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TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT 269

June 2000^{1, 2}

Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System (with penetration sleeve)

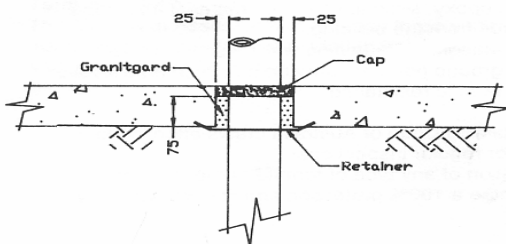
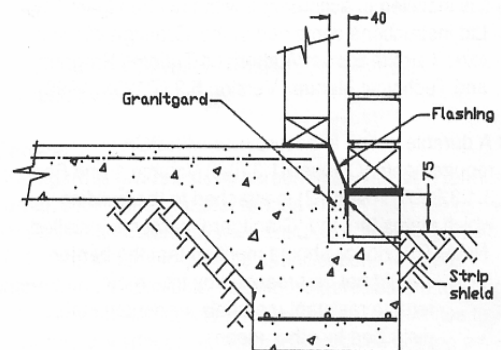
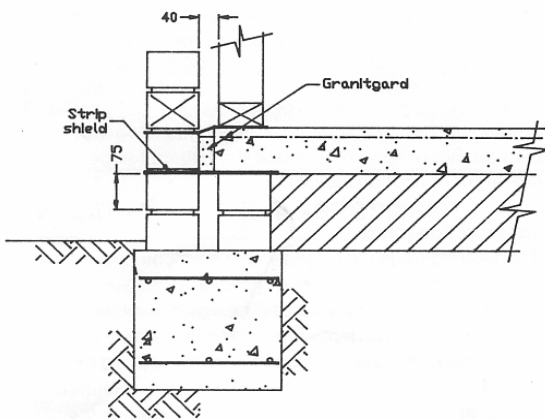
1. August 2001. Updated BCA clause and AS3660.1
2. June 2003. Revalidation

PURPOSE

A physical barrier against subterranean termite entry by use of a stone screenings system

APPLICANT

E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd (ABN 29 004 519 617), and Granitgard Pty Ltd (ACN 007 427 590), 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568 (Manufacturers and Licensees)



GranitgardTM
NON-TOXIC TERMITE BARRIER

TECHNICAL OPINION

In the opinion of CSIRO Appraisals, Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System will satisfy the performance requirements of Australian Standard 3660.1-2000 'Termite management – New building work' as a suitable physical barrier against subterranean termite entry by use of a stone screenings system under the following conditions:

1. General

1.1 The stone material is manufactured under licence to the Granitgard specifications. The stone material ranges in size between 1.5 mm and 5 mm, is of consistently sound quality and is shaped and graded to the Granitgard specifications.

Note: The appropriate grade is to be used for the species against which the barrier is being provided.

Tropical and broad grade Granitgard is effective as a barrier to *Mastotermes darwiniensis*.

1.2 The Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System is installed by licensed installers trained and approved by Granitgard Pty Ltd.

1.3 It is installed in accordance with the Granitgard Pty Ltd instructions contained in the 'Granitgard® Non-toxic Termite Barrier Authorised Training Program and Technical Manual' Version 5.2 (©1995, 1999).

1.4 A durable notice in accordance with BCA requirements (Clause B1.3 (i)(ii) Volume 1 and Part 3.1.3.2 (b), Volume 2) is attached to the building which states that the 'Granitgard' barrier is installed.

Notes:

- (i) This notice should mention that the barrier should not be breached by tree roots, non-termite resistant materials, or contaminated or disturbed by other means.
- (ii) Granitgard Pty Ltd also recommends that a small durable inspection zone marker should be fixed to masonry at the same level as the perimeter treatment to alert property owners and occupiers to the risk of obscuring the inspection zone.

1.5 When used in conjunction with other termite barriers, all treatment is to comply with the performance requirements of AS 3660.1-2000 'Termite management – New building work'.

