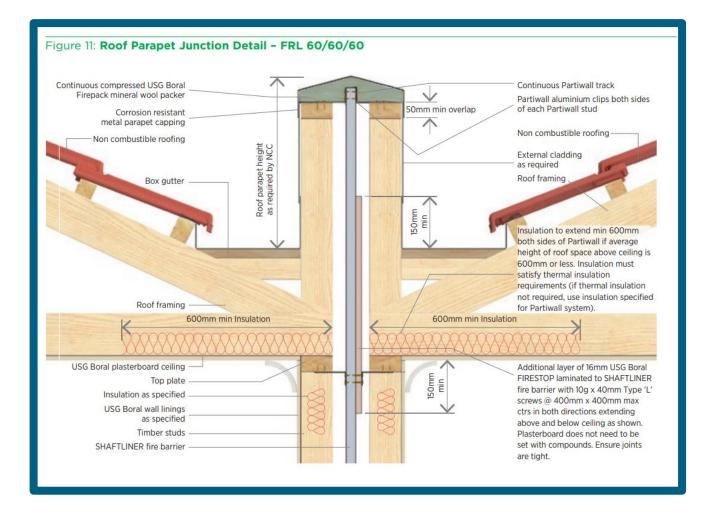
Health

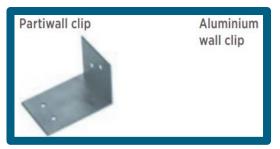


Support Clip Separation

Clips on each side of the SHAFTLINER™ fire barrier must be spaced at no more than 3000mm vertically and 600mm horizontally unless noted otherwise.

Every Partiwall® stud and end track is to be fixed to timber frame on both sides with Partiwall aluminium clips.







Objective

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Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

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Damage

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Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

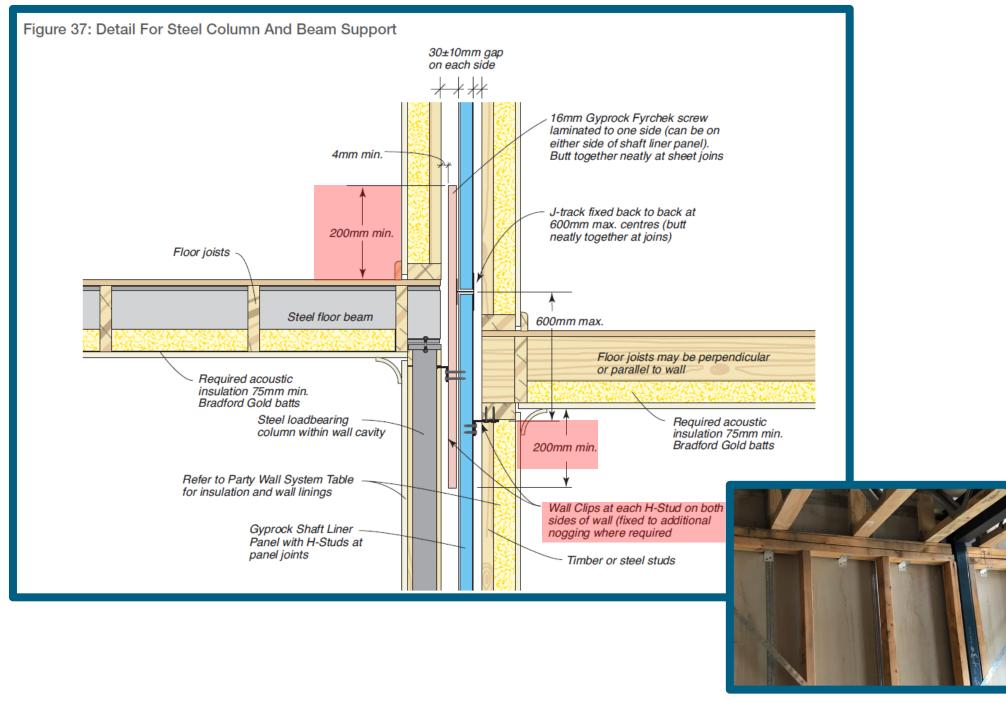
External wall junctions

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Objective

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

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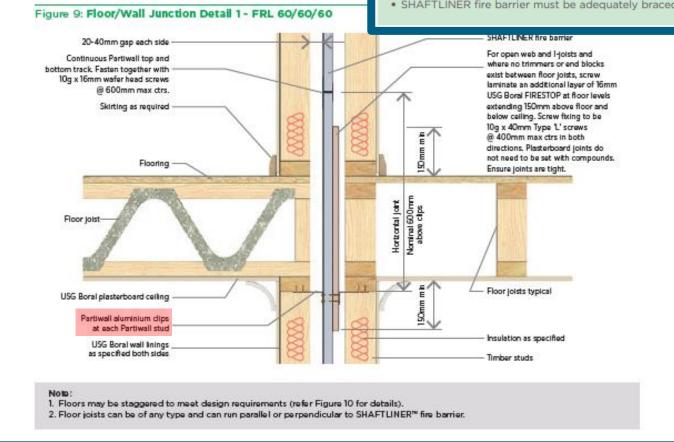
Air Gap

Health



Installation Procedure (PW60.1)

- Ensure that SHAFTLINER™ panels, Partiwall® studs and end tracks are the same length.
 Cut to length if required.
- In a multi-level SHAFTLINER fire barrier, Partiwall studs at upper levels must align with the studs below.
- · Partiwall aluminium clips must be installed progressively as SHAFTLINER fire barrier is erected.
- Partiwall aluminium clips must be spaced at maximum 600mm horizontally and 3000mm vertically.
- For aligned floors Partiwall aluminium clips must be directly opposite on both sides of the Partiwall studs.
- For offset floors Partiwall aluminium clips can be staggered in line with floors on each side of the wall (refer Figure 7).
- Fix Partiwall aluminium clips to Partiwall studs with 2 x 10g x 16mm Type 'D' drill point wafer head screws (2 x 10g x 30mm Type 'D' drill point wafer head screws if fixing through 16mm FIRESTOP* plasterboard).
- Fix Partiwall aluminium clip to timber frame with 2 x 6g x 25mm Type 'W' timber screws or 2 x 2mm x 30mm galvanised nails.
- SHAFTLINER fire barrier must be adequately braced against wind forces until the building is enclosed.





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The following requirements are essential to maintain the fire-rating integrity and acoustic performance of the GTEK™ Protect System:

- Use only the specified GTEK[™] Protect Aluminium Clips to attach the GTEK[™] Protect H Studs to framing members. In the event of a fire, this aluminium clip is designed to melt to allow the framing members on the fire side to fall away leaving the GTEK[™] Protect 25mm intact.
- Other than the clips, there should be no attachments to the GTEK™ Protect 25mm.
- There should be no penetrations through the GTEK™ Protect 25mm apart from approved penetrations in the roof space. Refer to a Building Surveyor for advice.

SUPPORT CLIP SEPARATION

Clips each side of the GTEK™ Protect 25mm must be spaced at no more than 3000mm vertically and 600mm horizontally.

GTEK™ PROTECT SYSTEM COMPONENTS - TABLE 1

GTEK™ Protect Components - supplied by BGC

GTEK™ Protect 25mm

3000 x 600 x 25mm 3600 x 600 x 25mm



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Damage

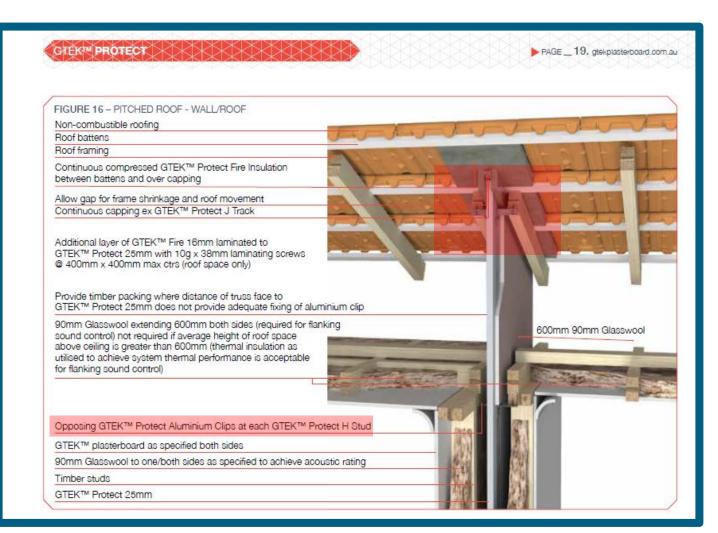
Air Gap

Health



SUPPORT CLIP SEPARATION

Clips each side of the GTEK™ Protect 25mm must be spaced at no more than 3000mm vertically and 600mm horizontally.





