

All tests reported herein have been performed in accordance with the laboratory's scope of accreditation



PO Box 285, Kumeu, Auckland, New Zealand Phone: +64 9-415 2800 Mob +64 21-977 876

Test Report 20-10

Testing of Frontek tile system in accordance with AS/NZS 4284:2008 'Testing of Building Facades'

Project:	Frontek tiles on aluminium rails
Client:	The Building Agency
Specifier:	Lautrec
Sample designer:	Symonite NZ Ltd
Installer:	Symonite NZ Ltd
Test dates:	21 - 24 Aug 2020 (and 4-8 Aug for SLS deflections on studs)

Test Schedule The test order specified in AS/NZS 4284:2008 was followed. No measurements were made during the structural deflection tests since the Frontek tile cladding was erected on the same timber framed structure that had just completed these tests with a different cladding system. The structure and RAB had been subjected to AS/NZS 4284 testing (including SLS deflections and seismic testing). The deflection measurements from this previous test are provided in the appendix.

Persons present: Richard Gibbs (Facadelab manager.

At various times: Matthew Harris, Alistair Hines, Jenny Bandong, Joshua Martinez, John Cobb, Will Cobb, Danielle Gandela, (all related to Symonite) and John Burgess (for the SLS tests on the structure with a different cladding on 4-8 August).

Test facility: Facadelab Ltd, 320 Rosedale Rd, Albany, Auckland.

IANZ accredited testing officers: John Burgess and Richard Gibbs

IANZ accreditation number for testing 1091, including AS/NZS 4284.

Note: The 'Test Request' was a verbal instruction to undertake the same tests as performed for the previous Symonite cladding on the same structure, reported in the facadelab report 20-09, 'Alucolux', with an SLS air pressure of 2.8 kPa.



Figure 1: View of wet-side of sample face, showing selection of exterior tiles



Figure 2: Cladding tiles cruciform joint

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3. Summary

The Frontek tile system was subjected to tests from the AS/NZS 4284:2008 testing suite with the following results.

3.1. Preliminary tests

Complies - air and water

3.2. Serviceability limit state deflection test

Deflections were not measured in this test, however the structure complies with deflection requirements at ± 2800 Pa for stud at span/200 as measured previously for the structure in results repeated in the Appendix.

3.3. Air infiltration test

Complies with requirements at ±150 Pa

3.4. Static water penetration test

Complies with requirements at +840 Pa

3.5. Cyclic water penetration test

Complies with requirements, testing to 420 – 840, 630 – 1260, and 840 – 1680 Pa cyclic pressure water test.

3.6. Seismic testing at serviceability limit state.

Complies with requirements at \pm 20 mm in-plane deflection.

3.7. Post SLS seismic cyclic water penetration tests

Complies with requirements at stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3 cyclic pressures with water present at footer assumed to be relevant to the connection to surrounding structure.

3.8. Pressure test at ultimate limit state

Complies with requirements at ± 5.0 kPa

3.9. Seismic test at ultimate limit state.

Complies with requirements at \pm 75 mm in-plane deflection.

Complies with requirements at -100 mm in-plane deflection.

4. Notation

The reference numbers from the AS/NZS 4284:2008 'Testing of building facades' document are used in the following, for ease of reference.

5. Principle

A sample of a building façade forms one face of an eternally mounted pressure chamber and is sealed at its perimeter and then successively subjected to tests.

6. Apparatus

The Frontek tile system by Symonite was tested using the Facadelab test facility located at 320 Rosedale Rd, Albany.

7. Sample

7.1. Test sample

7.1.1. Orientation

The orientation of all elements are recorded in this report as viewed from the outside of the test booth (dry side), being the inside of the façade when constructed. The inside of the test booth has the outside (wet side) of the façade.

7.1.2. Sample Description

The test arrangement consisted of Frontek cladding tiles erected on aluminium battens over a GIB ® Weatherline rigid air barrier, with overall size 3550 mm wide by 4110 mm high. GIB ® Weatherline sill tape was used around the window opening. This unit was installed into a timber framed opening in the test rig. Allowance for seismic movement was made prior to the seismic tests.

The infill structure around the sample was constructed of 140 x 45 mm timber framing.



Figure 3: Photos of system during erection and under test

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Figure 4: Deformation of the framing following the seismic lateral racking

7.2. Drawings

Drawings are attached as appendices at the end of this report.