1.6 There is no plant matter or building refuse where the Granitgard is to be placed.

2. Underfloor installation

2.1 For concrete slab on ground:
Granitgard is used to cover all surfaces under concrete slab on ground except under the edge and/or strengthening beams where these beams are deeper than 150 mm. Under concrete slabs, Granitgard requires compaction such that the

minimum depth of graded stone barrier is 75 mm on a smooth, compacted surface or 100 mm where there is less than 50 mm or no fill.

2.2 For suspended floors:

2.2.1 Granitgard is installed completely across the sub-floor area to a depth not less than 100 mm.

2.2.2 Timber stumps/poles are completely encased in a minimum 100 mm thickness of Granitgard that extends at least 50 mm above the finished ground level and held in place with a suitable durable collar.

2.2.3 Protection of masonry piers is the same as for masonry perimeter footings.

3. Perimeter treatment

This can be either an external or internal perimeter installation such that:

3.1 Where Granitgard is used at the building exterior, it is capped with a material that will withstand any traffic and will remain in contact with the Granitgard beneath it.

3.2 Where Granitgard is used internally at the base of perimeter wall cavities and the adjoining external wall is not termite resistant, termite strip shielding is incorporated into that masonry and is either folded vertically such that it penetrates either into the Granitgard to a depth of 35 to 50 mm or extends fully beneath the Granitgard.

4. Concrete slab penetrations:

4.1 All penetrations are collared with not less than 25 mm width x 75 mm depth of compacted Granitgard and capped with mortar or similar.

4.2 Penetrations passing through perimeter Granitgard barriers are encased in not less than 25 mm of Granitgard for internal barriers and 100 mm for external barriers.

4.3 The Granitgard is retained from beneath.

4.4 Granitgard Penetration Sleeves must not have less than 50 mm of concrete around the external edge of the larger horizontal flange.

4.5 Granitgard (as per 4.1 above) can also be contained within a cylindrical basket arrangement made from a durable, coarse but flexible mesh with openings that allow the concrete to penetrate and bond.

5. Construction joints:

5.1 The Granitgard is contained within a smooth sided 'void' positioned at the joint or groove.

5.2 The compacted dimension of Granitgard shall be not less than 75 mm in depth and 50 mm in width.

5.3 Where exposed, the Granitgard shall be capped or sealed with mortar, epoxy, silicone or similar material.

5.4 The Granitgard must extend for the full length of the joint and interface with the perimeter barrier at its ends.

6. Retaining walls:

- 6.1 Granitgard shall be not less than 100 mm wide for at least the height of the retained ground.
- 6.2 The Granitgard shall be capped or sealed with mortar, epoxy, silicone or similar material and slope outwards from the building.
 Note: Masonry in retaining walls below external ground does not provide an acceptable level of termite resistance.

Notes:

- (i) The Building Code of Australia draws attention to the need for regular inspections.
- (ii) Installation of any type of termite barrier cannot guarantee a 100% protection against infestation by subterranean termites. Thus, the installation of a physical barrier does not negate the need for regular competent inspections. Any additions, alterations or earth works, including gardening adjacent to the building, may render the barrier ineffective. Such activity should be referred to a licensed installation contractor approved by Granitgard Pty Ltd for appropriate advice and treatment.

BUILDING CODE of AUSTRALIA 2004

In the opinion of CSIRO Appraisals, the system described in this Technical Assessment and installed under the conditions listed herein will satisfy the performance requirements of Clause BP1.1 (Volume 1 - Class 2 to Class 9 buildings) and Clause P2.1 'Structure (b) 'other actions' (Volume 2 - Class 1 and Class 10 buildings) of the Building Code of Australia, where the 'other action' is damage by subterranean termites.

- (i) The inclusion of this clause with reference to the BCA is aimed at assisting those involved in the design, specifying and building approval/permit process relate the Appraisal to the relevant Performance Requirements of the BCA.
- (ii) Any changes made to the BCA will be reviewed during the term of validity of this Technical Assessment and where necessary, any amendment required will be published on the CSIRO Appraisals web pages on <http://www.dbce.csiro.au>.

