

Use of plywood with Galvanised Steel Decking



When using plywood temporary formwork in conjunction with metal decking, care must be taken to minimise the risk of corrosion at the junction of the composite slab and the band beam. This may occur due to prolonged contact with plywood that has become wet or damp due to moisture being drawn in from the wet concrete or other environmental factors such as rain. Chemicals such as chlorides and sulphides which are sometimes contained in plywood formwork products may also leach and cause corrosion.

Steel manufacturers' warranties expressly exclude cover for any corrosion caused by a failure to prevent contact between wet plywood or lumber and the steel decking material and every effort should be made to minimise this risk. This includes the provision of a protective barrier, such as a foam strip, between the metal decking and the plywood.

Any corrosion on the surface of the decking should be removed as soon as possible and the area should be overpainted with a zinc-rich paint.