



Bord Agrément na hÉireann  
Irish Agrément Board

## CERTIFICATE NO. 05/0214

Visqueen Building Products, Maerdy Ind. Estate,  
Rhymney, Tredegar NP22 5PY, South Wales

Tel: 0044 1685 840672, Fax: 0044 1685 842580  
Email: enquiries@visqueenbuilding.co.uk  
Website: www.visqueenbuilding.co.uk

# Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™

Systeme de barrière  
Sperrsystem

The Irish **Agrément Board** is designated by Government to issue European Technical Approvals.

Irish Agrément Board Certificates establish proof that the certified products are 'proper materials' suitable for their intended use under Irish site conditions, and in accordance with the **Building Regulations 1997 to 2002**.

The Irish **Agrément Board** operates in association with the **National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)** as the National Member of UEAtc.



### PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

This Certificate relates to the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™, which is an un-reinforced polyethylene membrane produced by a polythene extrusion process. This Certificate certifies compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations 1997 to 2002.

### USE:

Radon (incl. RN-222, RN-220, RnD) is a naturally occurring radioactive gas, which enters buildings from the underlying soil. This gas can accumulate within a building to such a concentration as to constitute a health hazard. Radon is excluded from buildings using passive and active systems. The provision of a suitable protection system, designed and installed by competent personnel, will substantially reduce the risk of a building having radon activity.

Passive control systems consist of a radon resisting membrane extending across the whole building, including the floor and walls. These systems should also incorporate an underfloor ventilated sump(s) which can be subsequently converted into an active control system by the use of suitable ventilation fans.

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™, when installed in accordance with this Certificate, will also act as a damp proof membrane to protect the building against the ingress of moisture from the ground.

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ is for use in conjunction with Visqueen Double Sided Jointing Tape, Visqueen Girth Jointing Tape, Visqueen Top Hat Units, Visqueen Polythene DPC, Visqueen Radon Sump Units and Visqueen Self Adhesive Membrane.

### MANUFACTURE AND MARKETING:

This product is manufactured and marketed by:

Visqueen Building Products,  
Maerdy Industrial Estate,  
Rhymney,  
Tredegar NP22 5PY,  
South Wales.

**Readers are advised to check that this Certificate has not been withdrawn or superceded by a later issue by contacting the Irish Agrément Board, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 or online at [www.n sai.ie/iab/050214](http://www.n sai.ie/iab/050214).**

**1.1 ASSESSMENT**

In the opinion of the Irish Agrément Board (IAB), Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ if used in accordance with this Certificate can meet the requirements of the Building Regulations 1997 to 2002, as indicated in Section 1.2 of this Irish Agrément Certificate.

**1.2 BUILDING REGULATIONS 1997 TO 2002**

**REQUIREMENT:**

***Part D – Materials and Workmanship***

**D3** – Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™, as certified in the Irish Agrément Certificate, is comprised of 'proper materials' fit for their intended use (see Part 4 of this Certificate).

**D1** – Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™, as certified in this Certificate, meets the requirements of the building regulations for workmanship.

***Part A – Structure***

**A1 – Loading**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ installed in accordance with this Certificate, will not adversely affect the designed safety and deflection characteristics of a building.

***Part B – Fire Safety***

**B3 – Internal Fire Spread (Structure)**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ installed in accordance with this Certificate will not adversely affect the control of fire and smoke within concealed spaces in the structure or fabric of a properly designed building.

***Part C – Site Preparation and Resistance to Moisture***

**C3 – Dangerous Substances**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™, when used as an integral part of a radon protection system, will meet this requirement with respect to radon gas.

**C4 – Resistance to Weather and Ground Moisture**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™, when used in accordance with Part 3 of this Certificate, will meet this requirement.

**2.1 PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ is an LDPE un-reinforced membrane. A product specification is shown in Table 1.