Objective

Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

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Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





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Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap

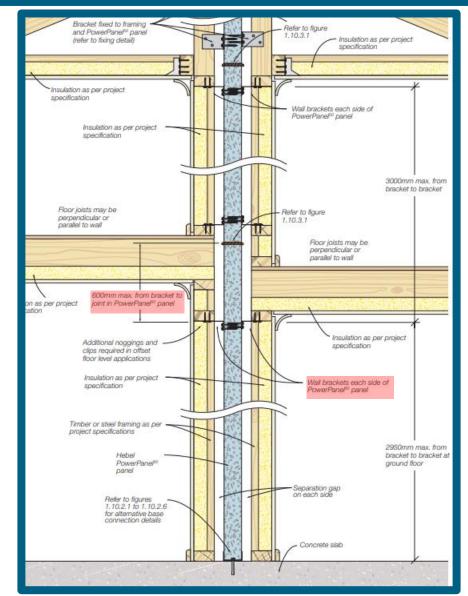
Health



Hebel Wall Brackets

The brackets are proprietary components which enable the Hebel PowerPanel 50 to be fixed to the wall frame. This provides a cavity space, which can result in increased acoustic insulation performance. The bracket is nominally 75 x 40 x 1.6mm BMT x 50mm wide aluminium angle. Used in 50mm Hebel Intertenancy Wall Systems.







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Step 7: Install top rail

- Using full track lengths, fit Partiwall top track over the installed SHAFTLINER panels and Partiwall studs.
- . Push top track fully down over the top of Partiwall studs.
- Screw fix top and end track junctions with 10g x 16mm.
 Type 'D' drill point wafer head screws.



Continuous Partiwall tracks

fixed back-to-back with

Step 8: Next level of SHAFTLINER fire barrier • Using full track lengths, install Partiwall bottom track for the upper level of SHAFTLINER fire barrier back-to-back

- Using full track lengths, install Partiwall bottom track for the upper level of SHAFTLINER fire barrier back-to-back with the top track below and leaving 6mm gap between track lengths. Screw fix each track length with 10g x 16mm wafer head screws at 600mm maximum centres and at each end.
- Install SHAFTLINER panels, Partiwall studs and clips as per level below. Partiwall studs must align with studs below.



Installation Procedure (PW60.1)

- Ensure that SHAFTLINER™ panels, Partiwall® studs and end tracks are the same length.
 Cut to length if required.
- . In a multi-level SHAFTLINER fire barrier, Partiwall studs at upper levels must align with the studs below.
- · Partiwall aluminium clips must be installed progressively as SHAFTLINER fire barrier is erected.
- · Partiwall aluminium clips must be spaced at maximum 600mm horizontally and 3000mm vertically.
- For aligned floors Partiwall aluminium clips must be directly opposite on both sides of the Partiwall studs.
- For offset floors Partiwall aluminium clips can be staggered in line with floors on each side of the wall (refer Figure 7).
- Fix Partiwall aluminium clips to Partiwall studs with 2 x 10g x 16mm Type 'D' drill point wafer head screws
 (2 x 10g x 30mm Type 'D' drill point wafer head screws if fixing through 16mm FIRESTOP* plasterboard).
- Fix Partiwall aluminium clip to timber frame with 2 x 6g x 25mm Type 'W' timber screws or 2 x 2mm x 30mm galvanised nails.
- · SHAFTLINER fire barrier must be adequately braced against wind forces until the building is enclosed.



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Floor/Ceiling junctions

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Damage

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Objective

Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

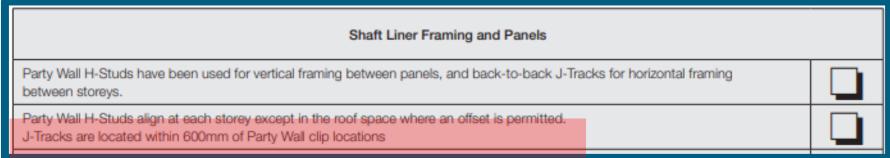
External wall junctions

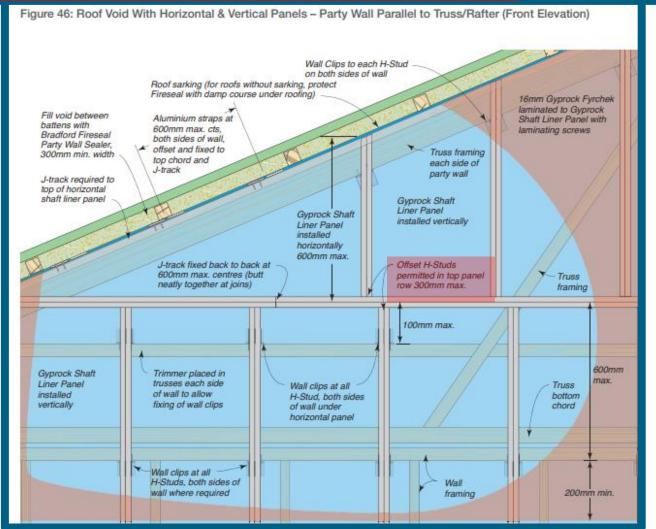
Sealing

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Objective

Clips/brackets

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Objective

Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

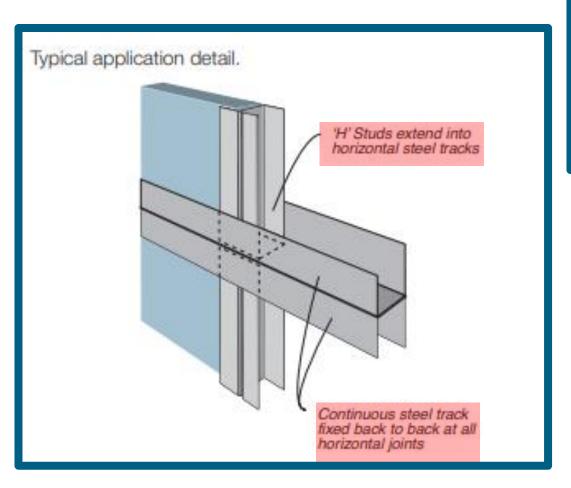
Sealing

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Don'ts

- · Don't use damaged materials.
- Don't penetrate the SHAFTLINER other than in the roof space as per Boral's details.
- · Don't exceed specified clip spacing.
- · Don't use steel clips.
- Don't use Partiwall H-studs in lieu of Partiwall track as edge tracks nor at horizontal joint in SHAFTLINER fire barrier.
- Don't cut tracks between Partiwall studs.
 Tracks should be used in full lengths.
- Don't run services in the gap between SHAFTLINER fire barrier and framework.



