

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

TARGET MARKET ROOFING



BUILDING TRUST



Subject: Electronic Leak Detection Testing on Roofing Projects

17-09

Effective immediately, Sika Corp. – Roofing will not make arrangements for, or participate in, electronic leak detection (ELD) testing on **roofing** projects. Any requirement for ELD testing must go directly through a testing company.

For waterproofing projects the test is required as part of the Sika Corp. – Roofing quality assurance procedures and the test must go through Sika Corp. Roofing (See Technical Bulletin 17-08 – Waterproofing Definition Update for definitions of “waterproofing projects”).

Sika Corp. – Roofing will not supply the Vector Mapping Grid (VMG) on **roofing** projects. VMG on roofing projects must be supplied by International Leak Detection (ILD) which has a patent on the leak detection testing process when the VMG is installed.

Installation of the VMG between the membrane and cover board or insulation is not a tested roofing system or warrantable application. Placement of the VMG in roofing must be under the cover board or insulation. The accuracy of the test depends on moisture getting through a breach in the membrane and contacting the VMG which is technically a substitute “ground.” If water does not get through the insulation or cover board the test may not be accurate. (See Sika Corp. – Roofing, Technical Bulletin #15-8, Electronic Leak Detection Testing Limitations). Therefore, using ELD as a quality assurance procedure on newly completed roofing systems is not advised.

Owners may want future capability to test the roof even without evidence of a leak. In this case, the VMG is only needed if the deck is non-conductive or a vapor retarder is part of the roof system. Otherwise, with a conductive deck, ELD can be performed once the water has entered the building and contacted the deck.