



Introduction

- Where VERMICULUX® is used to protect deep beam systems, additional support is required if the soffit flange exceeds 325mm in width (ref: Certifire CF 421).
- Other situations can arise where similarly wide flanges are encountered, such as in multi beam support systems, even though the beams are less than 686mm in depth. When this occurs a similar procedure should be adopted.

Method

- If the soffit spans across multiple beam faces, then it is essential that the beams are structurally tied together to ensure that they will act in composite manner under load, and in fire conditions.
- The section factor of the combined beam system is calculated in the normal way. (The section factor A/V is a function of the area of the steel exposed to the fire and the volume of the steel section). In this instance, it is therefore calculated from the total exposed casing area and the combined volume of the enclosed steel beams.
- The transverse VERMICULUX® board joints are staggered by a nominal 240mm between the web and flange face boards.
- An MF5 channel, or minimum 25 x 25 x 25 x 0.65mm Z section, may be used to provide the support for the VERMICULUX® soffit board at maximum 550mm centres (3 per 1220mm board length) fastened using pan head 9.5mm long self-tapping screws, or Hilti ENK16S12 at maximum 300mm centres.
- The VERMICULUX® soffit is fastened to the support section using the same fixings as those required for the top flange angle (dependent on board thickness) at maximum 190mm centres.

AUTHORITY: Promat Recommendation - Based on in-house knowledge and Technical Experience

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