



SIKA AT WORK

WALKER BARRIER SYSTEMS

NEW LISBON, WI

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY MOBILE CLEAN ROOMS

SIKA COMFORTFLOOR

THE REMEDY FOR MOBILE CLEAN ROOMS

When Walker Barrier Systems of New Lisbon, Wisconsin began production of eight mobile clean rooms for the Texas A & M Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing (CIADM), it knew it had to carefully select materials for these self-contained laboratories that would keep the production areas clean and sterile. The mobile clean rooms would be used to develop and produce vaccines and therapeutics for use in clinical trials, so contaminants had to be avoided at all costs.

Being able to easily clean the floors of these mobile clean rooms was only one of the many requirements for the flooring material. According to Craig Johnson, technical sales engineer at Walker Barrier, other criteria included: non-shedding flooring, compatible with aluminum sub flooring, radius coved corners for cleaning, durable, field serviceable, able to put field joints in place, a network of dealers nationwide for service, and a padding option that is appreciated by clients.

Johnson said several flooring vendors were evaluated, but one that stood out for its non-shedding feature and easy maintenance was the Sika ComfortFloor system. ComfortFloor is a seamless, fluid-applied urethane floor system which provides both comfort and toughness by combining softness under foot and durability.

ComfortFloor is also very LEED friendly. The mat is made out of 86 percent recycled material, and the VOC level of the liquids is zero grams per liter. Rapidly renewable resources are used as the raw materials for sustainable building construction, and, after years of service, it can be refreshed with a simple recoat – there is no need to remove or replace it.

Dan Hochleutner, technical specialist at Protective Coating Specialists of Appleton, Wisconsin, the floor installers, was delighted with the decision to use ComfortFloor. "We've installed ComfortFloor for three years now, and in the right applications, it's fantastic," he commented. "In addition to being easy to clean, it is also sound dampening, and comfortable for workers to stand on for long hours." He added that they installed Sika's ComfortFloors in their cafeteria and an office three years ago and it still looks great and is performing well.

CUTTING CORNERS DURING INSTALLATION

Walker Barrier Systems had some special requirements for the floors on the mobile clean rooms, which were 48 feet long and 18 feet wide. "They wanted seamless walls from the ceiling to the floor, and no 90 degree corners," Hochleutner explained. "We developed a cove system for a smooth transition and to avoid hard corners where dirt or bacteria could get trapped. Coves were used at both floor and ceiling levels, making the rooms very easy to clean and keep sterile."

Hochleutner added that another challenge was working with the aluminium sub-flooring. "Everything had to be joined up smooth and tight so we worked with Walker Barrier Systems to obtain the exact finish they were looking for."

Protective Coatings Specialists began the installation by sanding the substrate, applying the Sika Comfort Adhesive and Sikafloor Comfort Regupol prefabricated rubber shock pad, followed by the Sika Comfort Porefiller. After drying, they applied the Sikafloor 330 Flexible Polyurethane Membrane, then the Sikafloor 305 W polyurethane pigmented matte topcoat and, finally, Protective Coating laid down the Sikafloor 304W Satin Clear Urethane.

PROJECT

Walker Barrier Systems
New Lisbon, Wisconsin

FLOORING CONTRACTOR

Protective Coatings Specialists
Appleton, Wisconsin

FLOORING SYSTEM

Sika ComfortFloor

PROJECT SIZE

4,500 square feet

OWNER

Texas A & M University





"We built the floor up layer by layer, so it typically takes three or four days to do all the steps," Hochleutner said. During this process Sika representatives were on hand to answer any questions or address any problems. "Sika is a great company to work with, and the technical skill of their staff is much better than their competitors." He added that the Sika representative was particularly helpful with the coves.

Johnson said that Protective Coating Specialists also did a great job. "Their experience with dealing with the walls and corners really improved the quality of the job," he remarked.

AFTER SOME TENSE SHIPPING, A HAPPY CLIENT

The mobile clean rooms were manufactured in January and February in wintry Wisconsin, and then shipped down to much warmer College Station, Texas, so there was some concern that the aluminum would expand and contract while it was transported. "You are taking the mobile clean rooms outside of a warm building where the temperature can be 20 degrees below zero," Hochleutner stated. "Then as the trucks travel south the temperatures are going up, so we had to do a lot of prep work to make sure the flooring wasn't compromised as the aluminum got warmer." Fortunately, that didn't happen. "ComfortFloor has a lot of flexibility and durability, and came through the shipping process perfectly," Hochleutner commented.

Today everyone seems pleased with the Sika ComfortFloor system. "I have a happy client so I would certainly use Sika ComfortFloor system again," Johnson said.

Hochleutner added, "I would love to install more ComfortFloor systems. I've installed them in hot and cold temperatures for several years now, and they have always performed well for us. It's a great ergonomic and 'green' product. There's nothing else like it in the industry.



WALKER BARRIER SYSTEMS

Texas A & M University Mobile Clean Rooms



WHO WE ARE

Sika is a globally active specialty chemicals company. Sika supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, facades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting loadbearing structures. Sika's product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems.



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