

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS ALUMINIUM

### ALUMINIUM FLASHINGS AND FABRICATIONS

#### **1 Maintenance**

Mill finish aluminium does not require maintenance to restore its appearance. It is normally accepted in its weather condition.

Coated finishes do not require any special maintenance, although washing with clean water may be advantageous in dusty or industrial areas. Repainting is possible if a colour change is required.

#### **2 Cleaning**

Upon completion of each section mill finish products should be thoroughly cleaned to remove all swarf, rivet mandrels, screws, washers, rivets etc. Any of these items could cause unsightly rust stains.

Cement or mortar drippings should be removed immediately or they will leave permanent stains. Marks from oil, grease, etc should be removed by using a mild detergent, e.g. washing up liquid.

Sometimes coated flashings are protected by a thin plastic film which is removed after fixing. Such plastic films must be removed as early as possible as long exposure to ultra violet light can harden the film and make it adhere to the flashings more securely. It is then difficult to remove and leaves sticky deposits which collect dirt and spoil the appearance of the flashings.

It is recommended that periodical inspections should be made for damage. Should atmospheric soil or debris be causing obstructions/problems then this should be removed and the area washed down with a mild detergent, e.g. washing up liquid.

#### **3 Repairs to Painted Surfaces**

As aluminium rarely requires coatings as protection against corrosion, it follows that most coating are applied for aesthetic reasons.



Minor scratches and abrasion do not require repair, except in the small number of cases where the coating provides protection. Site repairs to scratches cannot be justified on aesthetic grounds as the repair is usually more prominent than

the scratch; air drying paints will never be a perfect match for factory stoved paints, the gloss level will certainly differ and they will certainly age differently.

Larger areas of damage must be site painted to disguise unsightly patches of exposed metal. In these cases the damaged areas should be cleaned with white spirits, etch primed, primed with zinc chromate, and painted to match the sheet finish.

Small areas should be painted using a soft artist's brush.

#### 4 Site Safety

Aluminium is not, by its nature, a hazardous or injurious substance. It is not combustible, does not emit toxic fumes and is ductile at all normal operating temperatures (i.e. it will not shatter).

All normal mandatory Health and Safety Regulations must be followed. The following precautions are particularly applicable to working with profiled aluminium sheets:

- (a) Gloves should be worn when handling aluminium sheet
- (b) Flashings should never be left loose on a building, or on the ground. Loose items are easily blown by the wind and thus present a hazard to people and property.
- (c) Eye protection should always be worn during cutting and drilling operations.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

**THE INFORMATION GIVEN IS BASED ON DATA OBTAINED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES AND IS BELIEVED TO BE CORRECT. HOWEVER NO WARRENTY IS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.**