RELATED INFORMATION

VALIDITY OF THE ASSESSMENT

Condition:

This Technical Assessment applies only to the use of the Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System as described herein.

Withdrawal:

This Technical Assessment will be withdrawn or amended if CSIRO Appraisals considers that a change in design or manufacturing quality renders the basis of appraisal invalid, or if reported field experience convinces CSIRO Appraisals of unsatisfactory quality or performance.

Term of Validity:

This Technical Assessment will lapse three years after the date of issue unless revalidation has been requested and granted.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Granitgard Pty Ltd, 'Granitgard® Non-toxic Termite Barrier Authorised Training Program and Technical Manual' Version 5.2 (©1995, 1999)
 Standards Australia, AS 3660.1-2000 'Termite management – New building work'

APPROVED ASSESSMENT EXTRACT

The Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System as distributed by Granitgard Pty Ltd (ABN 29 007 427 590), and its licensees and installed by installers trained and approved by Granitgard Pty Ltd will satisfy the performance requirements of AS 3660.1-2000 'Termite management – New building work' as a suitable physical barrier against subterranean termite entry when the conditions of CSIRO Appraisals Technical Assessment 269 are fulfilled.

APPRAISAL

DESCRIPTION

The following description is based on information provided by the applicant.

General:

Granitgard is graded stone screenings used as a termite barrier. The stone material ranges in size from 1.5 mm to 5 mm. The screening system ensures that each particle of stone is graded to precise specifications for size, shape and composition. Granitgard particles are too large and heavy for termites to carry, too hard for termites to chew and the spaces between the particles are too small for termites to crawl through.

Installation:

Granitgard can be used as a physical barrier to protect against subterranean termite attack in the following cases:

- buildings with suspended floors based on either pad or strip footings, stumps, piles, piers and columns of timber, concrete, masonry, or metal,
- buildings with typical raft, infill (footing) or formed void slab, and
- buildings using a typical mud brick construction.

It can also be used as a physical termite barrier to protect around typical services and connections and waste trap installations. It is installed by licensed installation contractors approved by Granitgard Pty Ltd and in accordance with the relevant installation instructions and specifications for the particular use.

Granitgard can also be used as a termite barrier at construction joints and for retaining walls.

In general,

- the Granitgard, in external perimeter barriers, extends not less than 100 mm from the edge of the building.
- All slab penetrations are surrounded by an enclosed, compacted collar of Granitgard measuring not less than 75 mm in depth and 25 mm in width.
- When placed over a compacted fill bed 50 mm or more deep under a slab, Granitgard must be compacted to a depth not less than 75 mm.
- When used under a slab with less than 50 mm of compacted fill or without any fill, the Granitgard must be compacted to a depth not less than 100 mm.
- Where used in the cavity of a double brick wall or brick veneer wall on a raft, formed void or infill (footing) slab, the Granitgard barrier is to be not less than 40 mm wide and to extend not less than 75 mm above the adjoining finished ground level. The compacted depth of the Granitgard is to be not less than 75 mm.
- When used under full height windows where a vertical 75 mm inspection zone cannot be obtained, the inspection zone can be reduced to 30 mm provided the surface abutting the wall is paved for no less than 100 mm distance out from the wall for the entire length of the reduced inspection zone.
- When used at doorways the vertical inspection zone can be reduced to 20 mm provided that a full width paved pathway extends the entire length of the reduced inspection zone and doormats are placed clear of the brickwork under the door threshold.

Penetration pipes are completely surrounded by at least 25 mm of Granitgard for a compacted depth of not less than 75 mm. The Granitgard that 'collars' the penetration must be retained from beneath and capped or sealed on top with mortar, epoxy, silicone or similar material.

