

**MSHA Approval Number: 120M-01.2  
120-psi STRATACRETE Plug Seal  
Installation Manual**

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Strata Mine Services, Inc.**

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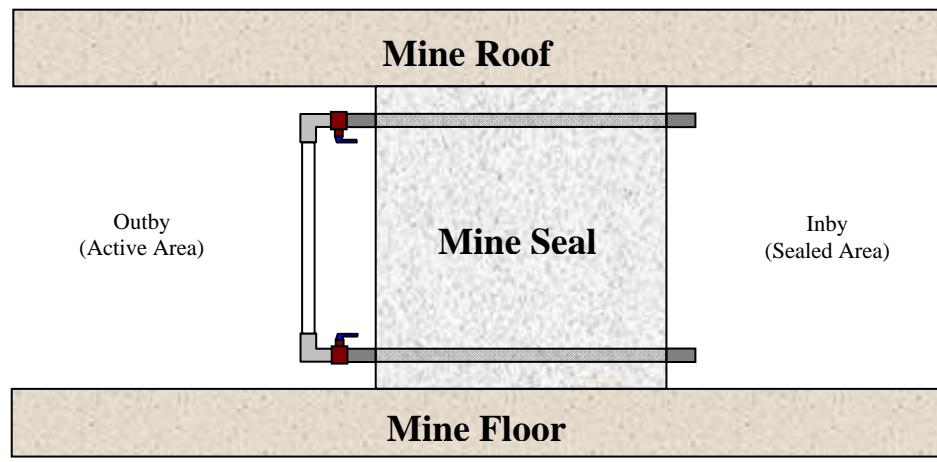
**Seal Installation Guidelines for the Strata Plug Seal**

1. Mine personnel choose the area where seals will be installed. Seal shall be located at least five (5) feet from the corner of any pillar. If seal is to be located less than 10 feet from the corner of the pillar, the rib will be reinforced by Shotcrete or Gunnite. If this occurs on the inby side of the seal, this will be done prior to seal installation.
2. The chosen areas are measured to ensure the seal dimensions will not exceed dimensions in the approved plan.
3. Professional Engineer inspects and measures the area to ensure that the seal chosen is appropriate for the area. Areas with roof, floor, and or rib fissures are not appropriate for installation of this seal without reinforcement with various means such as bolting, Shotcrete, Gunite, and chemical grouting of the area where the seal will be built.
4. The certified person designated by the mine should verify that the seal is of the correct dimensions. Please see attached table for dimensions.
5. Ensure the area is free from debris, loose material, excessive rock dust, and that the formwork specified is capable of supporting the loads applied. Forms can be of plywood and wood board construction, concrete blocks, or steel panels, to name a few of the types of forms that can be used. The form used will be stated in the approval package submitted by the mine. All forms, regardless of construction, will be adequately supported to withstand the horizontal loads which will be placed upon it.
6. The seal area is cleaned, removing loose materials from the roof, ribs, and floor. Examples of material removed are loose coal and roof, soft or broken floor or fireclay, thick rock or coal dust, and oily residue. Rib, roof, and floor must be deemed competent by the P.E.
7. Any loose material must be removed a minimum of three (3) feet on each side of seal down to competent strata. If a weir is present inby the seal, loose material will be removed between the weir and the seal down to competent strata.

