



BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 752 [2019]

BGC DURAGRID™ FACADE SYSTEM

Appraisal No. 752 [2019]



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products
for building and construction.



Appraisal Holder:

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Pty Ltd**

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Product

- 1.1 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is a cavity-based, express-jointed wall cladding system. It is designed to be used as an external wall cladding system for residential and light commercial type buildings where domestic construction techniques are used.
- 1.2 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System consists of Duragrid™ fibre cement sheet fixed over timber battens and extruded aluminium backing strips to form a cavity. The Duragrid™ fibre cement sheet is finished with an acrylic paint system.
- 1.3 The system incorporates a primary and secondary means of weather resistance [first and second line of defence] against water penetration by separating the cladding from the external wall framing with a nominal 20 mm cavity.

Scope

- 2.1 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System has been appraised as an external wall cladding system for buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1; and,
 - constructed with timber framing complying with the NZBC; and,
 - with a risk score of 0-20, calculated in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 2; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including Extra High.
- 2.2 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System has also been appraised for weathertightness and structural wind loading when used as a wall cladding system for buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1; and,
 - constructed with timber framing complying with the NZBC; and,
 - situated in specific design wind pressures up to a maximum design differential ultimate limit state [ULS] of 2.5 kPa.
- 2.3 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System must only be installed on vertical surfaces [except for tops of parapets and balustrades, which must have a minimum slope as defined by NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 or NZBC Acceptable Solution F4/AS1 and be waterproofed in accordance with the Technical Literature].
- 2.4 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is appraised for use with aluminium window and door joinery that is installed with vertical jambs and horizontal heads and sills. *[The Appraisal of the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System relies on the joinery meeting the requirements of NZS 4211 for the relevant Wind Zone or design wind pressure.]*



Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the NZBC:

Clause B1 STRUCTURE: Performance B1.3.1, B1.3.2, and B1.3.4. The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System meets the requirements for loads arising from self-weight, wind and impact [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (h) and (j)]. See Paragraphs 9.1 – 9.3.

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (b), not less than 15 years, B2.3.1 (c), 5 years and B2.3.2. The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 10.1 - 10.4.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System meets this requirement. See Paragraphs 14.1 – 14.5.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System meets this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.

3.2 This is an Appraisal of an **Alternative Solution** in terms of New Zealand Building Code compliance.

Technical Specification

4.1 System components and accessories for the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System supplied by BGC Fibre Cement (NZ) are:

Duragrid™ Sheet

- Duragrid™ sheet is a 9.0 mm thick fibre cement sheet, manufactured from a cellulose cement formulation. It is produced in sheet material form with 'Duragrid™' printed on the front face. The sheets are formed, cut to length and then cured by high-pressure autoclaving. The sheet is coated on the front face and four edges with a sealer.
- Duragrid™ sheet is available in sizes of 1190 mm wide and 1190, 2390 and 2990 mm long. It is manufactured to conform to the requirements of AS/NZS 2908.2.

Accessories

- **BGC Horizontal Backing Strip™** – extruded aluminium profile, 90 mm wide and 1190, 2390 and 2990 mm long. The backing strip has a 10 mm wide channel to form the horizontal expressed joint. The backing strip has a natural finish.
- **BGC Edge Sealer** – acrylic sealer supplied in 400 g can to seal cut edges of Duragrid™ sheets prior to installation.

4.2 System components and accessories for the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System, which are supplied by the building contractor are:

- **Cavity battens** – nominal 75 mm wide by 25 mm thick (minimum finished size of 70 mm wide by 18 mm thick) and 50 mm wide by 25 mm thick (minimum finished size of 45 mm wide by 18 mm thick) SG8 framing grade pinus radiata, timber cavity battens, treated to Hazard Class H3.1.
- **Flexible wall underlay** – building paper complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23, or breather-type membranes covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as a wall underlay.
- **Flexible building underlay support** – polypropylene strap at 300 mm centres fixed horizontally and drawn taut for securing the building wrap in place and preventing bulging of the bulk insulation into the drainage cavity where cavity battens are installed at greater than 450 mm centres. *(Note: additional vertical battens may also be installed to provide support.)*
- **Rigid wall underlays** – minimum 7 mm thick H3 treated plywood or 6 mm thick fibre cement complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Table 23, or rigid air barrier systems covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal such as BGC Durabarrier, which is covered by BRANZ Appraisal No. 721 [2011].



