Surface protection

GENERAL

All mastic asphalt tanking should be protected against static point loading and mechanical damage prior to the application of the protective screed.

Detail considerations

MOVEMENT JOINTS

BS 8102:1990 Code of Practice for protection of structures against water from the ground, refers to movement joints in section 5.1.4. However these should be avoided.

Care needs to be taken when considering systems used in conjunction with movement joints where manufacturers should be consulted. However, although joint details can be offered to facilitate movement, it is better to design the structure in such a way to eliminate the use of movement joints.

CONSTRUCTION JOINTS

Construction joints should be kept to a minimum. Their probable position should be foreseen when the design is being prepared and details of the joints shown on the drawings, They should be designed to provide thorough keying of the faces of the concrete and may include the provision of water bars if necessary to prevent the ingress of water.

SERVICE PIPES

Continuity of tanking and linings must, in all cases, be ensured and for this reason the penetration of the tanking by service or other pipes, cables etc. should be avoided and special provision should be made.

PILE CAPS

To ensure continuity of the mastic asphalt tanking in a basement supported on piled foundations it is essential that there should be a complete separation between the floor of the basement and the pile caps. The mastic asphalt tanking should be laid as a continuous membrane over the entire area of the basement floor and the provisions of BS 8102:1990 should be fully implemented.

SEPARATING MEMBRANES

Mastic asphalt tanking is normally laid without a separating membrane. However, where excessive 'blowing' is experienced in the first horizontal coat of mastic asphalt, the use of a separating membrane of glass fibre tissue with 50mm laps may be considered.
'Blowing' may occur if the surface is damp, or occasionally on concrete in exceptionally dry weather or on dusty surfaces.