When used at construction joints not already underlaid with Granitgard, the Granitgard is placed in a smooth sided void and compacted to a depth of not less than 75 mm and width of not less than 50 mm. Where the void is within or on top of the joint or groove, the bottom of the void is sealed to prevent the Granitgard escaping through it. If exposed, the top of the Granitgard is sealed as for penetrations. Alternatively, the same dimensions of Granitgard can be contained within a durable termite resistant basket arrangement that is cast into the underside of the slab. The basket arrangement must allow for independent movement of the two slab sections without breaking the integrity of the Granitgard.

In retaining walls where the floor of the building is lower than the surrounding ground, the vertical column of Granitgard that immediately adjoins the exterior surface of the retaining wall must be not less than 100 mm wide and lightly tamped in layers of not more than 100 mm deep. The top of the Granitgard column is sloped outwards away from the building wall. The top and bottom of the Granitgard column must have adequate drainage. The Granitgard column must be capped or sealed on top as for penetrations. The cavity between the walls must be filled with grout or concrete up to at least the height of the adjacent ground.

Installation guidelines are supplied on request to assist in the planning and design. These instructions are also supplied with each order and the installer will supply a 'Treatment Certificate' with each installation.

Components:

Granitgard. Granitgard is graded stone screenings. The present standard, tropical and broad grade particles range in size generally between 1.5 mm and 5 mm.

Granitgard Penetration Sleeve. This is manufactured from uPVC (unplasticised polyvinyl chloride) extrusion formulation consisting of not less than 80% PVC and 10% titanium dioxide conforming to AS/NZS 1260:1999, 'PVC pipes for fittings for drain, waste and vent applications'. It should have a thickness of not less than 1.0 mm and Shore D Hardness of not less than 70 (ASTM D 2240-91).

A flexible plastic disc fits inside the sleeve base between the penetration and inner diameter of the sleeve to retain the Granitgard.

Termite Strip Shielding. Strip shielding used in conjunction with Granitgard must be in accordance with AS 3660.1-2000.

Materials recommended by the applicant and used/assessed in this appraisal include

- Bitumen coated aluminium that is manufactured from commercial purity aluminium not less than 0.5 mm thick and coated with bitumen on both sides. It is joined using a two and one-half roll joint or welded and recoated with bitumen.
- Unplasticised polyvinyl chloride extrusion formulation consisting of not less than 80% PVC and 10% titanium dioxide conforming to AS/NZS 1260:1999, 'PVC pipes for fittings for drain, waste and vent applications'. Where necessary, the material may be lapped and solvent jointed for at least 30 mm to produce a termite resistant joint.

DESIGN INFORMATION

General:

Based on information from the applicant, Granitgard is a physical barrier to protect against subterranean termite attack. It consists of graded stone screenings.

Granitgard can be used with suspended floors, concrete slab on ground, and around typical service penetrations and connections and waste trap installations. It is installed by installers approved by Granitgard Pty Ltd in accordance with the relevant installation instructions and specifications for the particular use.

Durability:

In the opinion of CSIRO Appraisals, the life expectancy of the Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System would be not less than 50 years provided that the barrier is installed in accordance with the requirements of this appraisal and is not breached by tree roots, contaminated or disturbed by other means.

Maintenance:

An annual inspection is made of the building to check for bridging or breaching of the barrier. If requested by the owner, the installer carries out this inspection. If bridging or breaching is found, suitable rectification must take place.

BASIS OF APPRAISAL

CSIRO Appraisals has assessed the following aspects in undertaking this appraisal:

- (a) installation procedures,
- (b) physical properties,
- (c) relationship to Standards Australia, AS 3660.1-2000 'Termite management – New building work'.

The following documents and inspections were used in carrying out the appraisal:

Manufacturers and Installation Information:

1. Granitgard Pty Ltd, 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568 (A member of the Mawson Group) 'GRANITGARD Graded Granite Termite Barrier' (27 July 1992):

This brochure gives a brief outline of the development of Granitgard, certificate of accreditation and application of the Granitgard.

2. E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd, 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568 'Granite screenings used as a termite barrier' (26 June 1990):

This includes information on the size and grading of the granite material used. It also states that the manufacturer uses strict quality controls.

