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CRETESEAL MAX SYSTEM MOISTURE TESTING TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Installing the Creteseal MAX System over a concrete slab substrate will eliminate the need for any further slab moisture testing. Following Manufacturer's instructions prior to installing the Creteseal MAX System on a slab will allow the flooring contractor to proceed with flooring installation in accordance with specified cure times. Installing the Creteseal MAX System will provide "peace of mind" there will not be any negative-side moisture vapor or alkalinity that might otherwise contribute to premature finished resilient flooring failures. Please refer to the Creteseal MAX Technical Data Sheets for additional information.

The Creteseal MAX System is certified under ASTM F3010 / ASTM E96 to be compliant with vapor barrier perm ratings. The application of the Creteseal MAX product to a properly prepared concrete substrate will result in a vapor-barrier that restricts moisture that might otherwise pass through the concrete slab and damage the finished resilient flooring system. Moisture testing following the installation of the Creteseal MAX System is neither required, nor recommended.

Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) / Calcium Chloride Kit testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F1869 (*Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride*) is intended to accurately measure negative-side moisture vapor for a bare concrete slab. The Creteseal MAX System encapsulates the slab with a monolithic two-component, resin-based coating and prevents moisture vapor from migrating out of the concrete substrate. As a result, Calcium Chloride testing would not be necessary, or accurate. Calcium Chloride testing over the Creteseal MAX System may effectively measure the water within the cementitious top-coating placed on top of the Creteseal MAX, serving as the bond-layer for the finished flooring system. However, this reading will not provide any characterization of potential flooring failure risk relative to moisture emissions from the concrete slab substrate. Further, Calcium Chloride testing over a Creteseal MAX System may be influenced the ambient relative humidity (RH) in the building, depending on acclimation parameters, resulting in a meaningless reporting result.

Alternatively, in-situ Relative Humidity probe testing (RH testing) measures the internal moisture of the concrete slab, at a depth predicated on the total slab thickness per ASTM F2170. When a concrete slab has been encapsulated with the Creteseal MAX System, moisture that is measured by an RH probe is sealed in the concrete slab and will not migrate out of the substrate. The use of RH testing probes requires drilling holes through the Creteseal MAX barrier, which would have to be carefully repaired to eliminate a potential avenue for moisture to travel through, and out of, the slab. Drilling holes in a completed Creteseal MAX System installation will void the product's warranty and must be remediated with OBEX Perfect Patch polyurea-filler before flooring installation can proceed. Please contact the OBEX Technical Services Group with any questions before initiating any testing activities.