

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

To: GAF Commercial Sales, GAF Contractors, GAF Field Services

From: Technical Services Department

**Subject: Heat Welding Laps for Cold-Applied SBS Modified  
Roofing Systems**

Issued Date: 04/25/2012

Revised Date: 01/30/2019

No: TAB-C-2012-06

## Why Heat Weld Laps?

**The use of cold process adhesive has many desirable features; however...** unlike SBS roofing system installed in hot asphalt or by heat welding, the laps of a cold applied SBS modified roofing system are vulnerable prior to the curing of adhesive in the lap.

**Because of this vulnerability...** many roofing professionals prefer to use heat-welded laps on cold applied SBS modified roofing systems to insure the watertight integrity of the system at the end of each day.

## Ignition Sources, Oxygen, And Cold Process Adhesives Do Not Mix...

**Solvent-based cold adhesives are combustible...** GAF strongly warns that solvent containing adhesives are combustible and should be kept away from heat, open flames, or any source of ignition.

**Prevent an oxygen source for flame propagation...** This warning seems in direct conflict with allowing heat welding of laps in a cold-applied roofing system. However, it is possible to prevent combustion by closely following the steps below to insure that there is not an oxygen source for flame propagation.

**Use caution with ignition sources...** Always take additional precautions on the jobsite when heat welding equipment will be used and be particularly careful to prevent ignition sources/flames from inadvertently coming into contact with combustible materials, such as open cans of solvent-based materials, rags, pallets, wrapper, etc.

## Safety Recommendations For Heat Welding Laps When Membranes Are Installed With Matrix™ Adhesives

- **Keep lap clean and adhesive free...** to insure that the lap area to be welded is mating SBS membrane to SBS membrane.
- **Always use a tool to minimize the lift of the lap...** so that only the torch head is under the lap and heating the membrane. This prevents a large open area from being exposed to an oxygen source.
- **Laps should be immediately rolled/pressed into place...** this insures immediate sealing of the lap area and elimination of any air pockets.
- **Where possible, use a flameless heat source...** for heat welding of laps.
- **Always be sure to follow all industry and GAF torch safety recommendations and requirements.**

## Where Can I Get More Information?

**GAF Can Assist You...** with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. GAF can be contacted at **800-ROOF-411** (800-766-3411). Also, the GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

**Important:** This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check [www.gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) to make sure you have the most up to date information.