Objective

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Objective

Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

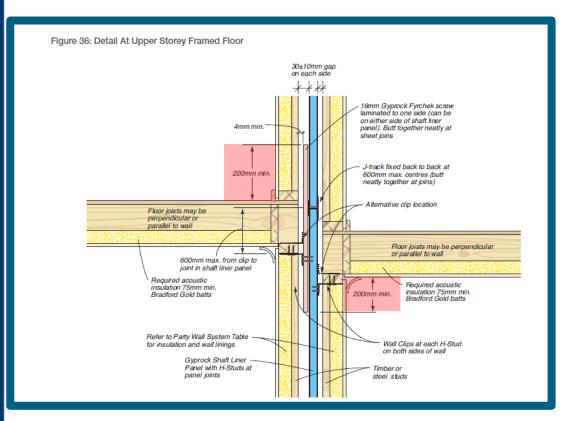
External wall junctions

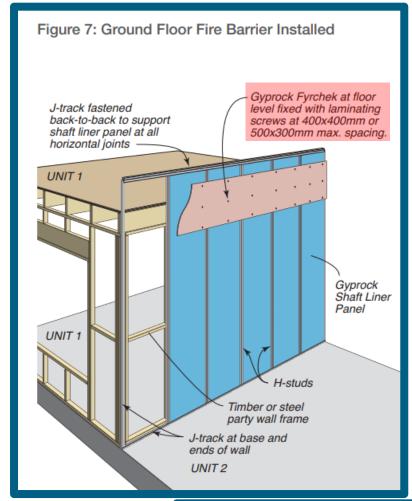
Sealing

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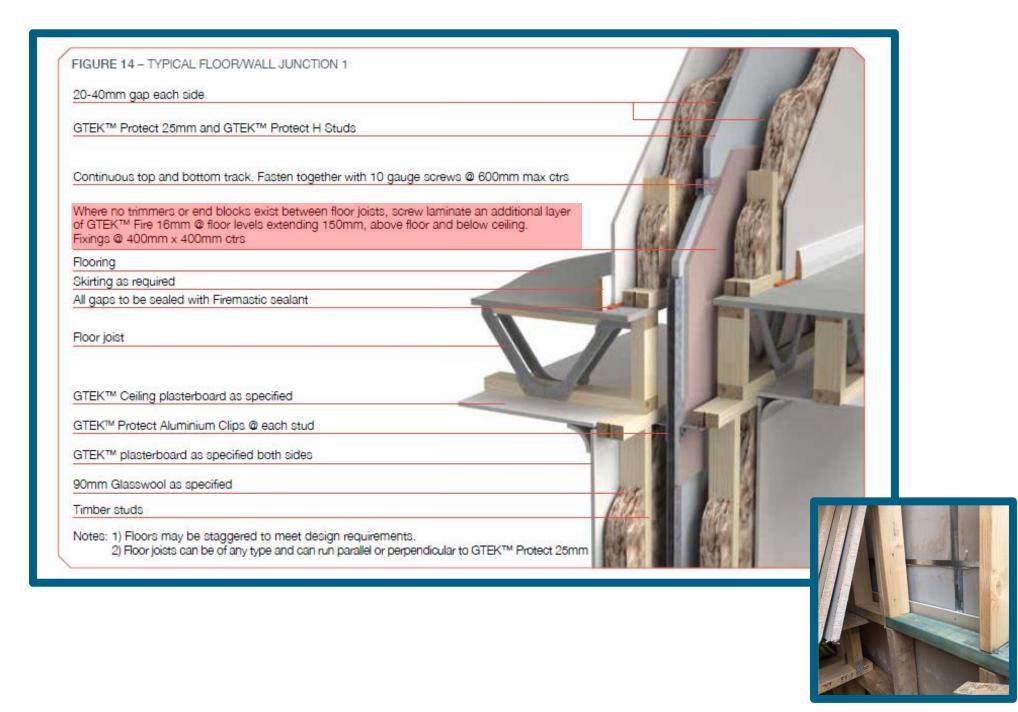
External wall junctions

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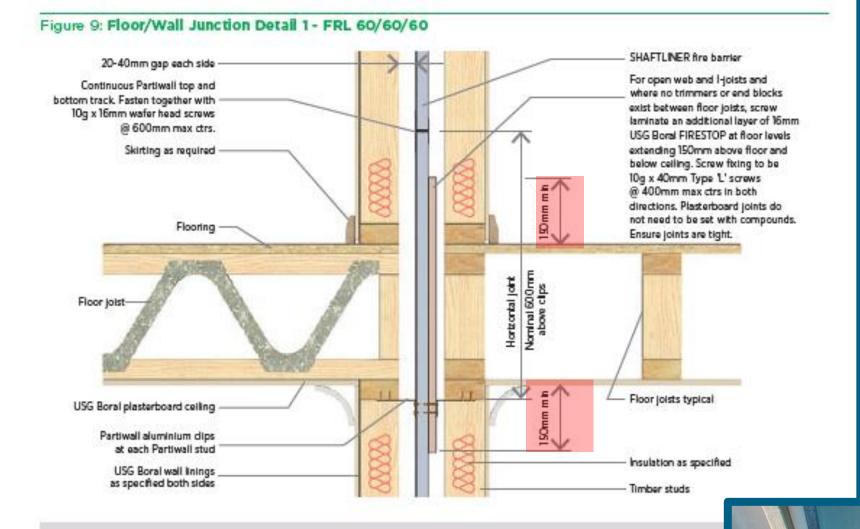
Sealing

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Note:

- 1. Floors may be staggered to meet design requirements (refer Figure 10 for details).
- Floor joists can be of any type and can run parallel or perpendicular to SHAFTLINER™ fire barrier.

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Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

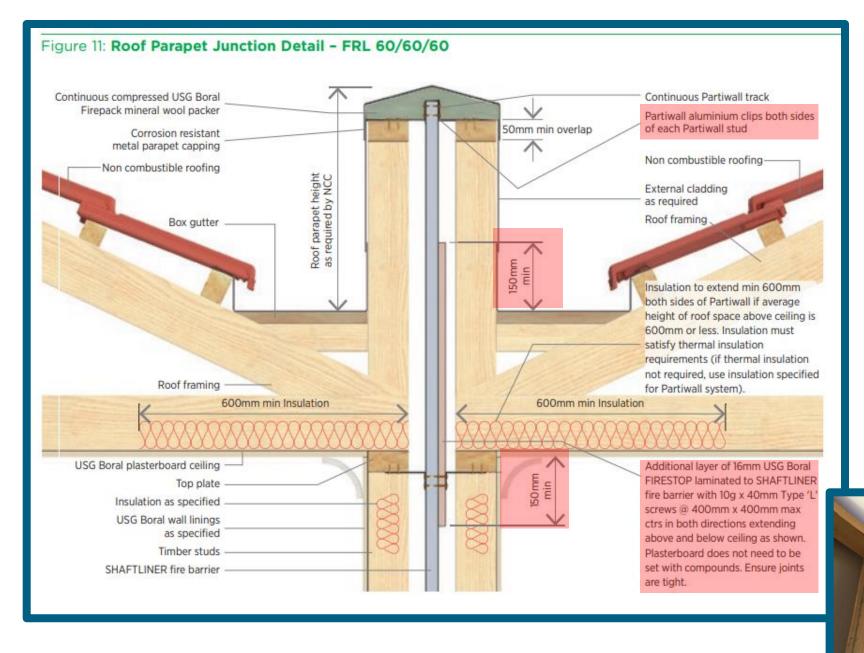
External wall junctions

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Objective

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Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

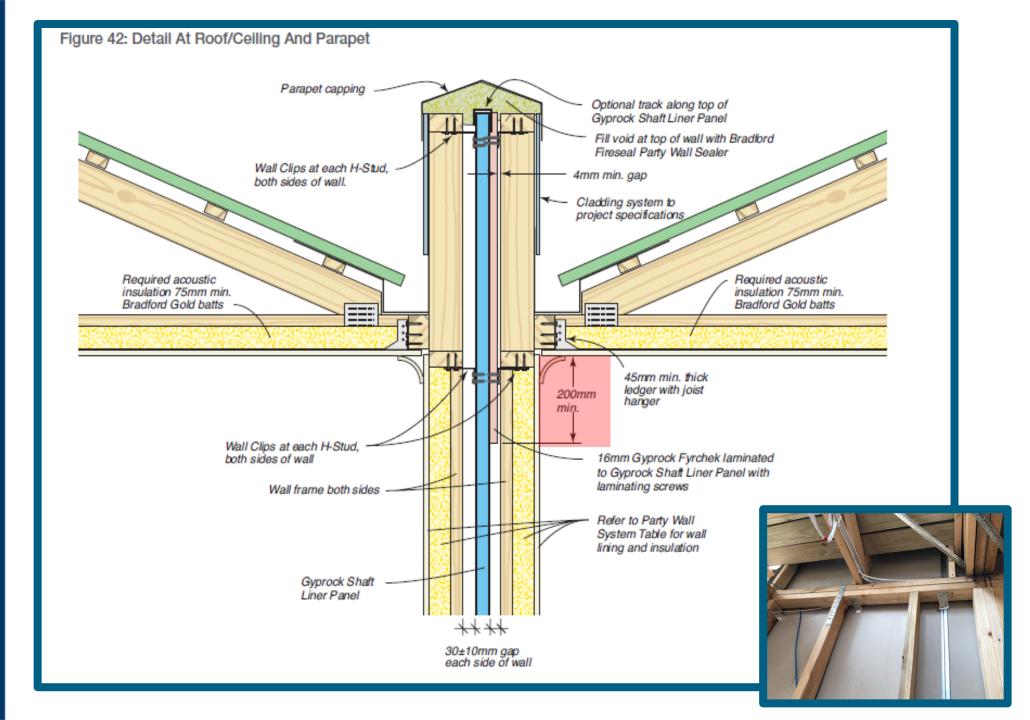
External wall junctions

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Objective

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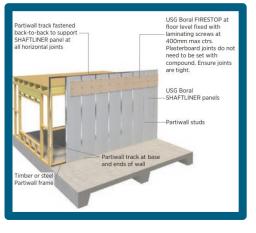
Damage