3. Granitgard (ACN 007 427 590), 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568. Letter from D. Ewart, R & D Manager (24 January 1996):

This letter concerning the 'Gradings of stone used for Granitgard' advises that CSIRO has certified the present range of stone gradings for Granitgard.

4. Granitgard (ACN 007 427 590), 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568. Letter from D. Ewart, R & D Manager (6 February 1996):

This letter concerns testing by CSIRO of materials from various stone sources for use in the Granitgard system.

5. Granitgard Pty Ltd, 'Granitgard® Non-toxic Termite Barrier Authorised Training Program and Technical Manual' Version 5.2 (©1995, 1999):

This technical manual contains general information on Granitgard and specific placement instructions and diagrams, as well as inspection advice, inspection report sheets, the Material Safety Data Sheet, and forms and check lists for placement. Each manual is registered and contains a registration sheet for amendments.

The technical manual presented to CSIRO Appraisals contains the following specific Granitgard Pty Ltd placement methods for:

1. Underfloor
 - A: Concrete slab on ground
 - B: Suspended floor
2. Perimeter and Ramps
3. Penetrations
4. Construction Joints
5. Retaining walls.

Diagrams showing installation details are as follows:

SLB1C 'Monolithic raft slab with external Granitgard perimeter'

SLB1H 'Raft slab with internal Granitgard perimeter and strip shielding'

SLB1I 'Non-monolithic raft slab with external Granitgard perimeter'

SLB1M 'Infill slab with edge thickening, internal Granitgard perimeter and strip shielding'

SLB1N 'Infill slab with edge thickening, internal Granitgard perimeter and strip shielding'

SLB1O 'Formed void slab exposed edge perimeter'

SLB1P 'Raft slab with exposed edge perimeter'

SLB1Q 'Raft slab with internal Granitgard perimeter and weep hole guards'

SLB1R 'Brick-up slab' (April 2001)

SLB1S 'Knock-out block with tie-down rods' (April 2001)

SLB1T 'Typical detail for external trench perimeter graded stone barrier with Hebel wall' (April 2001)

RETW1 'Retaining wall'

SUS1B 'Suspended floor on concrete stumps'

SUS1C 'Brick veneer with suspended floor and external Granitgard perimeter'

SUS2B 'Brick veneer with suspended floor and strip shielding to perimeter'

SUS2C 'Double brick wall with suspended floor and external Granitgard perimeter'

SUS4 'External Granitgard perimeter with wide capping/seal (Suspended floor)'

SUS5 'Pole protection'

SUS6 'External Granitgard perimeter with wide pathway or pavers forming capping/seal (Suspended floor)'

SLB4 'External Granitgard perimeter with wide capping/seal (Monolithic raft slab)'

SLB5 'External Granitgard perimeter with wide pathway or pavers to form capping/seal (Monolithic raft slab)'

RAMP1 'Ramp resting on top of slab'

RAMP2 'Ramp poured against masonry'

RAMP3 'External trench treatment of ramps'

GGSPCLR 'Downpipe clearance at inspection zones'

SLAB3/GG115C 'Typical protection to plumbing - service connections'

SLAB3A 'Typical protection to plumbing/service connections. Plan & cross section'

GG115G 'Granitgard penetration sleeve'

CONJT1 'Underfloor treatment of concrete construction joints cross sections'

CONJT2 'Installation of Granitgard above construction joints'

CONJT3 'Control/construction joint protection with internal Granitgard perimeter'

CONJT4 'Granitgard installation at control/construction joint'.

Drawing titled 'Granitgard Step perimeter retainer'

Drawing titled 'Granitgard Step perimeter retainer 2'

Drawing titled 'Strip Shield cavity single skin (non-monolithic)'

Drawing titled 'Strip Shield cavity to single skin (monolithic)'

6. E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd, 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568. Letter (8 December 1992):

This letter contains warranty details and information concerning availability and identification of the installation guidelines and future publications. Reference is made to the provision of 'Certificate of Compliance' for each installation.