Material		Conductivity W/mK
Thickness		380 µm
Radon Permeability		8x10 <sup>-12</sup> m <sup>2</sup> /s
Water Vapour Permeability		0.15 g/m <sup>2</sup> /day
Weight		0.395 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
Tensile Strength	MD CD	24.2 N/mm <sup>2</sup> 20.7 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Elongation at max load	MD CD	360 % 380 %
Tear Resistance	MD CD	185 N 185 N
Dimensional Stability	MD CD	-0.37% +0.20%
Low Temperature Flexibility		-30°C
Standard Roll Width		4 m
Standard Roll Length		15, 18 or 20 m
Colour		Red

**Table 1: Product Specification**

**2.1.1 ANCILLARY PRODUCTS**

- Visqueen Double Sided Jointing Tape
- Visqueen Girth Jointing Tape
- Visqueen Top Hat Units
- Visqueen Polythene DPC
- Visqueen Radon Sump Units
- Visqueen Self Adhesive Membrane

**2.2 MANUFACTURE**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ is manufactured by a polythene extrusion process.

**2.2.1 Product Quality Control**

Quality control checks are carried out on the raw material, during production and on the final product. Quality control checks include:

- Dimensions
- Tensile strength
- Impact strength
- Elongation
- Weight

**2.3 DELIVERY, STORAGE AND MARKING**

Rolls are supplied on pallets, in wrappers bearing the manufacturer's name and product description, IAB identification mark, IAB Certificate number and essential instructions for storage and installation.

**2.4 INSTALLATION**

**2.4.1 General**

Guidance on the design of radon protection systems for new and existing buildings is given in the DoELG document *Radon in Buildings* and in the BRE (UK) document *Radon – Guidance on protective measures for new dwellings*.

**2.4.2 Design Details**

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ can be used in most common floor constructions. It is installed in a similar way to damp proof membranes, but with much greater attention to sealing, detailing and workmanship. The radon barrier will also perform the same function as a damp proof membrane.

To be fully effective, a radon barrier must bridge cavities in walls to the exterior of the building. Where necessary, narrow strips of membrane can be used to seal walls and cavities. All designed cavities must be properly closed.

To avoid creating slip planes in masonry walls, a damp proof course should not be laid on the same course of blockwork as the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ (see the recommendations in IS 325:Part 2:1995 *Code of Practice for use of masonry, Part 2: Masonry Construction*).

Consideration must be given to the positioning of a radon barrier in relation to thermal insulation. The recommendations contained in IS 325:Part 2:1995 and the BRE Report *Thermal Insulation – avoiding risks* should be followed.

The integrity of a radon barrier must be maintained during installation. The Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ is resistant to puncturing and tearing, but where damage occurs this must be repaired by covering with a second layer of membrane, overlapped by at least 150mm, sealed with double sided tape and secured with girth jointing tape.

Installation of the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ must be in accordance with the recommendations of IS 325:Part 2:1995, clause 11 of BS CP 102:1973 *Code of Practice for protection of buildings against water from the ground*, and the requirements of this Certificate. Additional guidance on the use of damp proof membrane materials is given in BS 8000:Part 4:1989 *Code of Practice for waterproofing*.

Sheets must be clean and free from dirt and grease before application, and in view of the difficulty of achieving gas tight seals under wet or dirty site conditions it is recommended that special care be taken with this aspect of the installation.

### 2.4.3 Installation Procedure

After the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ has been unrolled, double sided tape should be applied approximately 50mm from the edge. The next width of radon barrier should then be overlapped. For an effective radon proof system all laps must be a minimum of 150mm and the joint should be secured with girth jointing tape which provides added security against any potential leakage

path. Ensure that the membrane is clean, dust free and dry at the time of jointing.

Top hat units should be used to form airtight seals around service entry points. The base of the top hat unit must be sealed to Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ using double sided tape and girth jointing tape. The unit must be fastened to the service pipe using a combination of the jointing tape system and a jubilee clip to provide fastness.