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Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

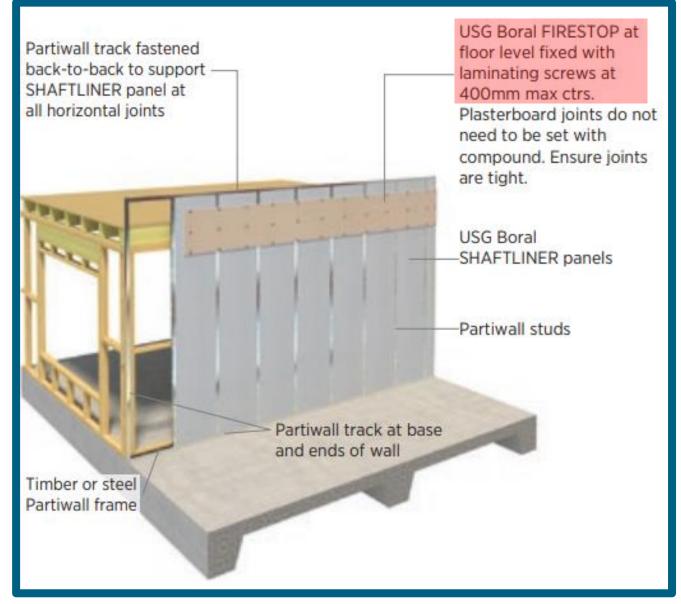
External wall junctions

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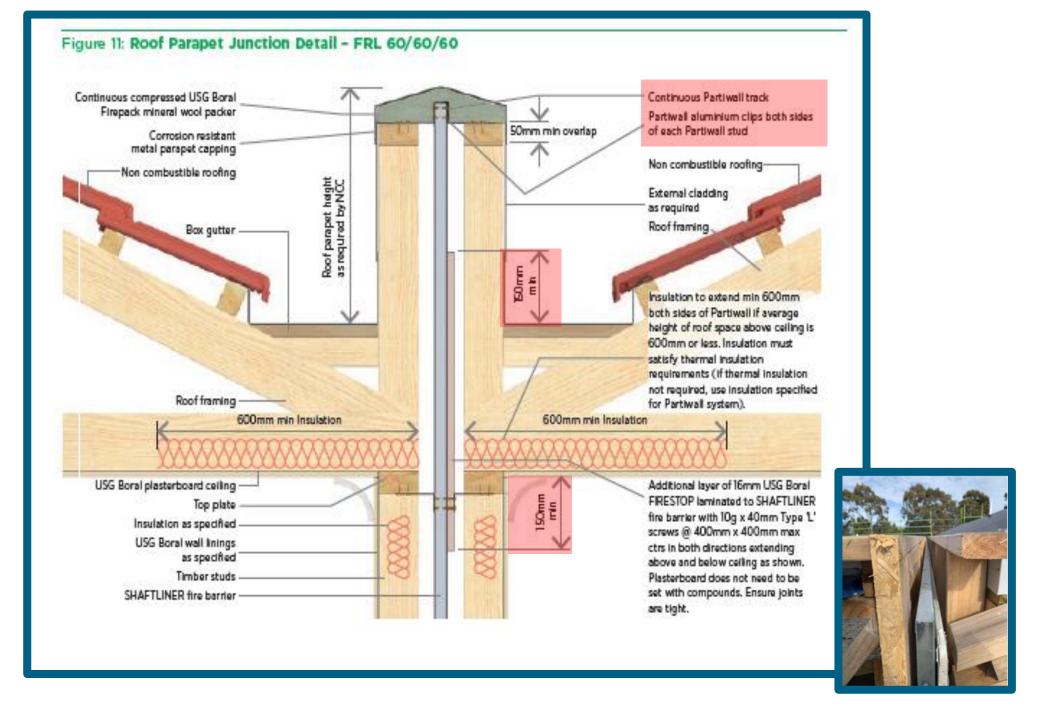
External wall junctions

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Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

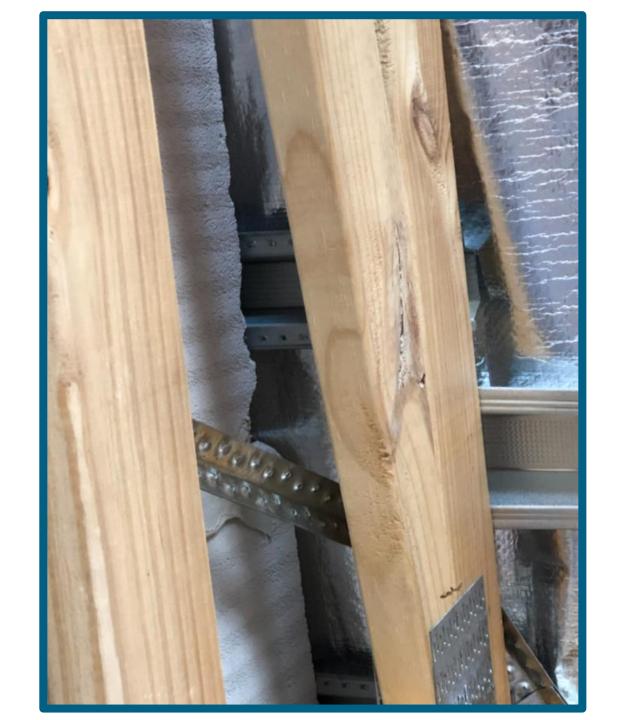
External wall junctions

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Clips/brackets

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External wall junctions

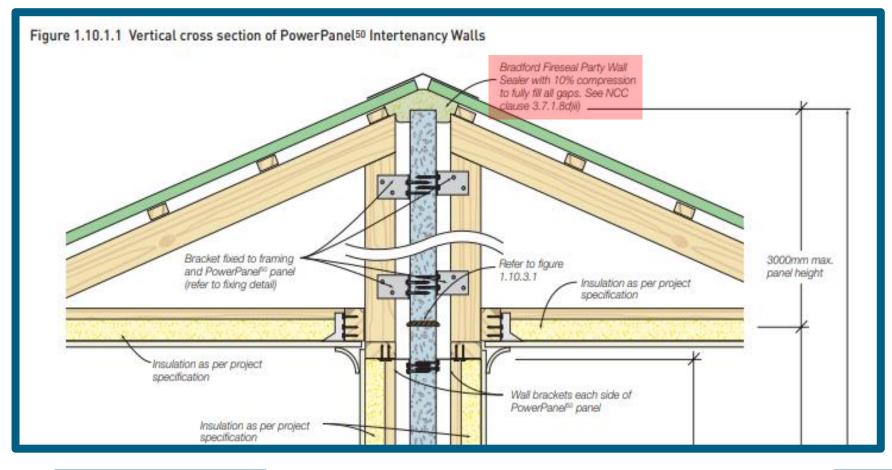
Sealing

Damage

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3.7.3.2 Separating walls

- c) A separating wall complying with (a)(iii)(A)—
 - must not be crossed by timber or other combustible building elements except for roof battens with dimensions of 75 x 50 mm or less, or roof sarking; and
 - must have any gap between the top of the wall and the underside of the roof covering packed with mineral fibre or other suitable fire-resisting material.



