

## Needle detection

### Procedure

During manufacture, the geotextile passes close to three sets of magnets which remove metal particles up to 12g and >2mm. Just before the roll up, the geotextile passes through an electronic metal detection field. Audio and visual alarms indicate if metal particles are detected.

Rolls are sent to stock if they pass through the field without an alarm event or, in the case of an alarm event, the operator inspects the suspect area, locates any metal particles and removes them. If unsuccessful, or if any doubt remains as to the presence of metal particles, then the roll goes to the re-inspection facility.

### Re-inspection facility

The re-inspection facility allows geotextile to be unwound and passed between two electronic metal detectors designed to locate metal particles >2mm. If there is an alarm detection, the line stops automatically and the operator uses a hand-held detector to locate and remove any particles. When restarted, the web automatically reverses by 1m then detection resumes i.e. the *failed* section passes the detectors repeatedly until there are no more alarms. Once the whole roll has passed the detectors without stopping it is deemed to have no detectable particles present.

This detection process is thought to be the most comprehensive found world-wide for this type of geotextile and as a consequence our geotextiles are the least likely to contain any metal fragments. Any latent risk is considered negligible. We actively encourage visitors to come and see the system operating.

Whilst we can confidently say at the end of the process that no metal has been detected we regret we cannot, in all honesty, certify absolutely that the geotextile is needle free and so such a certificate does not form part of our Quality Control documentation.

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