



Technical Bulletin

No. 2401

Mechanically Fastened Splice Requirements

March 2024

As the industry moves from EPDM membranes to more heat welded assemblies (mostly mechanically fastened) it is important to note that splices are not installed in the same manner, specifically on Mechanically Fastened Systems.

Heat Welded lap plate placement is at the rear of the lap, mostly due to the welding equipment used, and the difficulty of welding the rear portion of the seam. This allows the splice to “hinge” at the heat welded splice. This is not a concern due to the high peel strength of these splices when heat welded. The Mule-Hide seam detail for this system is MHT-MA-104B.

However, the plate placement on an EPDM splice is different since the splice is completed using 6” In-Seam Tape. As a result, the plate placement is to be centered in the splice. (3” of tape in front of the fastener and 3” behind) this is important since the peel strength of the seam is not the same as a heat welded seam. The Mule-Hide Seam detail for this system is MHE-114.

Where this difference creates the most issues is when a crew has been installing TPO Mechanically Fastened Systems, and then has an EPDM Mechanically Fastened project, they must be reminded that confusing the plate placement on the laps will result in very costly repairs to the seams wherever this condition occurs.

If there are questions or clarifications required related to these statements, please contact Mule-Hide’s Technical Department.