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Floor/Ceiling junctions

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Objective

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

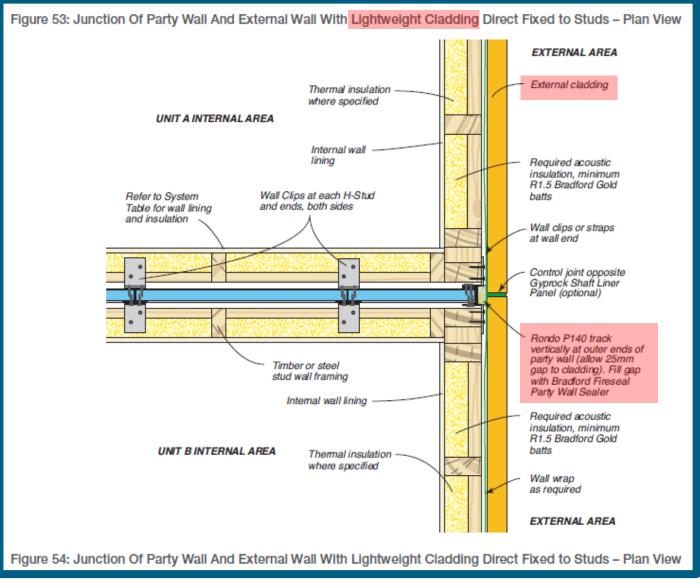
External wall junctions

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Objective

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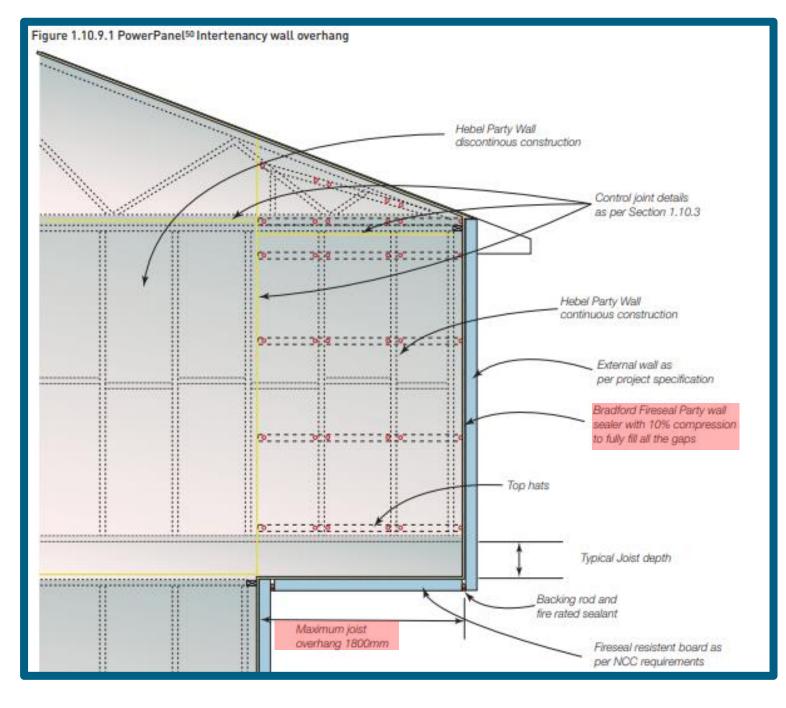
External wall junctions

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Objective

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Objective

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External wall junctions

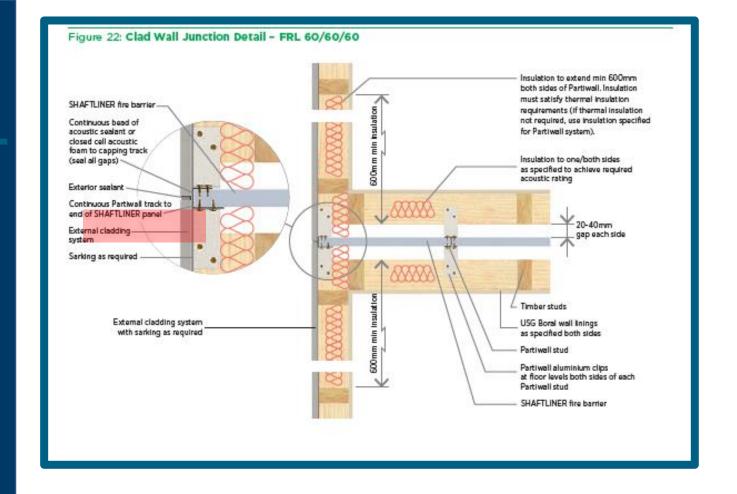
Sealing

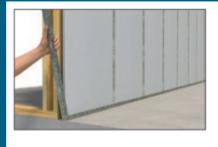
Damage

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Step 4: Continue installing SHAFTLINER panels and Partiwall studs

- Continue to install SHAFTLINER panels and Partiwall studs until reaching end of wall.
- As framing progresses fix Partiwall studs to timber framing with Partiwall aluminium clips.
- Cut the last SHAFTLINER panel in line with the end of Partiwall base track.
 Fit Partiwall end track tightly over the edge of the panel and screw fix end and base tracks junction with 10g x 16mm drill point wafer head screws both sides.
- Fix end track to timber frame with Partiwall aluminium clip.



