PRODUCT INFORMATION BULLETIN

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR CLAD TUFF® FRP TRAILERS

A. PANEL INSTALLATION

1. All fasteners into and through the fiberglass reinforced panel (FRP) should be sealed to prevent moisture entry. FRP with lightweight foam or honeycomb cores may also include sealing tapes/adhesives as an alternative fastening method.
2. All panel rails, not just the bottom rail, should be caulked or moisture sealed.
3. Caulk should be used along the panel interior, regardless if an interior rail is used, to prevent moisture absorption along the exposed plywood edges of the panel.
4. The roof and upper rail should be designed to eliminate any possibilities of water entry along the top edge of the panels.
5. Signs, scuff banding, or other equipment should be attached to the panel in a manner to prevent moisture from getting into the panel core (i.e., sealing fasteners, bonding, caulk, etc.)
6. No fasteners should be tightened to the point that cracking of either panel surface (exterior or interior) develops.
7. If the interior of the trailer will be washed frequently or exposed to high levels of condensation, the interior panel surface should be coated with a moisture barrier surface finish. Tedlar® film is not recommended for panel interiors.

B. TRAILER AND PANEL MAINTENANCE

1. A primary factor in maintaining the integrity of the panel core is to insure that neither isolated areas nor the entire panel becomes waterlogged. With extended water exposure, general deterioration of the plywood will develop and, ultimately, rotting can develop.
2. Any panel damage which exposes the plywood core should be resealed as quickly as possible. Damaged areas can be covered and protected with duct tape for short periods of time. Small areas of damage to the panel skin can be filled with fiber-filled putty. Larger areas of damaged skin and core should be restored using procedures outlined in Fiber-Tech's Clad Tuff® FRP/Plywood Repair Manual or Video.
3. Faulty repairs which crack open or otherwise separate from the undamaged portion of the panel should be replaced immediately. Moisture deterioration can occur around a fractured repair as readily as around an unrepaired damaged area.
4. Repeated or continuing damage to the panel surfaces likely indicates abusive service conditions. Protection for the panels such as scuff banding, should be investigated to minimize damage and the likelihood of moisture entry occurring.
5. FRP/plywood trailer panels should be inspected occasionally for signs of damage or improperly repaired areas, deterioration around fasteners, breakdown of caulking, or general signs of any moisture intrusion into the panels.
6. Rail fasteners should be checked and tightened as needed to insure that their sealing gaskets are functioning properly.
7. If caulking along the rails or other sealed areas is cracking or peeling from the panel and/or rails, this material should be removed and new caulking installed.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

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