7. E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd, 141 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568. Letter (21 December 1992):

This letter states that an experiment using a 50 mm sand bed with 75 mm Granitgard topped up to 100 mm made placement much easier. Subsequent advice from Dr J French (CSIRO) was that 75 mm of Granitgard on smooth sand would be as effective as 100 mm on a rougher surface.

8. Granitgard Installation Inspection Report Construction Type: Slab on ground:

The report provided to ABSAC (now CSIRO Appraisals) was number 1030. It includes installation details, inspection advice, inspection reports - before and during site installation, perimeter checks and the final certificate.

Test Reports:

1. Report 'Laboratory and Field Evaluation of Granite Aggregate as a Physical Barrier Against Subterranean Termites of the *Coptotermes* SPP', J.R.J. French, B. Ahmed and A. Trajstman (7 August 1991):

This report describes laboratory and field tests undertaken to evaluate granite aggregate as a potential physical barrier against subterranean termites of the *Coptotermes* species. The granite screenings were graded into several particle sizes, namely, >2.4 mm, 1.7 - 2.4 mm and <1.7 mm and used in laboratory and field evaluations.

The various laboratory bioassays indicated that workers and soldiers of *C. acinaciformis* could not penetrate clean granite screenings within the range of 2.4 to 1.7 mm diameter. However, if the granite screenings in that same range were sieved damp or blended with over 10% fines, then workers and soldiers of this termite species could penetrate the substrate. It was noted that laboratory evaluation in Hawaii indicated that *C. formosanus* can feed through apertures as small as 1.4 mm diameter but activity is negligible at 1.2 mm and no termite passed the 1.1 mm aperture.

2. Granitgard Pty Ltd, 'Granitgard from stone other than Granite' (Confidential report by D. Ewart, R & D Manager, Granitgard) (25 January 1996):

The document sets out the case for using other types of stone for the production of Granitgard. It concludes that 'stone other than granite may be used to produce Granitgard'.

3. Corrosion Prevention Centre of Australasia Inc., Technical Note 96/1 'Durability of "BITU-AL" Dampcourse':

This report comments on the durability of bitumen coated aluminium dampcourse "BITU-AL" as a component of the Granitgard termite barrier system. The report concludes that there is 'every likelihood

that the BITU-AL dampcourse will give 50 and more years performance in the intended application.'

4. Corrosion Prevention Centre of Australasia Inc., Technical Note 96/2 'Jointing of "BITU-AL" Dampcourse':

This report comments on jointing methods for the bitumen coated aluminium dampcourse "BITU-AL" as a component of the Granitgard termite barrier system.

5. 'Performance of Granitgard in extruded brick cavities', D. Ewart, R & D Manager, Granitgard Pty Ltd (19 February 1996):

This test report using *Coptotermes acinaciformis* illustrated 'the efficacy of Granitgard when used to protect hollow core bricks against termite penetration.'

6. Centre for Polymer Technology, 121 Stud Road, Dandenong, Victoria 3175. Technical Report ESPRC No 15/98 (21 January 1999):

This report is on Durometer hardness of the material used to manufacture the Granitgard Sleeve. This report provides results of Durometer hardness in accordance with ASTM D2240. The hardness on a 5.6 mm thick sample was greater than 75. This value is above that considered to be able to be attacked by termites.

Related Information:

1. Letter from Dr J.R.J. French, CSIRO Division of Forest Products, Bayview Avenue, Clayton, Victoria 3168 (16 December 1992):

This letter comments on the adequacy of the species of termites tested. It states that 'Also, as indicated in our recent research, Granitgard between 3.15 and 1.7 mm was effective in preventing termite penetration of even 5 mm of substrate. Data from overseas research with termite species similar to our own native populations indicates that physical barriers within the range 2.4 to 1.7 mm are impenetrable to all species of any economic importance found below the Tropic of Capricorn.'