Objective

Clips/brackets

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

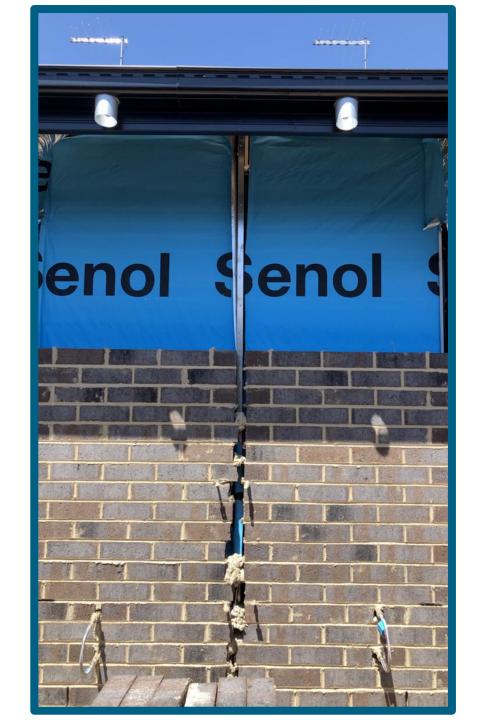
External wall junctions

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

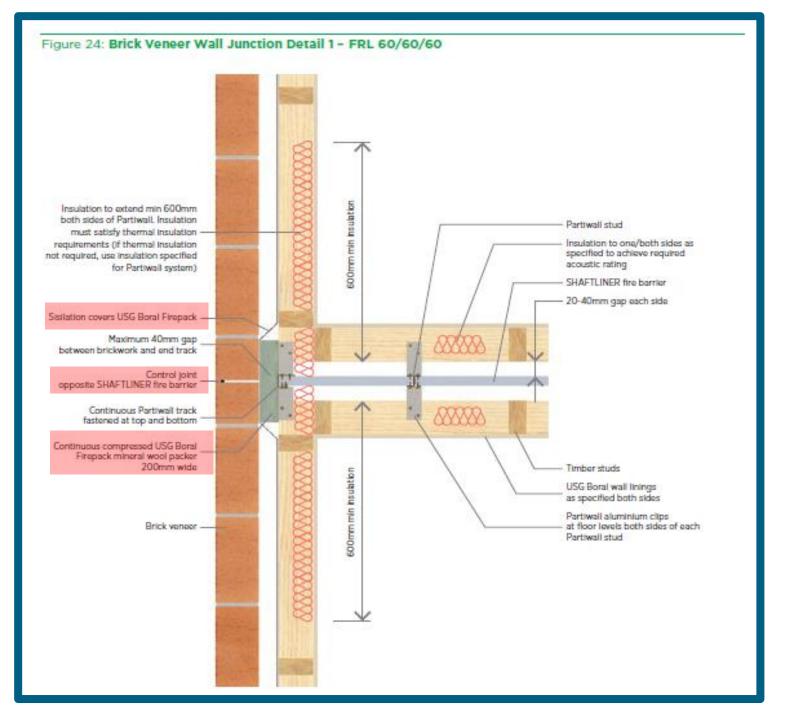
External wall junctions

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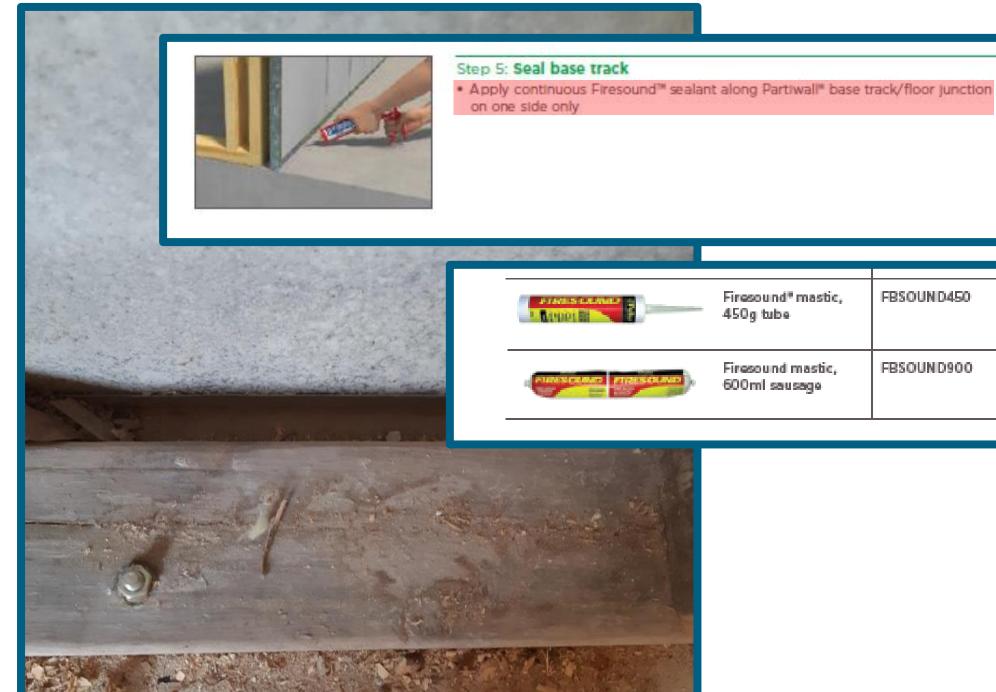
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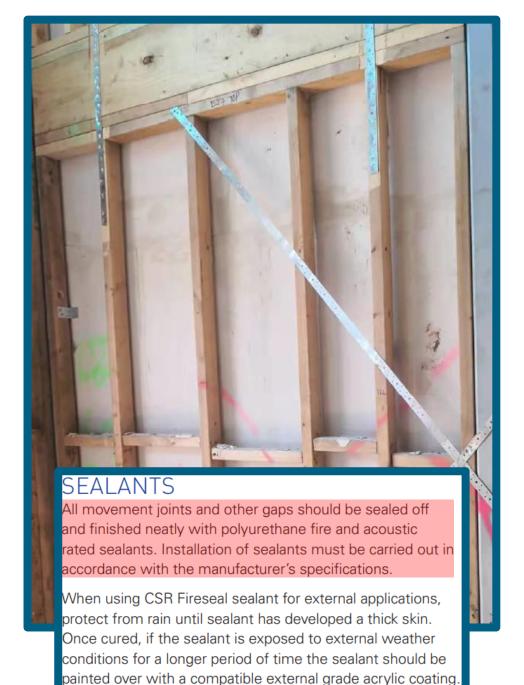
Health





HEBEL ADHESIVE

Hebel Adhesive is applied to the panel with a 50mm Hebel notched trowel. When the panels are pushed together the joints are to be 2-3mm thick. Sufficient pressure must be applied to the panels when gluing to ensure the adhesive is fully bedded across the joint. Scrape off any excess adhesive protruding from the joints and fill any gaps. Adhesive is to be mixed to the proportions and consistency as per the instructions on the bag.



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Don'ts

- · Don't use damaged materials.
- Don't penetrate the SHAFTLINER other than in the roof space as per Boral's details.
- · Don't exceed specified clip spacing.
- · Don't use steel clips.
- Don't use Partiwall H-studs in lieu of Partiwall track as edge tracks nor at horizontal joint in SHAFTLINER fire barrier.
- Don't cut tracks between Partiwall studs.
 Tracks should be used in full lengths.
- Don't run services in the gap between SHAFTLINER fire barrier and framework.



Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

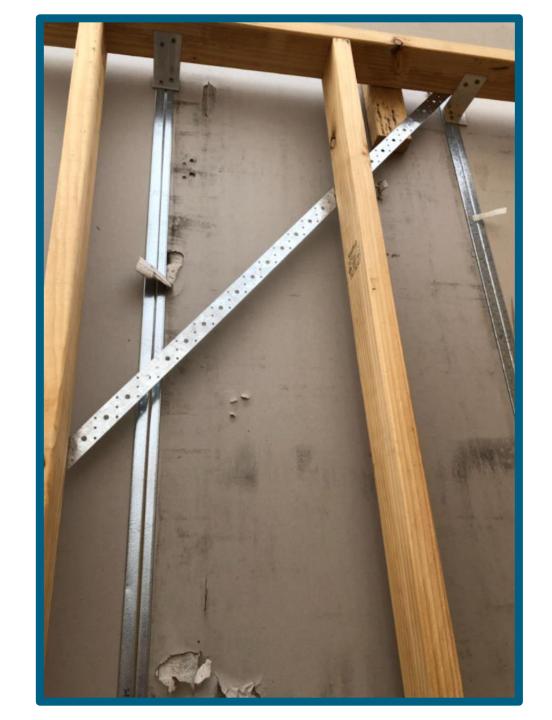
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Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap

Health





Exposure to Weather

Once erected, it is recommended that the central barrier of Gyprock Shaft Liner Panels and Fyrchek plasterboard are protected from rain. The use of a covering can prevent the formation of mould, and can avoid delays in allowing boards to dry before internal linings are applied. The use of Shaft Liner Panel MP is recommended to reduce the occurrence of mould during the construction period. In any case, the central barrier may be left exposed to weather for up to one month if required. Panels with physical damage to either the core or paper face must be replaced.



Objective

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Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

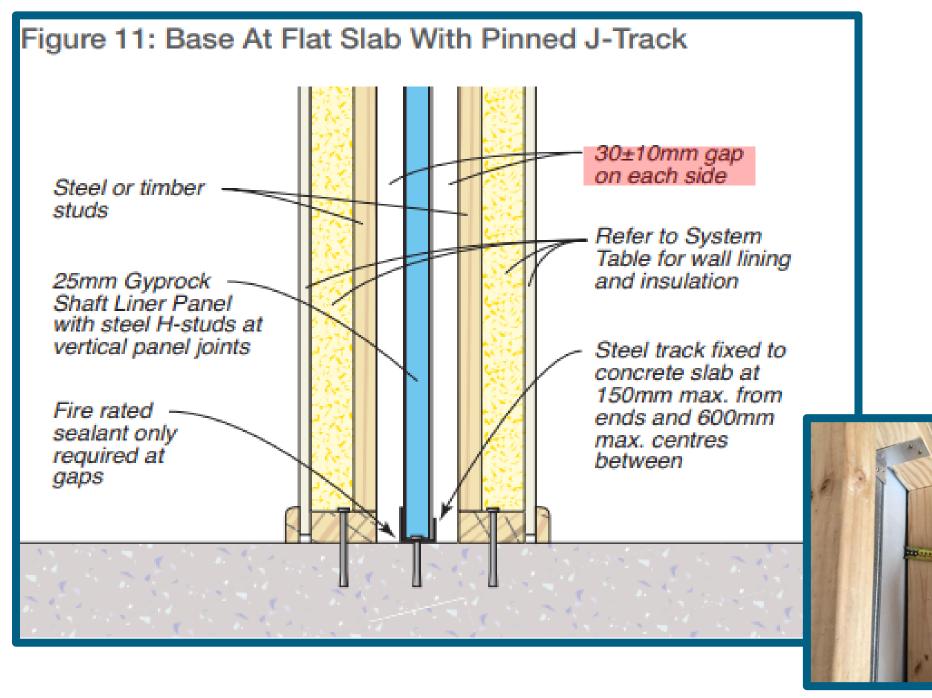
External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

