Procedures

Handling, storage, cleaning and maintenance of sandwich panels



1. General Recommendations

- **1.1** To ensure the durability of the roof, it must have an access system that allows entry for maintenance and cleaning operations. These operations must be performed by specialized personnel, so that access to the roof prevents accidental perforations, scratches, and damage to the sheet metal roof.
- **1.2** After application, the panel must be completely clean, with no metal shavings in contact with its surface, to prevent rust and subsequent corrosion of the metallic coating. This cleaning should preferably be done with air to avoid scratching the surface of the organic coating. The cut edges of the panel and the molding must also be protected from rust.
- **1.3** It is important to keep in mind that the type of coating for the panel must be chosen according to the type of corrosion environment at the application site; only then can the expected product durability be ensured.

2. Cleaning

- **2.1** During the panel's useful life, at least one cleaning must be performed annually.
- **2.2** Cleaning should be done with clean water, in a descending order. If necessary, depending on the level of soiling, you can use pH-neutral soap and water, in a ratio of 10% detergent to water. The water temperature should be at most 30°C. If a pressure washer is used, it should be set to a pressure of no more than 20 bar.
- **2.3** If there are localized stains, rub the stain with a damp cloth and then proceed with the general cleaning indicated in 2.2.
- **2.4** If the existing stains are caused by sealants and mastics adhered to the surface, the stain can be rubbed with a damp cloth and a 15% alcohol solution, taking care to wash the surface immediately with clean water. The solution should never be placed directly on the surface, but rather soaked in a cloth.
- **2.5** Cleaning should include gutters and drainpipes to remove leaves, soil, moss, and other debris that could obstruct the flow of water, causing excess water to accumulate. This accumulation of water can cause rust and moss growth. After cleaning, verify that the water is flowing normally again.

3. Maintenance

- **3.1** Throughout the life of the panel, maintenance inspections should be performed to identify any evidence of accidental degradation of the protective coatings, which could cause rust, and perform the necessary maintenance as soon as possible to ensure continued maintenance.
- **3.2** Inspections should be carried out annually, except in cases where the application site has very aggressive environmental characteristics that require increased frequency.

- **3.3** The following inspections should be performed: **3.3.1** Check for rust around the edges of cut sheets, edges, and panel overlaps. When this problem is ignored, rust can spread to other areas and cause irreparable damage. In these situations, where there are signs of rust, proceed as follows:
- Cut or polish the areas affected by rust. If polishing/ sanding the affected area, sand until the metallic color of the sheet is visible and stop immediately, so as not to damage the sheet;
- Clean the cut/sanded area with clean, cold air and/or water and then dry;
- Apply a coat of anti-corrosion primer to the cut edges or the sanded area (limited to the area where the steel is visible);
- Once the first coat of primer has dried, apply a second coat of the same product to the same area as the previous application, but extending the application to the adjacent areas where the original coating of the sheet remains;
- Apply polyurethane acrylic paint to the modified area.
 Please note that, although the affected area is painted the same color as the original sheet, the color of the two areas may vary over the course of its useful life.
- **3.3.2** Check for specific paint defects resulting from scratches, perforations in the sheet, or localized corrosion. In cases where the sheet support is not visible, no further corrective action is necessary; simply applying a coat of acrylic polyurethane paint is sufficient. In cases where the sheet substrate is visible, corrective maintenance should be performed, proceeding as follows:
- Clean the affected area and its surroundings;
- Apply a light polyurethane epoxy primer;
- Apply acrylic polyurethane paint to the affected area with a fine brush, covering only the damaged area and not the original layer of the sheet. Please note that, although the affected area is painted the same color as the original sheet, the color of the two areas may vary over its useful life.

In cases where corrosion of the sheet is already evident, proceed as described in section 3.3.1.

- **3.3.3** Inspect the condition of mechanical fasteners, which, if improperly installed or in poor condition, can cause water infiltration and rust stains. In such cases, proceed as follows:
- Replace defective bolts;
- In the case of localized rust on the sheet metal, proceed as described in section 3.3.1.

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