- **Flexible sill and jamb flashing tape** – flexible flashing tapes complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 4.3.11, or flexible flashing tapes covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use around window and door joinery openings.
- **Cavity vent strip** – PVC, aluminium or stainless steel, punched with 3-5 mm holes or slots complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.3.
- **Window and door trim cavity air seal** – air seals and PEF rod complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.6, or self-expanding, moisture cure polyurethane foam air seals covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use around window, door and other wall penetration openings.
- **Flexible sealant** – sealant complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, or sealant covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as a weather sealing sealant for exterior use.
- **Gap filler** – Bostik MS Safe Seal, coloured white where vertical gaps are to be painted, or sealant/gap filler covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as a weather sealing sealant for exterior use.
- **Sill tray** – pre-formed uPVC, galvanised steel or aluminium sill tray 100 mm long.
- **Aluminium joinery head flashing** – as supplied by the joinery manufacturer or the contractor.
- **Flashings** – balustrade and parapet cap flashings, inter-storey joint flashings. Refer to NZS 3604 Section 4, and NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 20 for durability requirements.
- **Cavity batten fixings** – 65 x 2.8 mm Paslode RoundDrive®, ring-shank galvanised nails.

Sheet fixing

- **Duragrid™ sheet nail fixings** – 25 x 1.6 mm stainless steel brad-nails, or 30 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised or stainless steel ring shank fibre cement nails. *[Note: Hot-dip galvanising must comply with AS/NZS 4680 and stainless steel must be Grade 304 or 316.]*
- **Duragrid™ sheet screw fixings** – 25 x 10g galvanised steel or stainless steel countersunk wood screws. *[Note: Galvanised screws must be mechanically zinc plated in accordance with AS 3566.2 Corrosion Class 4 minimum, and stainless steel must be minimum Grade 304.]*
- **Adhesive Sealant** – Bostik Seal'n'Flex FC, for fixing Duragrid™ sheets to the cavity battens.

Paint System Specification

- 4.3 Paint systems are not supplied by BGC Fibre Cement [NZ] and have not been assessed by BRANZ and are therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 4.4 All exposed faces and edges of Duragrid™ sheets and cavity battens must be primed and finished with at least two coats of an exterior grade latex acrylic paint system complying with any of Parts 7, 8, 9 or 10 of AS 3730.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of all materials supplied by BGC Fibre Cement [NZ] or the building contractor, whether on site or off site, is under the control of the building contractor. Duragrid™ sheets must be stacked flat, off the ground and supported on a level platform. They must be kept dry at all times either by storing under cover or by providing waterproof covers to the stack. Care must be taken to avoid damage to edges and surfaces. The sheets must always be carried on edge.
- 5.2 BGC Horizontal Backing Strip™, cavity battens and other accessories must be stored so they are kept clean, dry and undamaged. All accessories must be used within the maximum storage period recommended by the manufacturer.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ Website for details of the current Technical Literature for the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained within the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.



Design Information

Framing

Timber Treatment

- 7.1 Timber wall framing behind the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System must be treated as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.

Timber Framing

- 7.2 Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604 for buildings or parts of buildings within the scope limitations of NZS 3604. Buildings or parts of buildings outside the scope of NZS 3604 must be to a specific design in accordance with NZS 3603 and AS/NZS 1170. Where specific design is required, the framing must be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604. In all cases studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Dwangs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 800 mm centres.
- 7.3 Timber framing must have a maximum moisture content of 20% at the time of the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System application. *[Note: If the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is fixed to framing with a moisture content of greater than 20% problems may occur at a later date due to excessive timber shrinkage.]*

Cavity Battens

- 7.4 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System incorporates vertical cavity battens which form the nominal 20 mm cavity behind the Duragrid™ sheet. Cavity battens 70 mm wide are required to support all vertical Duragrid™ sheet edges. On intermediate studs, 50 mm wide battens may be used. The BGC Horizontal Backing Strip™ provides support to the horizontal sheet edges.

Duragrid™ Sheet Set Out

- 7.5 All Duragrid™ sheet edges must be supported with vertical edges fixed to the vertical timber battens. Horizontal sheet edges must be supported by the BGC Horizontal Backing Strip™ as described in the Technical Literature. At the base of the wall, the sheets must hang 50 mm below the supporting framing.
- 7.6 Additional framing may be required at soffits, internal and external corners and window and door openings for the support and fixing of sheet edges.