Where sub floor depressurisation is required, then a radon sump should be used, located as close to the centre of the building as possible. All pipe work connecting to the sump should fully sealed using the jointing tape system. A venting pipe should be connected to the sump, which needs to leave the building. Until such time as a fan is installed, the pipe should be capped (Note: a sump is only installed as a fallback measure and does not provide any radon removal until a fan is installed or is connected to a passive stack system).

A screed or other protective layer should cover Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ as soon as possible after installation. Care should be taken to ensure that the membrane is not punctured, stretched or displaced when applying the screed or concrete. A minimum thickness of 50mm screed is recommended.

When reinforced concrete is to be laid over the barrier, the wire reinforcements must be prevented from contacting the barrier. It is recommended that the barrier is covered with screed before positioning the reinforcement.

When underfloor heating is being installed, it is recommended that the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ is positioned between the blinded hardcore and the insulation to protect the installation from moisture and to avoid any risk of overheating the membrane. External and internal corners should be rounded. Where this is unavoidable, the angles must be strengthened with a 300mm wide strip of the membrane.

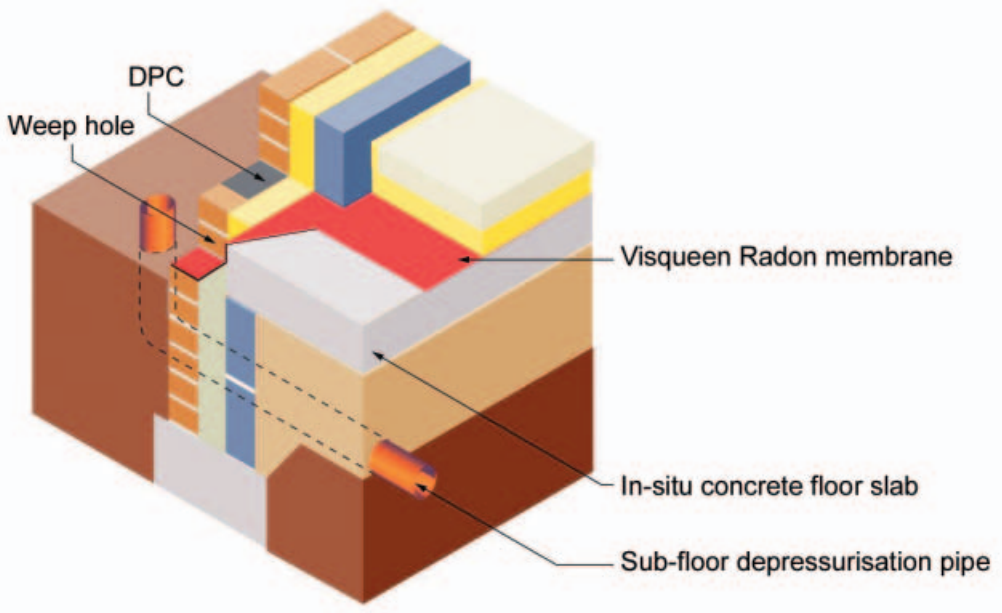


Fig 1: Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ installed over concrete floor slab

