

Ashgrid Roof Spacer

Additional Selection & Application Guidance Information

Selection of spacers for metal roof and wall cladding products requires consideration of a number of product and application variables. Critical to these variables is the consideration of the roof aesthetics, and application type combined with the cladding limitation when used in conjunction with a spacer.

Cladding Compatibility – Trafficable Limitations

Roof pitches and cladding types should be reviewed to ensure that the dynamic and static loads experienced during and after construction are appropriate for the roof cladding and supporting structure. Trafficable areas may experience compression and/or permanent deformation of the cladding as a result of repeated loads applied over the small contact area of the trough of the cladding section in contact with the supporting roof structure below.

Where cladding with smaller cross-sectional area, such as corrugated, rippled profile or lightweight BMT section cladding (i.e. Custom Orb or Corrugated 762) are selected for applications that may require the roof to be used as a working platform to access adjacent work areas, consideration should be given to the following:

1. Avoid using completed sections of the cladding as a thoroughfare for foot traffic to access adjacent roof sections or store bulk building materials – consider using walkways to distribute loads.
2. Distribution of static and dynamic loads should be carefully considered.

Important Note: Compression and/or permanent deformation of the cladding will generally not affect the strength of the material but will change the aesthetics of the cladding if the roof is visible. If in doubt regarding the selection of an appropriate cladding, it is recommended that advice be sought from the roof sheet/cladding manufacturer or CSR Bradford prior to specification and use.

Installing Ashgrid with Soft Metal or Rippled Cladding

To further mitigate the potential compression and/or permanent deformation of the soft metal or rippled cladding when installed with spacers, consider:

1. Reduce or eliminate traffic loads

When walking on the roof cladding, the roof sheet/cladding manufacturers' recommendations should always be followed:

- Keep weight evenly distributed over the soles of both feet to avoid concentrated point loads
- Always wear smooth soft-soled shoes; avoid ribbed soles that pick up and hold small stones/other objects
- For rippled profile claddings, walk only in the pan, or walk over or close to the roofing supports if walking across the width of the sheet

For heavy foot traffic and/or maintenance activities areas on large roof surfaces, it is highly recommended to protect the completed roof cladding by installation of walkways compatible with the roofing material. Immediately cease work if visual changes appear on the cladding.

2. Reducing the Risk – Installation of Foam Tape on Spacer Bar

Bradford foam tape can be installed on the top face of the Ashgrid spacer bar to further mitigate potential cladding damage during over-loading or from repeated foot traffic. Note that this is a complementary measure designed to reduce risk and should be tested prior to proceeding with roof construction.

Bradford foam tape

Thickness	Width	Length	Item code
10mm	30mm	10m	85495

3. Reducing the Risk - Distribute loads over more members or a substrate

For some cladding profiles, increasing load distribution may assist in spreading the load. Note that this is a complementary measure designed to reduce risk and should be tested prior to proceeding with roof construction.

For softer cladding material the only alternative will be to provide a substrate with a trapezoidal profile such as Spandek or timber planks or plyboard to provide continuous support to these cladding materials.

More Information

For more information on Ashgrid Roof Spacers and selection and application of spacers for metal roof and wall cladding, please contact CSR Bradford Technical specialist team.

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