

64497 Suitability of Siporex/RAAC for Flat Roofs

My residential building was constructed in 1968 and the roof has been confirmed as containing SIPOREX Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

I am specifically seeking historical information concerning when Siporex (RAAC) roof planks were first considered unsuitable, no longer recommended, or otherwise problematic for use in flat roofs.

The earliest date on which Edinburgh Corporation, Edinburgh District Council, City of Edinburgh Council, or any predecessor authority became aware of concerns about the suitability, durability or structural performance of Siporex/RAAC Roof Planks used in flat roofs.

A search of Council-owned homes for RAAC was carried out in 2023. Following the identification of further Council properties containing RAAC around May 2025, a further city-wide search of Council-owned homes was undertaken, concluding in August 2026. Investigations across the Council's wider operational estate began separately, in spring 2023.

The Scottish Housing Regulator first wrote to social landlords requesting information on RAAC in October 2023 – This letter is available at:

<https://www.housingregulator.gov.scot/for-landlords/advisory-guidance/recommended-practice/letter-to-landlords-reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-raac-request-for-information/>.

No earlier records establishing the date the Council or its predecessors first became aware of concerns have been located.

Copies of any technical reports, correspondence, memoranda, building-control guidance, specifications, circulars or other documents held by the Council concerning the use of SIPOREX OR RAAC in flat roofs, particularly documents from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

No such records are held.

Any records showing that the use of Siporex/RAAC in flat roofs was discontinued discouraged no longer recommended, considered unsuitable, or replaced by other form of construction. Please provide the date and reason for any such change.

No such records are held following searches of Housing and Building Standards files.

Copies of any correspondence or technical information received by the council from Building Research Establishments (BRE) concerning RAAC/Siporex roof planks, particularly information arising from investigations or testing undertaken during the 1980s.

No such records are held following searches of Housing and Building Standards files.

Copies of council records referring to BRE publications or investigations concerning RAAC roof planks, including BRE investigation during the 1980s BRE DIGEST 413 and BRE information paper IP 10/96 "reinforced autoclave irritated concrete planks designed before 1980.

No such records are held following searches of Housing and Building Standards files.

The date on which the council first became aware of any recommendations that pre-1980 RAAC roof planks should be inspected or condition assisted.

Housing's search of Council-owned homes is addressed in the response to Q1.

Publicly available general guidance on RAAC pre-dates this — including CROSS Newsletter 58 (April 2020, [structural-safety.org](https://www.structural-safety.org)) and the Department for Education's "Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete: Lightweight Concrete Roofs" (February 2021, gov.uk). These are sector-wide publications rather than Council records and are separate from the question of when the Council itself became aware of RAAC's use or extent within its own estate.

Any historical council building specifications for standard detail details showing the period during which Siporex/RAAC was accepted or specified for flat roofs and when it ceased to be specified or accepted.

No such records are held following searches of Housing and Building Standards files.

Any information held by the council explaining why the UK manufacturers or use of RAAC/Siporex roof tanks declined or ceased during the early 1980s including any reference to Jubil, deflection, creep, cracking, reinforcement, corrosion or surface life.

No such records are held following searches of Housing and Building Standards files.

If the council does not hold records establishing when RAAC/Siporex says to be considered suitable for flat roofs, please identify the external authority, organisation or technical body which the council understands issues the relevant advice.

Housing and Building Standards only hold recent general guidance - The Institution of Structural Engineers – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Investigation and Assessment (Published 17 April 2023)

[https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-\(raac\)-inve/](https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-(raac)-inve/)

Further Guidance - RAAC Scottish Residential Property Guidance (Scotland) Parts 1 and 2 (Published 20 January 2026),

Part 1:

<https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/raac-scottish-residential-property-guidance-part-1/>

Part 2:

<https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/raac-scottish-residential-property-guidance-part-2/>

There are no other historical records held.

Chronological summary, based on the council records of:

1960/1970s use of Siporex/RAAC

emergence of concerns

BRE investigations

subsequent advice regarding existing RAAC roofs.

No Council records exist that would allow such a chronological summary to be compiled.