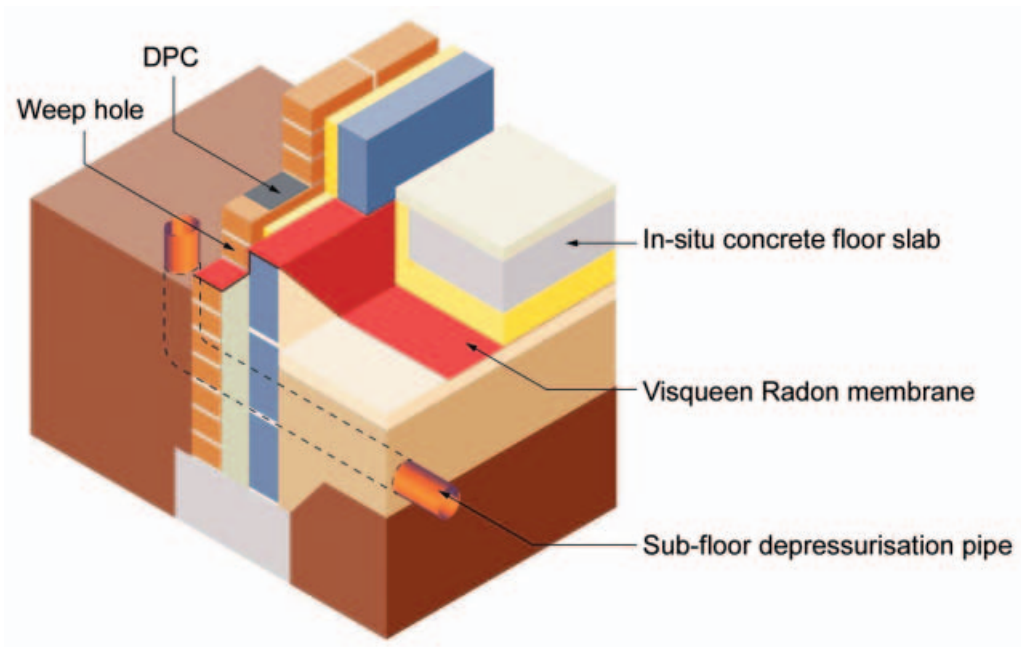


Fig 2: Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ installed under concrete floor slab

### 3.1 GENERAL

Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ is suitable for use in concrete floors not subject to hydrostatic pressure, in accordance with the relevant clauses of IS 325:Part 2:1995 and of BS CP 102:1973 *Code of Practice for protection of buildings against water from the ground*.

The product can be installed as an over-site membrane, either between a sand blinded hardcore (50mm of sand minimum) bed and the base concrete, or layered on top of high-density insulation (25kg/m<sup>3</sup>) with a concrete screed layered over it.

#### 3.1.1 Resistance to Radon, Water and Water Vapour

The membrane and the methods of jointing provide an effective barrier to the passage of radon gas, liquid water and water vapour from the ground.

#### 3.1.2 Resistance to Tear and Puncture

The product has a high resistance to tear. Care should be taken during installation, particularly when handling building materials and equipment over the surface and when placing concrete or screeds, since the membrane can be punctured by sharp objects. When installed as set out in this Certificate, there should be a minimum risk of puncture or tear damage. High-density insulation (25kg/m<sup>3</sup>) is an effective protection after laying.

#### 3.1.3 Site Conditions

The product may be installed in all conditions normal to ground floor slab construction. Where there is a risk of ground becoming waterlogged, sub-soil drainage must be provided in accordance with IS 325:Part 2:1995 and BS CP 102:1973 *Code of Practice for protection of buildings against water from the ground*.

#### 3.1.4 Underfloor Heating

When used in accordance with the conditions set out in this Certificate, there will be no adverse effect on the membrane from underfloor heating under normal conditions.

### 3.2 CONSTRUCTION DETAILING

To reduce radon gas migration/ingress into buildings the following guidelines should be followed:

- Design for controlled movement of construction (see IS 325:Part 2:1995)
- Ensure that all designed cavities are effectively closed to interior spaces
- Design for grouping of services, with effective gas seal of ground slab openings and penetrations

### 3.3 CONSTRUCTION SETTLEMENT

Consideration should be given to differential and/or relative settlement of ground floor construction during the full life cycle of the building.

Where special installation detailing is introduced, i.e. folding of a radon resisting membrane at critical construction points, an elongation capability for the membrane itself may not be required. Where high concentrations of radon are likely and where a building is properly designed, detailed and constructed to take account of settlement, the installation of the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™ represents an effective measure against radon health hazards.

**4.1 TESTS/ASSESSMENTS**

Technical investigations were carried out on the Visqueen High Performance Radon Membrane™. Typical results are shown in Table 1.