8. The strata at the seal perimeter should be as rough as practically possible and smooth surfaces shall be minimized. Surfaces with roughness less than 1 inch per 4 linear feet must be mechanically roughened to increase the shear resistance at the seal interface. Alternatively, undulations may be cut into the strata to increase the shear resistance along the plane.
9. Metal objects, such as mesh, straps, rails, etc., that extend through the seal, from one side of the roof, rib, or floor to the other shall be removed.
10. A continuous supply of water with pressure adequate to flush grout lines will be available during all times that seals are being poured.
11. Any standing water shall be removed from the seal sites, however damp or wet locations are acceptable. Flowing water will be diverted or pumped from the seal sites.
12. Measure the seal area once more after it is scaled down to competent strata to ensure that the maximum dimensions of the entry do not exceed what is allowed in the seal design. See attached table for dimensions.
13. Deliver materials to the seal area. The certified person designated by the mine shall ensure the materials are as stated in the approval documents. This will include, but not be restricted to the material for the forms, sampling pipes, drainage pipes, valves, roof support supplies, rockdust, tools, etc
14. Any aggregate, if used, shall not be stored directly on the ground unless a sacrificial layer is left undisturbed and admixtures which have been in storage at the project site for longer than 6 months or which have been subject to freezing shall not be used unless they are retested and proven to meet the specified requirements. MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE may be delivered via mixing truck from a local concrete plant and delivered underground through a borehole(s) near the construction site. If mixed at a concrete plant, Strata representatives will ensure that accurate and repeatable MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE batches are consistently produced. Concrete blocks, if used, for formwork will be delivered in pallet form.
15. Roof support according to all approved plans will be installed. All inby roof support must be completed before access is blocked.
16. All debris 50 feet inby and outby the seal location will be removed.
17. Build forms according to the plan approved by the local MSHA office. Attached is a drawing of a typical wood form using props for support. Cribbing or other suitable material may also be used for support. The typical sequence of building wood forms is as follows:

- a. Set supports, (roc props, cribs etc.) Supports shall be equally spaced from rib to rib, the first support being no more than three (3) feet from the ribline.
  - b. Install framing lumber supports to the roc props or cribs, at roof line, floor line and equally spaced between floor and roof. If multiple lengths of framing lumber are used, lumber will be overlapped and fastened together.
  - c. Fasten plywood (3/4") to the framing lumber to create formwork for the seal from roof to floor and rib to rib.
  - d. Cut appropriate size holes in the formwork for the gas sampling pipe, water drainage pipe(s), breather pipes, and fill pipes as described below.
18. Install one gas sampling pipe that extends into the center of the first crosscut inby the seal. If an open crosscut does not exist, the sampling pipe shall extend one half the distance of the open entry inby the seal. The sampling pipe shall be approximately 12 inches from the roof, and at least six inches from the roof and ribs, when extending through the seal. The gas sampling tube shall be nominal 1/2-inch inside diameter, 80 non-conductive, non-corrosive pipe with an internal burst pressure of 240 psi. The gas sampling pipes will be supported by hangers or by cribbing.
19. If the new seal is placed on the outby side of an existing seal, non metallic gas sampling pipes rated at 240 psi shall be connected to each sampling pipe in each seal. The new gas sampling pipe will have a 240 psi shutoff valve installed outby the seal. If there is any space between the new and existing seal, that area will also be provided with a sampling pipe of the same specifications.
20. Install drainage pipe(s) as required and determined by the anticipated maximum flow rate at the seal location. The pipes used shall be non-conductive, corrosion resistant, and have an internal burst pressure of 240 psi. Drainage pipes shall be positioned at least three (3) feet from the nearest rib. If more than one drain pipe is installed in a seal, they shall be approximately three (3) feet from the nearest pipe. Pipes shall be installed so the depth of water against the seal is less than 12 inches. The u trap may be recessed into the floor to accomplish this. A maximum of five (5) drainage pipes will be allowed in a seal. Drainage pipe can be between 4 inch and 8 inch nominal inside diameter. If the seal is installed outby an existing seal, drainage pipes as specified above will be added in the appropriate length and connected to the existing water drainage pipe. The water drainage pipe(s) will be placed in the lowest elevation seal(s) in the set. A valve and water trap with an internal burst pressure of 240 psi shall be installed on the outby side of the seal. A low weir(s) or catchment, no more than 12" high, may be constructed across the entry inby all seals with drainage pipes to trap sediment and debris that may clog the drainage pipe(s).