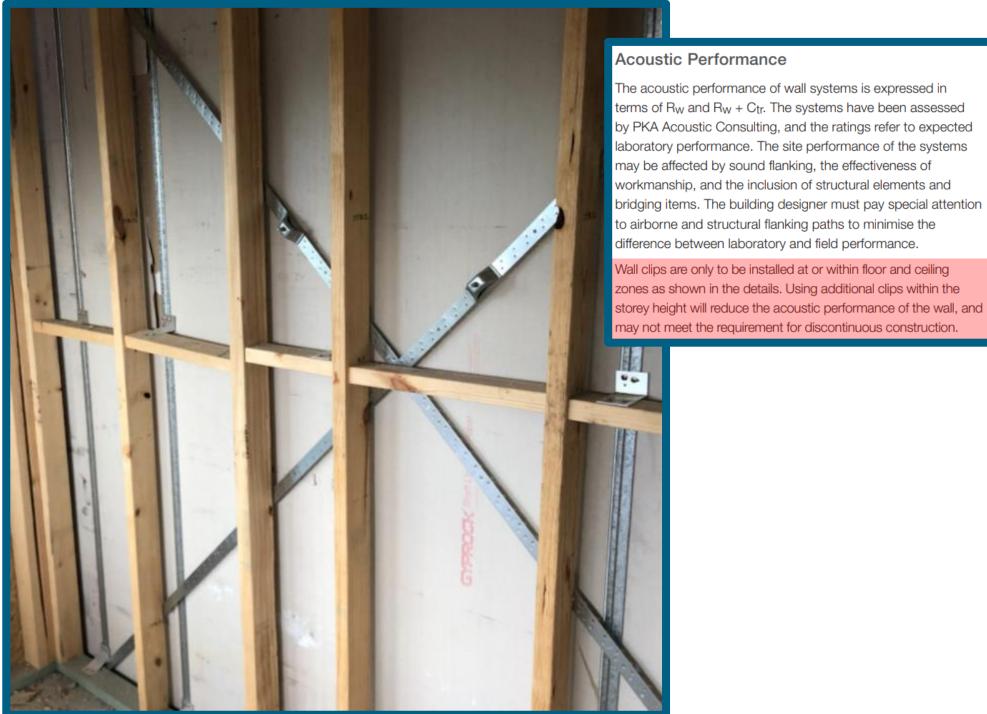
External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

External wall junctions

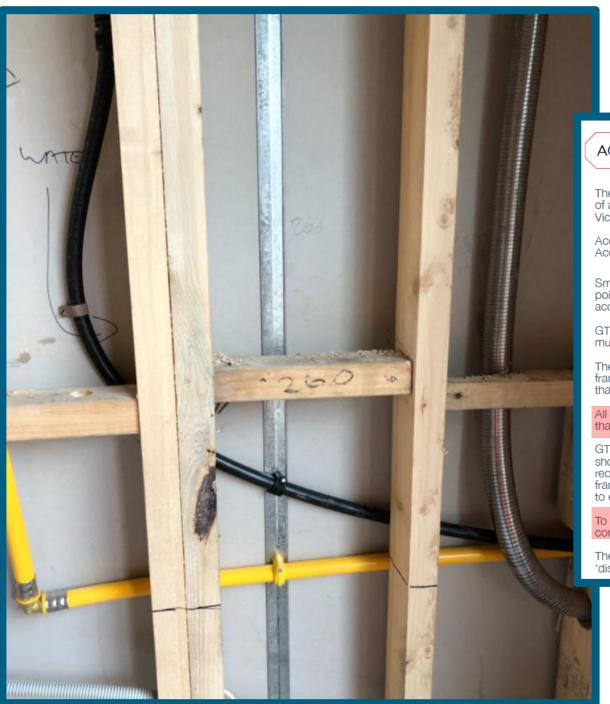
Sealing

Damage

Air Gap

Health





GTEK docs to be obtained

ACOUSTIC

The GTEK™ Protect System has been the subject of a series of acoustic tests at the CSIRO Acoustic Laboratory at Clayton, Victoria.

Acoustical estimates have been determined by Marshall Day Acoustics.

Small penetrations of linings in occupancy areas such as power points, switches, light fittings and pipes do not need to be acoustically sealed.

GTEK™ Protect 25mm base and internal lining junctions with floors must be sealed with an approved fire acoustic sealant.

The clear distance between the GTEK[™] Protect 25mm and wall framing on both sides should not be less than 20mm nor more than 40mm.

All services should be run through the framing. Insulation thicker than the stud framing is allowed.

GTEK[™] Fire 16mm laminated to the GTEK[™] Protect 25mm should not come into contact with the stud or floor framing. It is recommended the gap between GTEK[™] Protect 25mm and timber framing be increased to a minimum 25mm on the GTEK[™] Fire side to ensure adequate clearance.

To maintain acoustic performance, service pipes must not be in contact with the GTEK $^{\text{TM}}$ Protect 25mm.

The GTEK™ System Protect complies with BCA requirements for 'discontinuous construction'.

Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

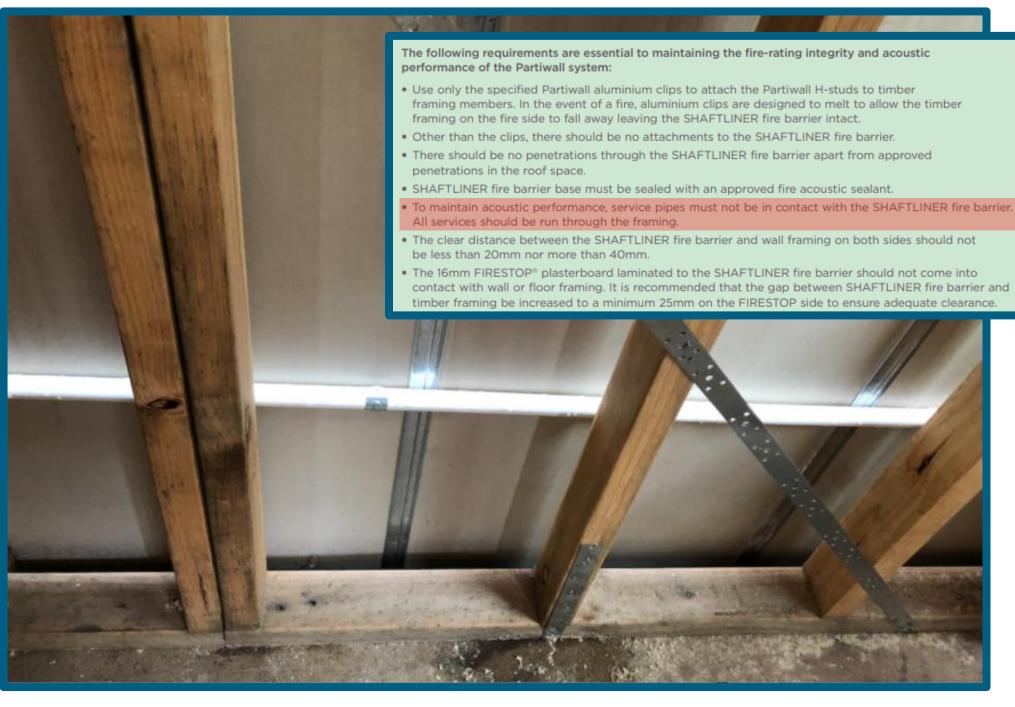
External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

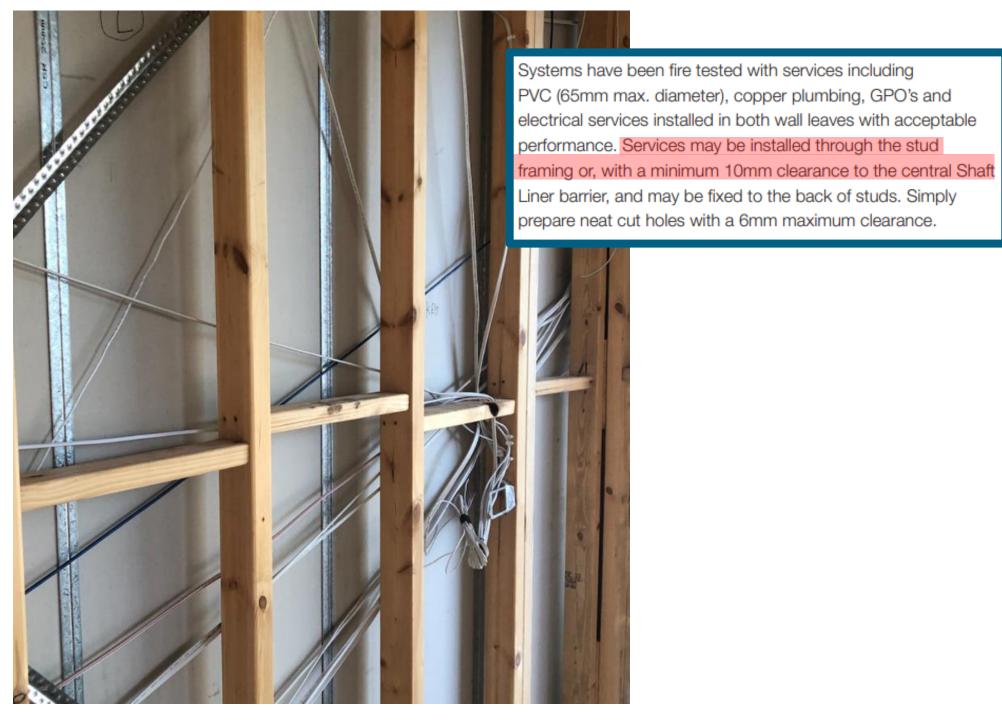
External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