7.2.1. Modifications to the sample during construction

The drawings were provided following testing, so are assumed to be a correct record of the system. While checks have been made, the lab cannot be held responsible for any deviations from the drawings, since not all the construction was able to be assessed.

7.2.2. Modifications to the sample during testing

During the preliminary tests, water was found on the back of the Frontek tiles at several locations. The water did not track across to the air barrier, and so was not a compliance problem. However, large numbers of fixings through the RAB were found to have missed the timber framing and had been oversealed with a black silicone.

The plans show the as-built system, as supplied by the client. While they show the general arrangement of the sample, all details have not been confirmed.

8. Procedure

Note the same clause numbers have been used as in AS/NZS 4284 for ease of reference in the below.

8.1. Test Sequence

8.1.1. General

The tests were performed using the testing procedures of AS/NZS 4284:2008 in the cladding test facilities of Facadelab Limited in the following sequence.

- Serviceability deflection tests on timber stud at ±2800 Pa. (The structure from a previous test on another cladding for the same client was re-used in this test. Since deflection of the new cladding tiles (Frontek) was not required, the SLS pressures were re-applied, with measurements of their deflection from a previous test reported in the appendix.
- Preliminary SLS pressure test at ±2800 Pa
- Preliminary water test (static and cyclic) at 840 Pa, and three stages of cyclic pressure up to 1680 Pa
- Serviceability deflection tests (but no measurements) on timber stud at ±2800 Pa.
- Air infiltration test on the total of the sample and booth at 150 Pa
- Lateral (seismic) displacement tests at SLS (±20 mm)
- Lateral (seismic) displacement tests at ULS (±75 mm)

8.1.2. Variation in test sequence

There was no variation in the test sequence, except as noted above.

8.2. Preliminary Tests

8.2.1. General

Preliminary testing at 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 was conducted.

8.2.2. Preliminary Static air Pressure

The test sample was subjected to the positive and negative SLS design wind pressures. Air pressures of +2.8 kPa and -2.8 kPa were applied to the test sample.

8.2.3. Water

8.2.3.1. Preliminary Static Water test

A preliminary static water penetration test at an air pressure of 840 Pa was carried out as required by clause 8.5 of AS/NZS 4284.

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8.2.3.2. Preliminary Cyclic Water test

A preliminary cyclic water penetration test at air pressures varying from 420 – 840, 630– 1260, 840-1680 Pa was carried out as required by clause 8.6 of AS/NZS 4284.

8.3. Structural Test at Serviceability Limit State (SLS)

The deflection of the single timber stud at the LH side of the RH panel had already been assessed, and is reported in the appendix. The same pressures were re-applied to the system, but deflections were not measured

8.3.1. Structural Test Pressures

The SLS test pressures used were calculated by the specifier as +2800 Pa, and -2800 Pa.

8.3.2. Location of the Displacement Transducers

None used.

8.3.3. Pressure Loading Sequence

The pressure loading sequence requested by the specifier was as per AS/NZS 4284 and required ramping up under positive pressure in five steps, being 20%, 40%, 60%, 80% and 100%, before continuing with negative pressures, as in Fig 1 of AS/NZS 4284: 2008. The positive and negative ramp down sequences were not performed, as permitted in the standard.

8.4. Air Infiltration

An air infiltration test at a pressure difference of ± 150 Pa across the cladding shall not exceed 1.6 l/m²s.

8.5. Water Penetration by Static pressure

The static water penetration test pressure of 1050 Pa was nominated by the specifier. No visible water leakage shall be recorded through the sample.

8.6. Water penetration test by cyclic pressure

The three stages of cyclic water penetration were nominated as follows:

Stage 1: 420 – 840 Pa

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Stage 2: 630 – 1260 Pa

Stage 3: 840 – 1680 Pa

No visible water leakage shall be recorded through the sample.

8.7. BMU restraint test

A BMU restraint test was not requested as part of the AS/NZS 4284:2008 test procedure.

8.8. Structural Test at Ultimate Limit State (ULS)

The test pressures of +5000 Pa, and -5000 Pa were nominated by the specifier.

8.9. Seismic Testing at Serviceability Limit State.

8.9.1. Test displacement

A lateral displacement of \pm 20 mm between the tile system and the surrounding framing was requested. The moving support beam was located across the top of the tile system, and bolted to the sample through a section of plywood fin as shown in the photos.

