New Zealand Metal Roofing Manufacturers Association

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BDL01 Double Lapping Roofing Sheets

13 June 2024 Version 1

Aluminium/zinc-coated sheets are designed to protect the steel substrate through barrier coating and cathodic (sacrificial) protection. This process occurs both on unpainted sheets, and sheets coated with proprietary paint coatings.

To perform this function, the metallic coating must react with the atmosphere to form stable, adhesive, and insoluble surface alloys. The passivation coating between the paint and the metal is designed to encourage this reaction in an alternating wet and dry environment. In a constantly wet, air-deprived environment, more unstable compounds are formed which can result in premature corrosion.

The side laps of roofing sheets are designed to allow enough drying and air access to prevent wet storage damage. Double lapping often results in this function being compromised to the point that corrosion forms between the two surfaces. For this reason, double lapping is not recommended on profiled metal roofing sheets.

The Metal Roofing and Wall Cladding Code of Practice also recommends against double lapping, see

https://www.metalroofing.org.nz/cop/installation/double-lapping

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