Detail considerations

SURFACE FINISHES

Grades I, II and III flooring can be finished by sand rubbing or with a natural float finish. Grade IV flooring should always be sand rubbed.

Mastic asphalt underlays to other floor finishes should receive a sand rubbed or natural float finish in accordance with the requirements of the manufacturer of the floor covering.

Where paving grade mastic asphalt is used for flooring in unheated buildings, the surface should be sand rubbed. However, sand rubbing would be inappropriate for certain applications such as unheated sports halls where contamination of the vinyl adhesive may be a consideration.

SEPARATING MEMBRANES

Grades I, II and III flooring should be laid on a glass fibre separating membrane.
This should always be used when it is suspected that there is no adequate damp-proof membrane below the concrete ground slab or where a suspended concrete slab is located over areas where wet processes could permit moisture vapour to penetrate the concrete. The separating membrane should be laid loose with a 50mm lapped joint. The use of a separating membrane between waterproofing and flooring grades of mastic asphalt is not recommended.

Grade IV flooring should preferably be laid directly on the concrete base. However, a separating membrane is essential in the following circumstances:

a) Where the base is of a porous or open texture such as no fines or lightweight concrete
b) Where the concrete surface contains fine cracks

Where surface contamination is evident, reference should be made to the mastic asphalt manufacturer for guidance.

PREPARATION OF SLOPING & VERTICAL SURFACES TO PROVIDE A KEY

Refer to Roofing Section.

THERMAL AND SOUND INSULATION

Interposing of thermal or sound insulation between the structural base and the mastic asphalt flooring is not advisable. The majority of materials used for this purpose do not provide adequate support for the mastic asphalt.

MOVEMENT JOINTS

Allowance should be made for movement joints in mastic asphalt flooring where such joints are incorporated in the base on which the asphalt is applied.