2. Letter from Dr J.R.J. French, CSIRO Division of Forest Products, Bayview Avenue, Clayton, Victoria 3168 (26 March 1993):

This letter discusses the use of Granitgard of 75 mm depth placed on a smooth sand bed. It states that '*C. acinaciformis* has been unable to penetrate even 2 mm into 75 mm tamped Granitgard (2.4 -1.7 mm diam.) in over two months of testing.' This confirms results for similar testing performed overseas.

3. Victoria Certificate of Accreditation Number V90/08, Expiry Date 31 July 1992:

E. B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd had their granite screenings system for the protection of buildings against termite infestation accredited. The Building Control Accreditation Authority concluded that the design, materials and method of construction for the granite screenings system complies with the requirements of Regulation 48.1 (1) of the Victoria Building Regulations 1983. Whilst this certificate has now expired, there is nothing to suggest that its' conclusion is no longer valid.

4. **CSIRO Appraisals Technical Assessment 250 – ‘Granitgard Penetration Sleeve’ (April 1999):**
This is an assessment of the Granitgard Penetration Sleeve to retain Granitgard (that acts as a termite barrier against subterranean termite entry) around a vertical penetration in a concrete slab.
5. **ABSAC Technical Opinion 166 ‘Granitgard Physical Termite Barrier System’ (April 1993, amended):**
This appraisal is for Granitgard used as an underslab termite barrier. The amendments covered updated instructions and references to Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia.
6. **Letter from CSIRO Appraisals, CSIRO Division of Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology, Highett, VIC (3 July 2002)**
This letter comments on ground clearance with the use of Granitgard System.

7. **CSIRO Appraisals Technical Assessment 314 – ‘Blockaid Termite Barrier System’ (May 2004):**
This is an assessment of the Blockaid Termite Barrier System for use as a physical barrier against subterranean termite entry to a building, in particular for retaining walls and step downs, perimeters (including narrow cavities, panel walls, infill masonry), vertical joints, slab penetrations, slab joints and joints between pavers.

Inspections:

CSIRO Appraisals representatives have inspected the installation procedures used. The system required careful placement to be installed satisfactorily.



Simon Hanson
CSIRO Appraisals



CSIRO Appraisals is a project of CSIRO Building Construction and Engineering providing a range of assessment products including:

- Technical Assessments – full fitness for purpose appraisals of innovative products, systems or materials that may or may not be covered by Australian Standards or building regulations.
- Interim Reports – appraisals of products that have not yet reached the fully developed or manufacturing phase. They aid with product development and may be used as a step towards a subsequent Technical Assessment.
- Certification Assessments – appraisals of products, systems or materials solely against the requirements of the BCA and used for gaining approval from Federal or State authorities.

From 1978, under the auspices of the Australian Building Systems Appraisal Council (ABSAC), CSIRO ran an appraisal service in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, the Housing Industry Association, the Insurance Council of Australia and the Master Builders Association. In 1999, CSIRO Appraisals was formed to continue the business of ABSAC under the sole patronage of CSIRO. This new scheme retains the committee structure of technical and interstate advisers that operated as ABSAC. All past ABSAC publications and appraisals are being continued and supported by CSIRO Appraisals.

CSIRO Appraisals is a founding member of the World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

Technical Assessments are intended to help all those concerned with the approval, specification and use of

new products or systems. They are objective assessments of the fitness for purpose of the product, system or material but are not approvals or endorsements. They may be submitted to approval authorities as part of the justification process required to obtain approval.

Each Technical Assessment has been prepared by CSIRO Appraisals and then reviewed, revised and finally endorsed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), detailed below. CSIRO makes the appraisals on a national basis by obtaining input from regional committees in each State and Territory to take account of variations in local building regulations, practice and local climatic features.

CSIRO Appraisals bases its assessment on the product and information it receives and cannot accept responsibility for deviations in the manufactured quality and performance of the material, product or system. However, Technical Assessments will be withdrawn where adequate quality or performance has not been maintained.

Technical Assessments are given a term of validity of three years from the date of issue. They are reviewed annually and at the end of the term of validity may be extended for a subsequent three-year term. The validity of a particular Technical Assessment can be obtained from CSIRO Appraisals.

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