



I.S. 36 : PART 1 : 1986

IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION

BITUMEN ROOFING FELTS  
PART 1, FIBRE AND GLASS FIBRE BASED FELTS

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## FOREWORD

This specification is a revision of I.S. 36 : 1972 and it is now being published in two parts:

Part 1 (this part): 'Fibre and Glass Fibre based Felts'. These felts are covered by I.S. 36 at present.

Part 2: 'Polyester based Felts'. These are not covered by I.S. 36 at present. This draft will be published later.

The principle of specifying the minimum mass of base materials and bitumen content is retained in this revision. Performance tests are considered not to be feasible at present. The figures given for the minimum mass of base make allowance for the loss in mass which occurs, because of evaporation of natural oils and moisture from the base materials, due to the heating which takes place in the course of the analysis described in Appendix A. The present revision includes modified requirements for surfacing material.

The following table summarises the types of roofing felt in the previous edition of I.S. 36 that are discontinued and the types of roofing felt that are covered in this revision. The revised specification provides two extra types of 1B felt in place of the discontinued 1C felts. The type B felts are renamed fine granule surfaced bitumen felts.

Discontinued	Fibre base	Asbestos base	Glass fibre base
Saturated bitumen felt	1A	2A	—
Fine granule surfaced felts	—	2B	—
Self-finished felt	1C	2C	—
Coarse sand surfaced felt	1D	—	—
Mineral surfaced felt	—	2E	—
Grades included in this revision			
Fine granule surfaced felt	1B	—	3B
Mineral surfaced felt	1E	—	3E
Reinforced felt	1F	—	—
Venting base layer	—	—	3G

The specification aims at securing the marketing of roofing felts in a standardised manner. For the purpose of distinguishing between the various types classified in this specification, the following brief outline of the component materials, the manufacturing procedure and uses is given.

A roofing felt consists essentially of a sheet of matted fibres rendered partially or completely impervious to water by treatment with bituminous materials. According to the purpose and type of roofing felt required, the fibres may be derived from the various sources, viz., vegetable (e.g. cotton, jute, flax, wood pulp), animal (e.g. hair, wool,) or mineral (e.g. glass), or may be mixtures of those fibres. The unproofed sheets are made

in various thicknesses or masses, textures and mechanical strengths, depending partly upon the physical nature of the fibre. While some are close-textured and tough, others are of open texture and low strength, although treatment with the proofing material always increases the mechanical strength. The types of proofing materials blended to give the required properties, are bitumens derived from petroleum.

With the Class 1 felts, the untreated base is first passed through a tank containing the saturating material which is maintained in a hot fluid condition, the surplus being removed from the saturated felt during passage between rollers. It is then coated, as a continuous process, with more highly weather resisting material. In the case of Class 3 material, the untreated glass fibre base is passed through the coating process only.

The surface of the coated felts so produced is then covered with surfacing material, appropriate to the type of felt, which prevents sticking in the roll and, in some cases, provides a decorative and protective finish.

In describing the various types of roofing felt, reference is made to the mass per 10 m<sup>2</sup>, usually referred to as the 'nominal mass'. Terms such as 'ply', 'heavy', etc., sometimes used are inadequate and misleading. Roofing felts should be identified by the class and type as indicated in the Tables of the standard specification.

The various felts should be selected on the basis of their own specific properties and the purpose which they are to fulfil. In particular the fire protection requirements of the completed roof should receive careful consideration. The decision as to whether the felt chosen should be self-finished or surfaced with fine granules or coarse granules is one which can be decided at the time of laying. The felts should be specified in terms of the nominal masses.

Felts manufactured in accordance with this specification are suitable for use on buildings constructed with modular components.

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