21. Any individual seal with a water drainage system may also incorporate a water height measuring system. If used, this measuring system must be initially built into the seal in a manner that could establish the height of water on the inby side of the seal. A water height measuring system, incorporating a sight tube as shown below, shall consist of two horizontal 1 inch inside diameter non-metallic pipes installed through the seal. One pipe shall be securely installed through the seal at the approximate height of the top of the water trap and the other pipe shall be securely installed through the seal as close to the roof as possible. On the outby side of each pipe, a shut-off valve shall be installed. Each shut-off valve and pipe extending through the seal must have an internal pressure rating of 240 psi. Two 90 degree elbows shall be installed on the outby end of each pipe after the valves are in place. A clear plastic tube shall be securely placed between these elbows for viewing of the water elevation. The elbows and the clear plastic tubing must only have strength that would allow them to perform the functions for which they were installed.



22. Install a minimum of two (2) breather pipes in the highest location in each seal. The diameter will be sufficient to allow the air to vent, and then the pipe will be filled with the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE. The vent pipes shall be configured in an L-shape so that the end of the pipe in the seal is positioned vertically and close to the roof. The diameter of the pipe shall be adequate to let the air vent and then the pipe to fill with MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE. The gap between the roof and the end of the pipe shall be adequate to allow the pipe to fill with MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE, but as close to the roof as practical to assure that the air is completely evacuated. Valves shall be provided on the filling ports to allow the flow of MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE to be stopped without the loss of MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE through the filling port. The filling ports must be completely filled with MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE when the placement is completed. Caps or valves shall also be provided on the vent pipes so the vent pipe can be

shutoff once the vent pipes are returning concrete. The vent pipes must be filled in the final seal configuration. If the slump of the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE is not adequate to flow through the vent pipes, the pipes shall be withdrawn or backfilled with an expansive grout. Where the roof is uneven such that it creates recessed pockets, a vent pipe shall be installed to allow air to evacuate and allow the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE to contact the roof. Vent pipes shall also be placed wherever the roof line peaks or crowns.

23. Install fill pipe into the formwork for filling concrete into formwork. Installation of the fill pipe is the final step prior to lining the inside of the formwork with the line curtain. This pipe should be in the top one-third of the form and either near the middle of the seal or if a high void is present in the roof, in that area. Some installations may require more than one fill pipe. The fill pipe shall be equipped with a valve to allow the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE to be stopped without the loss of material. The fill pipe must be filled or removed when the placement is complete.
24. Line the inside of the formwork with line curtain, overlapping the roof, floor, and ribs making the formwork as fluid tight as possible.
25. Begin pumping of the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE material. A variety of concrete pumps can be used for the seal installation. The type of pump will depend on the distance the material will be pumped. An in-line booster pump is acceptable in excessively long pumping distances. The type of booster pump needed will depend on whether the booster pump is located in the intake or return side of the mine's ventilation system. The MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE material is a very high slump material and does not require vibration. The material from each batch will be tested using a spread test. A three (3) inch diameter by three (3) inch high cylinder of the material will be taken from the batch. The cylinder is emptied onto a flat surface. To ensure pumpability, the material should spread to a circle of at least six (6) inches. If material does not meet the spread test, a plasticizer may be added to the truck according to the plasticizer manufacturer's recommendation. If the spread is greater than 16 inches, the material will be tested again. If subsequent tests are still greater than 16 inches, the truck shall be rejected.
26. Pumping can be done from the surface, using bulk concrete trucks or pumped from underground using pre-packaged material.
27. The STRATACRETE may be poured in multiple lifts or in a continuous pour. When the seal is placed in multiple lifts, the time between lifts must be adequate to allow the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE to attain adequate strength to support the next lift. The time will be a minimum of four (4) hours. The material will be supplied at a rate to prevent cold joints in any placement. However, in the event a cold joint is unavoidable, the hardened surface shall be scarified, and

loose material shall be removed to ensure that the lifts are adequately engaged. This will be done through doors or windows in the formwork.