8.10. Seismic Testing at Ultimate Limit State

(Note this clause number does not align with AS/NZS 4284, with clause 8.9 discussing both the SLS and the ULS tests)

A lateral displacement of \pm 75 mm was specified for the ULS seismic testing, and then the client elected to undertake a further test to the limit of the apparatus, at -100 mm lateral displacement.

9. Results

9.1. General

The performance requirements below, resulted from the request by the specifier.

9.1.1. Preliminary Tests

Results of preliminary testing undertaken are recorded at 9.1.2 - 9.1.4.

9.1.2. Preliminary Static Pressure

There was no visible dislodgement of any elements following SLS pressure testing.

9.1.3. Preliminary Static Water

Preliminary static water test				
Stage	Air pressure (Pa)	Duration	Result	
0	0	5 minutes	Complies	
1	840	15 minutes	Complies	
2	0	5 minutes	Complies	

Table 1: Preliminary static water test pressures

Initially there were water leaks through the build-in details around the outside of the sample which were partially addressed prior to the testing. These leaks were due to the connection of the system to the surrounding timber frame, and were not relevant to the sample. Some leaks continued (via connections to the booth), but did not interfere with identification of any leakage through the sample.

9.1.4. Preliminary Cyclic Water

Preliminary cyclic water test					
Phase	Air pressure (Pa)	Duration	Result		
	0	5 minutes	No water leaks		
1	420 - 840	5 minutes	No water leaks		
2	630 - 1260	5 minutes	No water leaks		
3	840 - 1680	5 minutes	No water leaks		
	0	5 minutes	No water leaks		

Table 2: Preliminary cyclic water test pressures

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9.2. Structural test at serviceability limit state (SLS)

The results for the SLS deflections on the structural studwork were not performed within this test, and so are contained in the appendix.

9.3. Air Infiltration (AS/NZS 4284:2008 Part c)

This test was undertaken to determine the airtightness of the 4080 mm x 3550 mm high sample. Since the total air leakage of the sample plus the booth was less than the required value, the leakage through the sample was not calculated.

Overall area:	14.5 m²

Allowable leakage, at 1.6 l/m²/s 23.2 l/s

Airtightness measurements @ 150 Pa dP					
	Positive pressure (infiltration) l/s	Negative pressure (exfiltration) l/s			
Measured (booth + sample)	4.0 ± 0.2	4.0 ± 0.2			
Calculated sample leakage	< 4.2	< 4.2			

Table 3: Air tightness leakage results

The airtightness of the sample complied with the air leakage requirements, having an air leakage of less than 4.0 l/s under positive pressure, and less than 4.0 l/s under negative pressure.

9.4. Water Penetration

The results of the static and cyclic water tests, as per clause 8.5 are shown below.

9.4.1. Static Pressure Water Penetration

Static water test					
Stage	Air pressure (Pa)	Duration	Result		
0 0		5 minutes	No water leaks		
1	840	15 minutes	No water leaks		
2 0 5 minutes No water leaks					

Table 4: Static water leakage results

There were minor leaks at the bottom plate of the system around the connection to the test booth. These leaks were not deemed to be relevant to the cladding, but were assumed to be due to the structure having been subjected to previous seismic

displacement testing including a full AS/NZS 4284 test regime, before being re-clad for this test. (Water was seen up to 50 mm above the bottom plate, but was clearly coming from below, not from above.)

Cyclic water test – pre seismic				
Phase Air pressure (Pa) Duration Result				
	0	5 minutes	No water leaks	
1	420 - 840	5 minutes	No water leaks	
2	630 – 1260	5 minutes	No water leaks	
3	840 - 1680	5 minutes	No water leaks	

9.4.2. Cyclic Pressure Water Penetration

Table 5: Cyclic water test results

There were minor water leaks via the structure connection to the booth, as noted at 9.4.1

9.5. Seismic Testing at Serviceability Limit State

Seismic Deflection Parameters (SLS)					
Limit State	Distance Specified (d ± x mm)	Distance Achieved (d ± x mm)	Cycles (n)	Period (T, seconds)	Pause at mid- point and ends (sec)
SLS 20 mm 21 ± 1 mm 5 Not specified Not specified					

Table 6: Seismic test results at SLS displacements

A lateral displacement of $\pm 20 \pm 1$ mm was specified and achieved, with a maximum negative retraction of -21 mm and a maximum positive extension of 21.0 mm.

