Raised access floors

Raised access floors (both cavity and raised floors) are becoming the rule in office construction. Provided the pertinent criteria laid down by “ÖkoKauf Wien” are complied with, wood-based construction materials are superior to the other commonly used materials. Volatile organic compounds that tend to be contained primarily in pedestal adhesives and thread sealings must be avoided at all costs.

The criteria laid down in the pertinent lists of products for flooring installation as well as those pertaining to the installation of such products apply in full, no matter whether the installation is performed locally or ex-factory.

Requirements for raised access floors

The following notes are based on Criteria Lists 08006 Products for flooring installation and 08017 Cavity floors, and make reference to the services listed in the Service Group Raised access floors, as set out in the specifications for building construction.

Materials used

In ecological terms, the mainly biogenic fibre boards are clearly superior to calcium sulphate, cement fibre and metal boards and should, whenever possible, be the material of choice.

In this context compliance with the criteria laid down in 08014 Wood-based materials is imperative, in particular proof of origin (countries subscribing to sustainable forest management, waste timber or FSC or PEFC certification) and proof of “E0.5”, i.e. half the formaldehyde emission legally admissible in Austria.

Use of construction chemicals

Pedestal adhesives and thread sealings are the chemicals most frequently used when installing cavity floors. Pedestal adhesives are by definition products used in flooring installation. It follows that the standards specified in the criteria list (in particular the use of low-emission tested products) will apply in full. These standards are now met by a number of products (mostly based on modified silane polymers).

Caution: This is the very segment in which certain manufacturers issue misleading pseudo-EMICODE seals of approval (meets EMICODE emission criteria after xy days) for products containing consider-able amounts of solvents (indeed even of aromatics). Solvent-containing products, however, can never meet EMICODE standards!

Since solvent-free systems are available for thread sealings, solvent-containing systems should be avoided.

Flooring installation

Depending on the type of flooring installed on raised access floors, Criteria Lists 08002 Resilient floor coverings, 08003 Textile floor coverings, 08005 Wood and engineered wood floor coverings as well as 08006 Products for flooring installation and 08010 Skirting boards shall apply in full, no matter whether the installation is effected locally or ex-factory.

→ For further information, see “ÖkoKauf Wien” information sheets “Wood-based materials”, “Floor laying”, “VOCs” and “Tropical timber”