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Moisture Content (Testing Procedure) for Sand and Cement Screed

Purpose: This procedure is conducted to determine the moisture content in sand and cement screed before applying waterproofing. Excessive moisture can affect the adhesion and performance of the waterproofing membrane.

Equipment and Materials:

- Moisture meter with appropriate calibration for cementitious materials
- Plastic sheet or moisture-resistant tape
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Pen or marker

Procedure:

1. **Preparation:**
 - Ensure that the sand and cement screed has cured for the recommended period specified by the screed manufacturer. Typically, this is around 7 to 28 days.
2. **Surface Preparation:**
 - Clear the surface of any debris, dust, or loose particles that may interfere with the moisture readings.
3. **Calibration:**
 - Calibrate the moisture meter according to the manufacturer's instructions to ensure accurate readings.
4. **Measurement Points:**
 - Randomly select several points on the sand and cement screed surface for moisture content measurement. Ensure the points are evenly distributed across the area.
5. **Taking Moisture Readings:**
 - Push the moisture meter pins or probes into the screed surface at each measurement point. Allow the moisture meter to stabilize and record the moisture reading.
6. **Recording:**
 - Record the moisture content reading for each measurement point. The moisture content is typically expressed as a percentage of the screed's weight.
7. **Calculation:**
 - Calculate the average moisture content by adding all the measurements and dividing by the number of measurement points.
8. **Acceptance Criteria:**
 - Compare the average moisture content with the manufacturer's recommended acceptance criteria for the specific waterproofing product or system to be applied.
 - Ensure the moisture content is within the acceptable range to proceed with the waterproofing application.
9. **Adjustment (if needed):**
 - If the moisture content exceeds the recommended acceptance criteria, delay the waterproofing application until the screed has dried to an acceptable level.
 - Implement appropriate measures such as increased ventilation, dehumidification, or heating to accelerate the drying process.
10. **Protection:**
 - Protect the screed surface from moisture and water exposure during the waiting period to prevent any increase in moisture content.
11. **Documentation:**
 - Document all moisture content readings and calculations in the test report or site documentation for future reference.

Note: Testing the moisture content in sand and cement screed is crucial to ensure that the substrate is sufficiently dry before applying waterproofing. Excessive moisture in the screed can lead to delamination or failure of the waterproofing system. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines and acceptance criteria for moisture content to ensure a successful waterproofing application.