

Table 4

Classification of surface regularity for mastic asphalt floorings and underlays

Class	Maximum permissible departure from a 3m straightedge laid in contact with the floor	Application	Mastic Asphalt Grade
SR1	3mm	High standard floors Special floors	Grades I and II
SR2	5mm	Normal standard floors	Grades I, II and III
SR3	10mm	Utility standard floors. Other floors, the surface regularity of which is not critical	Grades III and IV and Paving Grade

Mastic asphalt underlay to other floor finishes

Where mastic asphalt is to be used as an underlay it should be laid to the surface regularity selected by the specifier. The surface finish of the mastic asphalt underlay should be as specified by the manufacturer of the flooring to be applied.

Site work

Work planning

Where mastic asphalt waterproofing is to be overlaid with mastic asphalt flooring the work should be arranged so that the overlaying is undertaken as a continuous operation and precautions should be taken to prevent contamination of the surface of the waterproofing prior to laying the flooring.



Preparation

If the asphalt is delivered in blocks and melted down on site any additional coarse aggregate should be incorporated at this stage. Alternatively the asphalt can be delivered molten in a hot charge transporter in which case any coarse aggregate is incorporated during manufacture.

Before commencing laying the mastic asphalt flooring, the following should be checked:

- a). The base has been properly laid to the specified falls (where required), tolerances and finishes, the equivalent of a wood float finish being required on horizontal concrete screeds or slab
- b). All chases have been properly cut
- c). All outlets have been installed, fixed and located at the correct height relative to the base
- d). Vertical surfaces have been properly prepared
- e). Movement joints have been correctly installed

Achieving required quality of work

In order to achieve the required quality of work, steps should be taken to ensure that:

- a). Design and specification decisions are taken, recorded and transmitted by the designer
- b). The design intentions are understood and achievable in the given circumstances
- c). The work is regularly monitored to assure conformance

Receiving and checking materials

Flooring materials should be checked upon arrival on site to ensure that they:

- a). Are correctly marked and/or, where applicable, are in the manufacturer's original wrappers
- b). Conform to specification
- c). Are sufficient for the work

Goods not meeting the requirements should be removed from site.

Documentation and preparation

Full documentation should be prepared as described. There should be a full exchange of information before the work begins on site.

Any queries should be resolved before the work begins. Clear instruction on all aspects of the work involved should be given to personnel.

Before work begins all necessary scaffolding should be in position together with sufficient hoisting facilities and measures appropriate for the protection of personnel and the public.

The deck should be in an adequate condition to receive the mastic asphalt and all necessary builder's work should have been completed.

Only sufficient materials for the day's requirements should be taken out of store and placed convenient to the area being worked. They should only be unwrapped immediately prior to use and all wrapping materials should be disposed of carefully.

Equipment should be sited as close as is practicable to the area being worked.

Workmanship

Remelting

Strict temperature control should be maintained throughout the remelting process. Generally, the temperature of the mastic asphalt should not exceed 230 degrees centigrade in accordance with BS 8204. Remelting should be carried out in mechanically agitated mixers, and cauldrons should only be used in exceptional circumstances, governed by site conditions and the areas of mastic asphalt to be laid.

Setting out

The setting out of the floor into bays should be decided by the asphalt contractor. The arrangement of the bays will normally depend on the design of the floor and the number of spreaders engaged, so that the laying and finishing processes can both be easily controlled by the spreaders, in order to achieve the specified surface regularity.

Transportation of molten material

When the material is sufficiently molten to be workable, it should be carried in buckets, wheelbarrows or heated dumpers to the point of laying. To prevent the molten material from sticking to the buckets, wheelbarrows, etc. they may be sprinkled inside with a minimum quantity of inorganic dust such as limestone dust. For acid resisting mastic asphalt a silica or similar acid resisting dust should be used.

Placing the separating membrane

The separating membrane, when required, should be laid loose with lapped joints at least 50mm wide.