

Roofing underlay at eaves level

(December 2008) (First issue)



Question

Can plastic dpc material be used at eaves level in place of a type 5U felt?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 7.2.14 says 'where the underlay is exposed, such as at the eaves, a type 5U felt should be used.'
- Plastic dpc materials are generally not designed for use in permanently exposed locations. The lack of suitable ultra-violet stabilisers could lead to an early breakdown of these materials in such locations.

Answer

Dpc materials should not be used for the exposed sections of roof underlay at the eaves. A type 5U felt should be used for the exposed sections unless the underlay used for the remainder of the roof has a third party assessment confirming its suitability for use at exposed eaves. Alternatively a proprietary eaves guard which extends under the unexposed section of roofing underlay and provides adequate projection into the guttering may be used. See also Technical Guidance 9.1/04 regarding ceilings in garages.