

## **Kiwa Covenant: quick and flexible**

### **Kiwa concludes covenant with Bitufa Waterproofing**

In today's society demonstrable quality is becoming increasingly important. Even if you make a unique product that is not subject to Dutch or European directives, you will still want to have it certified. It is now possible to do so with the Kiwa Covenant, which contains full details of the quality requirements on the basis of which Kiwa, as an independent test institute, tests and certifies the relevant product. Bitufa Waterproofing recently concluded a covenant and is now reaping the benefits.

#### **Trend**

The covenant is mainly intended for innovative products and services, which cannot be certified in the usual way. This is the case for a product by Bitufa Waterproofing B.V. in Wapenveld. A company that makes bituminous waterproofing products for basements, roofs and roads. "For us the Kiwa Covenant was the only possibility to give customers a quality assurance on our Flexobit product," according to Dennis Rouwenhorst, Quality and R&D Manager at Bitufa. "We are the only company in the world that makes this product. It is a bituminous waterproofing membrane, which is mainly used to waterproof basements and difficult details on roofs. Flexobit is so unique that it is not covered by the applicable European CE directives. That makes things difficult for us because then we cannot explain to customers what quality standards the product complies with. We want to be able to demonstrate the quality of our products in an independent way. That is a trend in the market. Customers ask for a data sheet and an independent certification report. Kiwa offered us that possibility by drawing up a covenant." The covenant between Kiwa and Bitufa Waterproofing B.V. was concluded in April 2016 and is valid internationally.

#### **Flexibility**

Rouwenhorst most definitely sees benefits to this new agreement. "It is far more flexible than a normal certification process. As we have a unique product, it sometimes also has to be tested in a different way. Kiwa likes to contribute ideas on how to do that. Needless to say the tests have to be validated. The Kiwa Covenant does, however, allow you to perform different tests on certain aspects when the properties of the product call for this."

Bitufa frequently applies Flexobit in the Middle East. "We are, among other things, active in Dubai, Qatar and Bahrain", Roeland van Delden, Bitufa's CEO explains. "We are involved in the construction of hospitals, hotels, shopping malls and apartment complexes there. These are largely government projects. You can't get anywhere without a quality certificate in those cases. We work with agents in the Middle East.

You want to provide them with all the tools they need to get orders. An independent test report is then invaluable. The Kiwa Covenant makes it possible for them to demonstrate to customers that the product satisfies all of the quality requirements described."

### **Procedure**

"Another advantage is that compared with the usual European certification, a covenant can be arranged fairly quickly", Rouwenhorst adds. "When the usual CE standardization cannot be applied and you develop your own CE standard, this will generally take at least two years. A Kiwa Covenant can be ready within 3 to 6 months, depending on the length and the nature of the tests. You need to complete a number of steps to obtain a Kiwa Covenant. You start by defining the properties of the product together with a Kiwa certification expert. Next, the product is tested. An independent Kiwa committee then determines whether these tests are adequate or whether additional tests may have to be carried out in order to ensure that the certificate has the required level. All of the tests and the results are described in the Kiwa Covenant. This way customers can see exactly how the product scores on various points and how often the relevant test is carried out. Everything is transparent and verifiable. Once we reach agreement on the content, the covenant can be concluded. Kiwa subsequently comes and tests the product twice a year to ensure it still meets the set quality requirements."

"We get a lot of requests for data sheets and certification reports", Van Delden adds." Customers like to know exactly what they are buying. If something does go wrong and a leak occurs, the insurance will ask for an external product verification. The covenant ensures that you have one. That is an added bonus. This way everything is covered."



Activities in Bahrain