General

- 8.1 Flexible wall underlays that comply with Table 23 of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 may be used with the BGC Duragrid™ Facade in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to and including Very High. For installations in NZS 3604 Wind Zone Extra High and for wind pressures up to 2.5 kPa [ULS], the system must incorporate a rigid wall underlay. When the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is used for specifically designed buildings up to 2.5 kPa [ULS] wind pressure, only the weathertightness aspects of the cladding and Duragrid™ sheet fixing centres are within the scope of this Appraisal. All other aspects of the building need to be specifically designed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 8.2 Punchings in the cavity vent strip must provide a minimum ventilation opening area of at least 1000 mm² per lineal metre of wall in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.3 [b].
- 8.3 At ground level, the bottom edge of the Duragrid™ sheets must be kept clear of paved surfaces, such as footpaths, by a minimum of 100 mm and unpaved surfaces by 175 mm in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 18. The ground clearances to finished floor levels as set out in NZS 3604 must be adhered to.
- 8.4 At balcony, deck or low pitched roof/wall junctions, the bottom edge of the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System must be kept clear of any adjacent surface, or above the top surface of any adjacent roof flashing by a minimum of 35 mm in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3.6.

- 8.5 All external walls of buildings must have barriers to airflow in the form of interior linings with all joints stopped for wind zones up to and including Very High, and rigid wall underlays for buildings in the Extra High wind zone and specifically designed buildings up to 2.5 kPa design differential ULS wind pressure. Unlined gables and walls must incorporate a rigid sheathing or an air barrier which meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23. For attached garages, wall underlays must be selected in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3.4. Where rigid underlays are used, the cavity batten fixing lengths must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay.
- 8.6 Where penetrations through the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System are wider than the cavity batten spacing, allowance must be made for airflow between adjacent cavities. A minimum 10 mm gap must be left between the bottom of the vertical cavity batten and the flashing to the opening.
- 8.7 Where the system abuts other cladding systems, designers must detail the junction to meet their own requirements and the performance requirements of the NZBC. Details not included in the Technical Literature have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Inter-storey Junctions

- 8.8 Inter-storey junctions must be constructed in accordance with the Technical Literature. Inter-storey joints must be provided to limit continuous cavities to the lesser of 2-storeys or 7 metres in height, in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.9.4 [b].

Structure

Mass

- 9.1 The mass of the BGC Duragrid™ sheet when installed on the wall is 11.7 kg/m² at equilibrium moisture content (EMC). The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is therefore considered a light wall cladding in terms of NZS 3604.

Impact Resistance

- 9.2 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System has good resistance to impacts likely to be encountered in normal residential use. The likelihood of impact damage to the system when used in light commercial situations should be considered at the design stage, and appropriate protection such as the installation of bollards and barriers should be considered for vulnerable areas.

Wind Zones

- 9.3 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604, up to and including Extra High where buildings are designed to meet the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1, or up to 2.5 kPa design differential ULS wind pressure where buildings are specifically designed.

Sheet Fixing

- 9.4 The sheets must be mechanically fixed at the centres specified in Table 1 in conjunction with the adhesive sealant [see Paragraph 17.7].

Table 1: Duragrid™ sheet fixing centres

Wind Exposure	Fixing Type and Vertical Centres		
	25 mm Brad	30 x 2.8 mm fibre cement nail	10g x 25 screw
NZS 3604 Wind Zone Low, Medium, High, Very High, Extra High and wind exposures less than 2.5 kPa [ULS]	150 mm	200 mm	200 mm

Durability

Serviceable Life

- 10.1 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System meets the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (b), 15 years for the BGC Duragrid™ sheets, and the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (c), 5 years for the exterior paint system.
- 10.2 BGC Duragrid™ Facade System installations are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 30 years provided the paint coating to the Duragrid™ sheets is maintained in accordance with this Appraisal, and the Duragrid™ sheets and fixings are continuously protected by a weathertight coating and remain dry in service. Duragrid™ sheets must be painted and the exposed sections of the cavity battens must be sealed with a minimum 2 mm deep bead of gap filler within three months of installation.
- 10.3 Coastal locations can be very corrosive to fasteners, especially locations within distances of up to 500 metres from the sea including harbours, or 100 metres from tidal estuaries and sheltered inlets, and otherwise as shown in NZS 3604 Figure 4.2. These coastal locations are defined in NZS 3604 as Zone D. To achieve an extended serviceable life in Zone D, structural battens and Duragrid™ sheets must be fixed with stainless steel or protected hot-dip galvanised steel fasteners. Fasteners outside Zone D may be hot-dip galvanised steel.
- 10.4 Microclimatic conditions, including geothermal hot spots, industrial contamination and corrosive atmospheres, and contamination from agricultural chemicals or fertilisers can convert mildly corrosive atmosphere into aggressive environments for fasteners. The fixing of structural battens and Duragrid™ sheets in areas subject to microclimatic conditions requires specific design in accordance with NZS 3604, Paragraph 4.2.4, and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Maintenance

