



COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 1996

No. C-20

REV. - NOVEMBER 2005

APPLYING IKO'S MODIFIED SBS MEMBRANES

On occasion roofing contractors may say "IKO's SBS membranes are too soft compared to some others I've used. In the summer, after applying it, you can't walk on it but with this other brand, there's no problem". IKO's response to these comments is:

1. All manufacturers of SBS membranes have the same policy regarding foot traffic. No one should walk on an SBS membrane immediately after application, until it has cooled.
2. Various manufacturers use different SBS modified bitumen formulations. Roofing contractors should allow themselves sufficient time to adjust to the different torching procedures when using different membranes. An industry magazine article titled "The Dirty Dozen: Top Installation Pitfalls" deals with the various approaches and torching procedures towards modified. (See RSI magazine - September 1993)
3. IKO's ring and ball softening point is typically lower than most of our competitor's membranes. Because of this, it takes less heat and time to apply an IKO membrane, offering the roofer an application efficiency advantage.
4. Other Canadian competitors use an oxidized asphalt as the saturant for the reinforcement. For this reason, their sheet is less flexible than IKO's, since IKO uses only 100% modified asphalt for both the reinforcement saturant and the coating. In other words, our competitor's membrane is actually only about 70% modified, with 30% of the thickness coming from oxidized, hard asphalt.
5. The filler content of competitor's materials is typically much higher than IKO's. If filler content gets too high, membrane life expectancy may be shortened, and the sheet gets "harder". IKO will not jeopardize the integrity and quality of its product by using excessively high levels of filler.
6. Yes, IKO's SBS modified membranes are softer than competitive brands, but once the roofer has applied a few rolls, he will barely notice the difference. As far as winter application of IKO's membranes is concerned, because of our softness and flexibility, roofers generally prefer using IKO over competitive brands.
7. Since we use a much lower percentage of filler content and because we use only modified asphalt even as a saturant, most roofers prefer using IKO's base sheets because they will lay down evenly and will not create waves or buckles which can occur with competitive brands.
8. After reviewing all of the above, if roofing contractors still prefer membranes with more hardness, then it is recommended that they use IKO's Armourplast APP membranes which are generally a little harder than the SBS membranes and still give you the same watertightness and life expectancy of an IKO SBS roofing assembly.

For additional information on any of IKO's products or application requirements, visit us on the web at www.iko.com (North America), or contact us in Canada/United States at 1-800-361-5836 (press "1" for English and then "2" for our Technical Support Department).