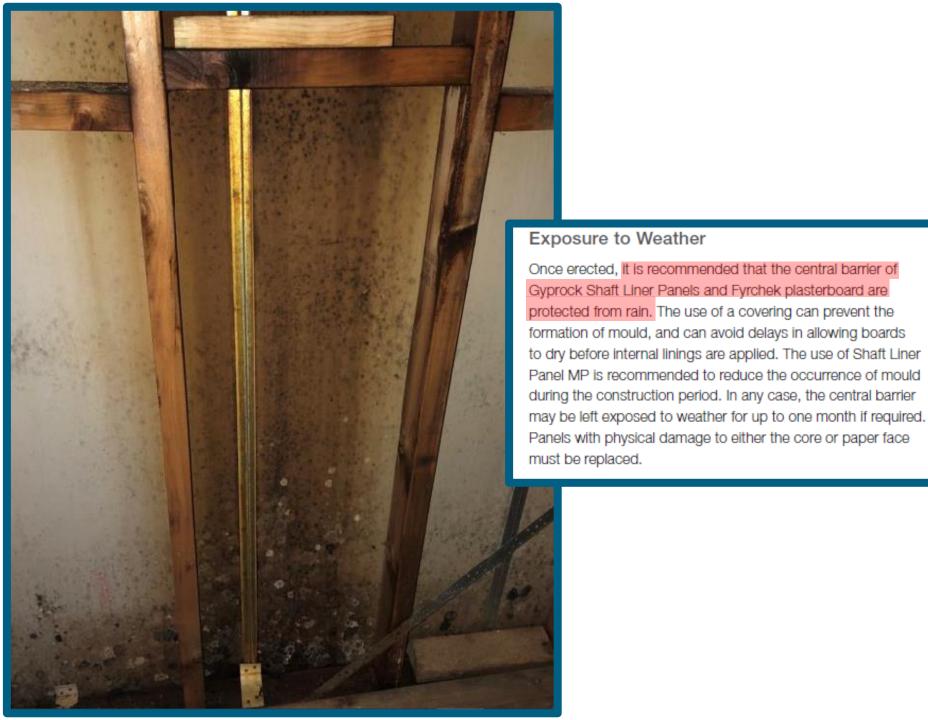
External wall junctions

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Damage

Air Gap





Objective

Clips/brackets

Alignment

Floor/Ceiling junctions

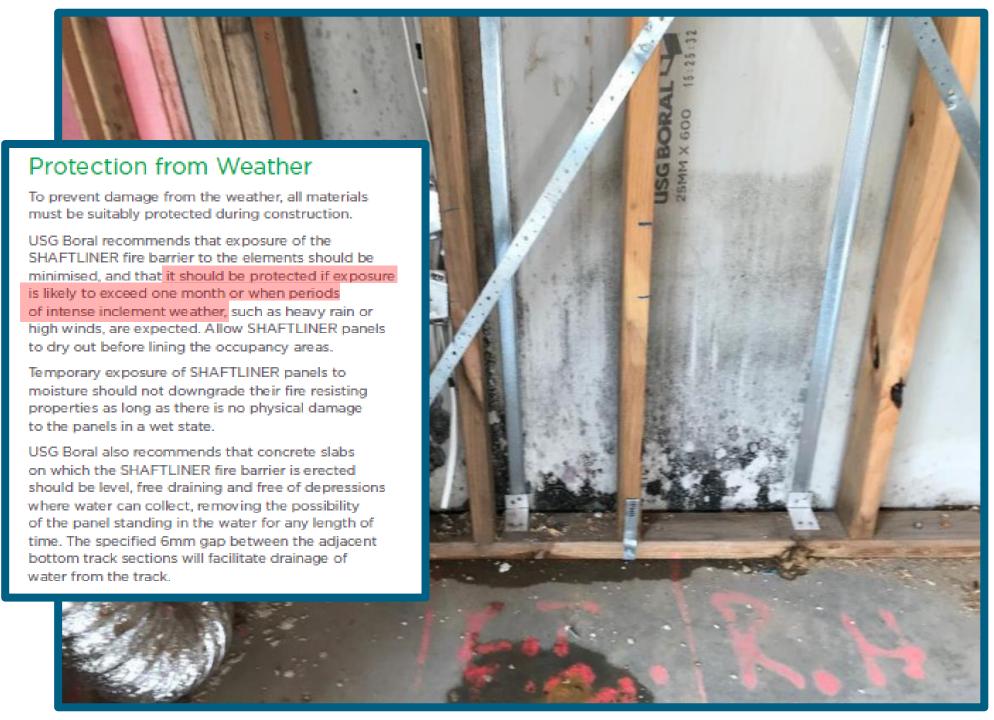
External wall junctions

Sealing

Damage

Air Gap



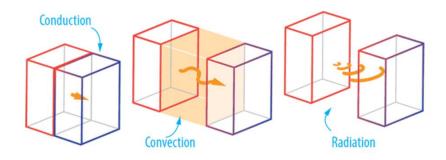


References

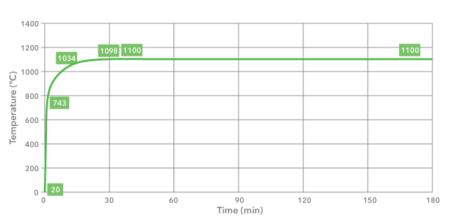
Product	Installation guide referenced
Hebel	https://hebel.com.au/uploads/downloads/HELIT152 FEB20 Low Rise Intertenancy 50 mm DIGuide.pdf
Gyprock	https://www.gyprock.com.au/-/media/gyprock/content/documents/design/system-information/gyprock-party-wall-manual-gyp513-2021.pdf
Boral	https://www.usgboral.com/content/dam/USGBoral/Australia/Website/Documents/English/installation-guide/UB1037 Partiwall Brochure A4 digital 21 08 18.pdf
GTEK	https://gtekplasterboard.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/BGCGTEK PROTECT.pdf
National Construction Code 2019 Volume 2	https://ncc.abcb.gov.au/sites/default/files/ncc/NCC 2019 Volume Two Amendment%2 01.pdf

Fire performance of separating walls

- Heat transfer:
 - Conduction
 - Convection
 - Radiation
- Fire Resistance Level (FRL):
 - Structural adequacy
 - Integrity
 - Insulation

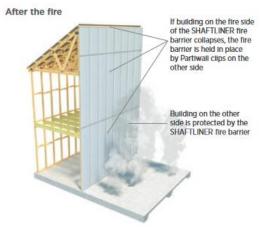


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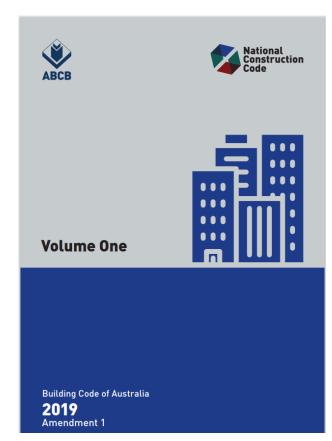


https://www.usgboral.com/content/dam/USGBoral/Australia /Website/Documents/English/installationguide/UB1037 Partiwall Brochure A4 digital 21 08 18.pdf

Performance assessments

NCC 2019

- Performance Requirements
 - Deemed-to-Satisfy Solution
 - Performance Solution
- Evidence of suitability
- Schedule 5
 - Fire-resistance





https://ncc.abcb.gov.au/



Thank you

More information regarding The PIP Quarterly report can be found on the VBA website:

• For the website go to https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/plumbing/complaints-compliance-enforcement/proactive-inspections-program/quarterly-reports