It is important to note that alterations to the building structure subsequent to the installation of a radon protective system must take into account the integrity of the radon resisting membrane.

**4.2 MAINTENANCE**

No maintenance of a radon resisting membrane is required when installed in accordance with this Certificate.

**4.3 DURABILITY**

When installed in accordance with this Certificate and subject to normal conditions of use, the membrane will provide an effective barrier, which will be substantially impervious to the transmission of radon gas, liquid water and water vapour for the life of the building.

Long periods of exposure to ultraviolet light can reduce the effectiveness of a membrane. However, during storage, and when installed in accordance with this Certificate, the membrane will be protected from such exposure.

**4.4 OTHER INVESTIGATIONS**

- (i) Existing data on product properties in relation to fire, toxicity and environmental impact were assessed. When stored with normal care on site prior to installation, the membrane will not present a significant fire or health hazard.
- (ii) The manufacturing process was examined including the methods adopted for product quality control, and details were obtained of the quality and composition of the materials used.

- 5.1** National Standards Authority of Ireland ("NSAI") following consultation with the Irish Agrément Board ("IAB") has assessed the performance and method of installation of the product/process and the quality of the materials used in its manufacture and certifies the product/process to be fit for the use for which it is certified provided that it is manufactured, installed, used and maintained in accordance with the descriptions and specifications set out in this Certificate and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and usual trade practice. This Certificate shall remain valid for five years from date of issue so long as:
- (a) the specification of the product is unchanged.
  - (b) the Building Regulations 1997 to 2002 and any other regulation or standard applicable to the product/process, its use or installation remains unchanged.
  - (c) the product continues to be assessed for the quality of its manufacture and marking by NSAI.
  - (d) no new information becomes available which in the opinion of the NSAI, would preclude the granting of the Certificate.
  - (e) the product or process continues to be manufactured, installed, used and maintained in accordance with the description, specifications and safety recommendations set out in this certificate.
  - (f) the registration and/or surveillance fees due to IAB are paid.
- 5.2** The IAB mark and certification number may only be used on or in relation to product/processes in respect of which a valid Certificate exists. If the Certificate becomes invalid the Certificate holder must not use the IAB mark and certification number and must remove them from the products already marked.
- 5.3** In granting Certification, the NSAI makes no representation as to:
- (a) the absence or presence of patent rights subsisting in the product/process; or
  - (b) the legal right of the Certificate holder to market, install or maintain the product/process; or
  - (c) whether individual products have been manufactured or installed by the Certificate holder in accordance with the descriptions and specifications set out in this Certificate.
- 5.4** This Certificate does not comprise installation instructions and does not replace the manufacturer's directions or any professional or trade advice relating to use and installation which may be appropriate.
- 5.5** Any recommendations contained in this Certificate relating to the safe use of the certified product/process are preconditions to the validity of the Certificate. However the NSAI does not certify that the manufacture or installation of the certified product or process in accordance with the descriptions and specifications set out in this Certificate will satisfy the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, or of any other current or future common law duty of care owed by the manufacturer or by the Certificate holder.
- 5.6** The NSAI is not responsible to any person or body for loss or damage including personal injury arising as a direct or indirect result of the use of this product or process.
- 5.7** Where reference is made in this Certificate to any Act of the Oireachtas, Regulation made thereunder, Statutory Instrument, Code of Practice, National Standards. Manufacturer's instructions, or similar publication, it shall be construed as reference to such publication in the form in which it is in force at the date of this Certification.

## The Irish Agrément Board

This Certificate No. **05/0214** is accordingly granted by the NSAI to **Visqueen Building Products** on behalf of The Irish Agrément Board.

Date of Issue: **February 2005**

Signed



Chief Executive, NSAI

Readers may check that the status of this Certificate has not changed by contacting the Irish Agrément Board, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland. Telephone: (01) 807 3800. Fax: (01) 807 3842. [www.n sai.ie](http://www.n sai.ie)