

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**

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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 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 to make sure you have the most up to date information.