9.5.1. Post seismic cyclic pressure water penetration

Cyclic water test – post seismic					
Phase	Air pressure (Pa)	Duration	Result		
	0	5 minutes	No water leaks		
1	420 – 840	5 minutes	No water leaks		
2	630 – 1260	5 minutes	No water leaks		
3	840 – 1680	5 minutes	No water leaks		

Table 7: Cyclic water test results

There were minor water leaks via the structure connection to the booth, as noted at 9.4.1

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9.6. BMU Restraint Test

Not requested.

9.7. Structural Test at Ultimate Limit State Air Pressure

Not undertaken

9.8. Seismic Testing at Ultimate Limit State

Seismic Deflection Results (ULS)						
Limit State	Distance Specified (d ± x mm)	Distance Achieved (d ± x mm)	Cycles (n)	Period (T, seconds)	Pause at mid- point and ends (sec)	
ULS	75 mm	75 mm	5	Not specified	Not specified	

 Table 8: Seismic test results at SLS displacements

A lateral displacement of ± 75 mm was specified. The extension measurements were made first, and then the sensors were re-oriented to take the retraction measurements. Hence the sample was subjected to 5 cycles in each configuration.

There was no collapse of the sample during or following this testing, however the racking did result in some disturbance to the attachment of the structural framing to the booth.

9.8.1. Further Seismic Testing at Ultimate Limit State

The client then requested further seismic testing at the limit of the equipment's capabilities of approximately 100 mm. The following is the result.

Further Seismic Deflection Results (ULS)					
Limit State	Distance Specified (d ± x mm)	Distance Achieved (d ± x mm)	Cycles (n)	Period (T, seconds)	Pause at mid- point and ends (sec)
ULS	100 mm	97 mm	1	Not specified	Not specified

Table 9: Seismic test results at SLS displacements

A lateral displacement of -97 mm was obtained under retraction. There was no lateral displacement undertaken in the positive direction.

There was no collapse of the sample during or following this testing, however there was considerable damage to the connections of the structural system at the bottom plate.

9.9. Seal degradation testing

Not undertaken

Prepared By: John Burgess

John Burgess (IANZ Signatory)

09 Dec 2020

Verified By:

Richard Gibbs (Lab Manager)

18 Dec 2020

10. Appendices

10.1. Drawings

Drawings in this report have been supplied by the client following the completion of the test





r Date: 30 July



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10.2. Deflection results

Note: The following results are extracted from serviceability limit state (SLS) displacement measurements undertaken during testing reported elsewhere. The source of the data is report 20-09 issued by facadelab in September 2020, which used the same structural framing (timber studwork) but different cladding. Immediately following the completion of the 20-09 testing, the cladding was removed, and the cladding rails and tiles for Frontek were erected. As noted in the report above, the SLS test pressures were applied in the standard sequence for Frontec, but the displacements were not measured. If SLS displacements are required, the ones reported below may be used.

Deflection/span ratio					
Reference	Span (mm)	Max Net Deflection (mm)	Min span/ deflection	Req.	Complies?
Stud	2997	-7.94	-377	>250	Yes

Deflections of Stud						
		Gauge Read				
Stage	Pressure (Pa)	Top (mm)	Mid (mm)	Bott (mm)	Nett (mm)	
	0	0	0	0	0	
	3500	7.49	16.69	11.22	7.33	
Z1	0	0.96	1.47	1.91		
	0	0	0	0		
	700	2.83	3.57	1.39	1.46	
	1400	3.72	6.34	2.97	2.99	
	2100	4.6	9.23	4.85	4.5	
	2800	5.52	12.26	7.09	5.96	
	3500	6.5	15.35	9.56	7.32	
Z2	0	0.12	0.27	0.37		
	0	0	0	0	0	
	-3500	-6.62	-20.25	-18.02	-7.94	
Z3	0	-2.81	-6.11	-8.4	-0.5	
	0	0	0	0	0	
	-700	-0.78	-2.44	-1.21	-1.44	
	-1400	-1.54	-5.23	-2.84	-3.04	
	-2100	-2.24	-8.17	-5.03	-4.54	
	-2800	-2.96	-11.14	-7.43	-5.94	
	-3500	-3.8	-14.24	-9.86	-7.41	
Z5	0	-0.12	-0.39	-0.51	-0.07	