28. Take samples as specified in the approved plan. The samples will be collected in three (3) inch diameter by six (6) inch tall cylinders. A minimum of two sets of samples containing seven (7) cylinders each will be taken from each seal site and field cured for seven days at the seal site. Three (3) field cured samples from each set will be tested at seven (7) days. The remaining samples are to be held in reserve in the event the first three (3) samples do not achieve design strength. The design strength is 3,000 psi in a uniaxial compression test. The minimum compressive strength of any one sample shall be 3,600 psi with the average of 4,200 psi for all samples.
29. Once material is “roofed” and concrete is exiting the vent pipes, cap pipes to prevent excessive material from leaking out the pipes.
30. After pumping is completed, check the sealed area for any air leakage. If there is loss of contact between the seal and the roof, or ribs, the voids shall be filled with a non-shrinking cementitious or epoxy grout, with shear strength equivalent to the shear strength of the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE, according to the approved plan.
31. The formwork shall stay in place for a minimum of seven (7) days to allow for proper curing. Formwork can stay on the seals indefinitely. If the formwork is removed, repair any spalling caused by form removal with a non-shrinking cementitious or epoxy grout with shear strength equivalent to the MEDIUM STRENGTH STRATACRETE. An MSHA approved sealant may be applied after form removal.
32. If shrinkage is encountered that causes the seal to not contact the roof or ribs, grout will be injected in the voids. Grout will be either cementitious or two-part polyurethane.
33. Installation guidelines are considered “typical.” Site specific conditions may require minor changes to the installation. All changes will be certified by the Professional Engineer overseeing the installation.
34. The maximum allowable convergence that this seal design can withstand before structural integrity of the seal is compromised is up to 0.26 inches, dependent on the height of the seal. This is the physical convergence of the seal, and not the surrounding strata. The seal remains elastic if the maximum allowable convergence is not exceeded and continues to fulfill its designed purpose. Pins may be installed in the center of the face of the seal for measurements to be taken. “Pogo” sticks or other acceptable measuring devices can be used in lieu of this.

35. Seals will be examined for convergence every six months. If visible convergence is seen in the area, the area will be examined to see if maximum convergence is exceeded in the seal. If after one year, maximum convergence is not exceeded, examinations will be made on a yearly basis unless convergence in excess of maximum is suspected. If convergence is suspected, a P.E. must be immediately contacted to evaluate the effects of the convergence. The P.E. will certify the structural integrity of the seal or determine the proper repairs and submit that information to the MSHA District.

































Seal Design Number	Seal Width feet W	Seal Height feet H	Seal Thickness t feet & inches	Seal Design Strength psi P	Uniaxial Compressive Strength psi $\sigma_c$	Minimum Shear Strength psi $f_s$	Dynamic Load Factor DLF	Seal Safety Factor FS
675	40	15.0	17      1	120	3000	115	2	1.5
676	40	14.5	16      8	120	3000	115	2	1.5
677	40	14.0	16      2	120	3000	115	2	1.5
678	40	13.5	15      10	120	3000	115	2	1.5
679	40	13.0	15      5	120	3000	115	2	1.5
680	40	12.5	14      11	120	3000	115	2	1.5
681	40	12.0	14      5	120	3000	115	2	1.5
682	40	11.5	14      0	120	3000	115	2	1.5
683	40	11.0	13      6	120	3000	115	2	1.5
684	40	10.5	13      0	120	3000	115	2	1.5
685	40	10.0	12      6	120	3000	115	2	1.5
686	40	9.5	12      0	120	3000	115	2	1.5
687	40	9.0	11      6	120	3000	115	2	1.5
688	40	8.5	11      0	120	3000	115	2	1.5
689	40	8.0	10      5	120	3000	115	2	1.5
690	40	7.5	9      11	120	3000	115	2	1.5
691	40	7.0	9      4	120	3000	115	2	1.5
692	40	6.5	8      10	120	3000	115	2	1.5
693	40	6.0	8      2	120	3000	115	2	1.5
694	40	5.5	7      7	120	3000	115	2	1.5
695	40	5.0	7      0	120	3000	115	2	1.5
696	40	4.5	6      4	120	3000	115	2	1.5
697	40	4.0	5      8	120	3000	115	2	1.5
698	40	3.5	5      0	120	3000	115	2	1.5
699	40	3.0	4      5	120	3000	115	2	1.5
700	40	2.5	3      8	120	3000	115	2	1.5

