Why do Parex require a primer coat applied to the external face of phenolic insulation for External Wall Insulation (EWI) applications?

When Parex conducted its testing at the BRE to gain its European Technical Approval under ETAG004, it was found that during the pull of test criteria, the mode of failure was significantly low enough to cause potential failure of the EWI system and was considered too low an average result to allow a directly adhesive application to be considered acceptable.

To counteract this, Parex applies a coat of its Micro Gobetis 3000 sealer coat to the surface of the tissue face. This significantly enhances the bond strength of the tissue face to the insulation but also provides a sealer coat on the surface of the insulation which counteracts the suction of the insulation and thus does not de-water the base coat applied allowing it to achieve full curing and bond strength.

The sealer coat also provides an element of temporary weather protection to the insulation surface and assists in repelling water and thus reduces the potential for water absorption occurring during its ‘exposed’ application stage during a rainstorm.

Please note;
It is not a substitution for good site practice which should protect the insulation from weathering and the insulation should not be left exposed for several days.

What is the reason for applying the primer?

Phenolic insulation used in External Wall Insulations has a tissue type binder face which adheres itself to the insulation during production.

The bond strength of the tissue face to the phenolic insulation is not very high and the phenolic insulation has a structure that provides it with a capability to rapidly absorb moisture. The combination of these two elements can cause:

- Delamination of the base coat from the insulation. This is because the base coat generally only bonds to the tissue face.
- Due to the insulations high suction factor, it can de-water the base coat during its curing stage and effectively weaken the base coat material.

What is the application procedure for applying the primer?

Ensure the insulation boards are dry and kept flat, store in a cool place and avoid exposure to long periods of direct sun light.

Avoid applying the primer in hot conditions. It is likely that the insulation will require a two coat application.

- Apply a first coat of Micro Gobetis 3000 and if required, this can be diluted with up to 25% clean water to aid application of the first coat for a two coat application. Test the substrate for suction i.e. using a plasterers paddle brush, cast some water at the treated surface and if it sucks in, apply a
further coat, if it sits on the surface the substrate is ready for the render application. To avoid excessive applications, it is recommended this procedure is completed after the first coat, as subsequent coats may not be required. Once suction control is satisfactory continue with the render application.

- The base coat render can be applied as soon as the **Micro Gobetis 3000** is dry, i.e. after 1 to 24 hours depending on weather conditions.
- Fully mix the product before use to maintain an even consistency.
- **Micro Gobetis 3000** is best applied by brush or medium lamb’s wool roller as other roller types sometime bunches the product.

*For additional information on fixing requirements for other types of insulation please refer to our other Technical Information Sheet;*  
**Adhesive & mechanical attachment of mineral and phenolic insulation boards used on Externally Insulated Facade Systems.**

For additional information or other Technical Information Sheets, please visit our Web site link [http://www.parex.co.uk/Render_Systems/Technical_Information_Sheets_and_FAQs](http://www.parex.co.uk/Render_Systems/Technical_Information_Sheets_and_FAQs)  
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