- 11.1 Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the performance requirements of the NZBC are continually met and to ensure the maximum serviceability of the system.
- 11.2 Regular cleaning (at least annually) of the paint coating is recommended to remove grime, dirt and organic growth, to maximise the life and appearance of the coating. Grime may be removed by brushing with a soft brush, warm water and detergent.
- 11.3 Paint systems must be recoated at approximately 5-10 year intervals in accordance with the paint manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.4 Annual inspections must be made to ensure that all aspects of the cladding system, including the paint coating system, flashings and any sealed joints remain in a weatherproof condition. The sheets must be checked to ensure the fixings and adhesive bond are sound. Any damaged areas or areas showing signs of deterioration which would allow water ingress must be repaired immediately. Sealant and paint coatings must be repaired in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.5 Minimum ground clearances as set out in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature must be maintained at all times during the life of the cladding. *[Note: Failure to adhere to the minimum ground clearances given in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature will adversely affect the long term durability of the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System.]*

Control of External Fire Spread

- 12.1 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System has a peak heat release rate of less than 100 kw/m². Testing was carried out as per Paragraph 5.8.1 of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1-C/AS6 and limited to the exterior surface finishes. Refer to NZBC Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods C/ AS1-C/AS7 and C/VM2 for Requirements for fire rating and exterior surface finish requirements of external walls.



Prevention of Fire Occurring

- 13.1 Separation or protection must be provided to the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System from heat sources such as fire places, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 – C/AS6 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

External Moisture

- 14.1 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System, when installed and maintained in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature will prevent the penetration of moisture that could cause undue dampness or damage to building elements.
- 14.2 The cavity must be sealed off from the roof and sub-floor spaces to meet compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.5.
- 14.3 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System allows excess moisture present at the completion of construction to be dissipated without permanent damage to building elements to meet compliance with NZBC Clause E2.3.6.
- 14.4 The details given in the Technical Literature for weather sealing are based on the principles of having a first and second line of defence against moisture entry for all joints, penetrations and junctions. The ingress of moisture must be excluded by detailing joinery and wall interfaces as shown in the Technical Literature. Weathertightness details that are developed by the designer are outside the scope of this Appraisal and are the responsibility of the designer for compliance with the NZBC.
- 14.5 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System, where there is a designed cavity drainage path for moisture that penetrates the cladding, does not reduce the requirement for joints, penetrations etc to remain weather resistant.

Internal Moisture

- 15.1 Buildings must be constructed with an adequate combination of thermal resistance and ventilation, and space temperature must be provided to all habitable spaces, laundries and other spaces where moisture may be generated or may accumulate.

Water Vapour

- 15.2 The BGC Duragrid™ Facade System is not a barrier to the passage of water vapour, and when installed in accordance with this Appraisal will not create a risk of moisture damage resulting from condensation.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

- 16.1 Installation of Duragrid™ sheets and accessories supplied by BGC Fibre Cement (NZ) and the building contractor must be completed by tradespersons with an understanding of cavity construction and fibre cement sheet installation, in accordance with instructions given within the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System Technical Literature and this Appraisal.

System Installation

Building Underlay and Flexible Sill and Jamb Tape Installation

- 17.1 The selected building underlay and flexible sill and jamb tape system must be installed by the building contractor in accordance with the underlay and tape manufacturer's instructions prior to the installation of the cavity battens and the rest of the BGC Duragrid™ Facade System. Flexible building underlay must be installed horizontally and be continuous around corners. Underlay must be lapped 75 mm minimum at horizontal joints and 150 mm minimum over studs at vertical joints. Generic rigid sheathing materials must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and be overlaid with a flexible wall underlay. Proprietary systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Particular attention must be paid to the



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 752 [2019]

BRANZ Appraisal
Appraisal No. 752 [2019]
09 May 2019

**BGC DURAGRID™ FACADE
SYSTEM**



In the opinion of BRANZ, **BGC Duragrid™ Facade System** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **BGC Fibre Cement [NZ]**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **BGC Fibre Cement [NZ]**:
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
 - d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **BGC Fibre Cement [NZ]**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **BGC Fibre Cement [NZ]** or any third party.

For BRANZ

Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

09 May 2019