Scotchlite™ Engineer Grade Reflective Sheeting

Series 3260

Product Bulletin 3260 **September 1996**

Replaces PB 3260 dated March 1992

Health and Safety Information

Read all health hazard, precautionary and first aid statements found in the Material Safety Data Sheet, and/or product label of chemicals prior to handling or use.

Series 3260 sheeting is also described in the 3M™ Scotchlite™ Engineer Grade Reflective Sheeting Product Bulletin. These products conform to the following specifications:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND BRIDGES ON FEDERAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS, 1985 FP-85, Type II, Section 718.01.

Federal Supply Service, General Services Administration, LS-300-C, SHEETING AND TAPE, REFLECTIVE: NON-EXPOSED LENS, Reflectivity 1, Class 1.

Description

3M™ Scotchlite™ Engineer Grade Reflective Sheeting Series 3260 is perforated for use in electronic cutting machines. Series 3260 sheeting has been specifically developed by 3M for optimal cutting, weeding, lifting, and transfer features when used with automated letter cutting machines. The punch pattern is designed to fit on all pinwheel type letter cutting machines. Series 3260 sheeting is durable and dimensionally stable, meeting the requirements for series 3200 sheeting defined in the Scotchlite engineer grade reflective sheeting product bulletin.

Series 3260 sheeting is intended for the production of traffic control letters, legends, logos, and signs, etc. These sheetings are intended for use where Engineer Grade sheeting series 3200 is recommended for application, such as properly prepared aluminum, sheetings and film previously applied, and other surfaces specified in Information Folder 1.7. They are not intended for use where markings may be subjected to chemical spillage.

Series 3260 sheeting is available in the following colors:

Color	Product Code
White	3260
Yellow	3261
Red	3262
Orange	3264
Blue	3265
Green	3267
Brown	3269

Sheeting colors confrom to Federal Specification FP-85, section 718.01 (a) and L-S-300C Table 1A.

Roll Sizes

15" width x 50 yards (Useable sheeting width approximately 13-3/4")

30" width x 50 yards (Useable sheeting width approximately 28-3/4")

Sheeting Liner

Series 3260 sheeting is provided on a white paper liner designed to aid the cutting process and the removal of sheeting weed after cutting.

Shelf Life

Sheeting should be used within one year after receipt.

Storage

Sheeting should be stored in a cool dry room, preferably at 65˚-75˚F (18˚-24˚C) and 30-50% relative humidity.

Equipment Operation

Read and follow manufacturer's operating manual carefully for proper use of equipment. A 3" minimum letter height is recommended. The use of radius corner fonts for cutout letters is strongly recommended. The use of "inside radius corners" as opposed to square corners reduces the probability of sheeting and/or letters cracking.

1. When cutting Series 3260 sheeting be sure to align sheeting correctly. Misaligned sheeting holes will result in buckles or wrinkled sheeting near cutting blade.
2. Maintain sharp, clean cutting blades. A dull knife could result in cracked sheeting edges. Wipe the cutting blade with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits or isopropyl alcohol as needed to keep the blade clean.
3. Sheeting temperatures should be 65˚F (18˚C) or higher for optimum cutting conditions. If sheeting temperature is below 65˚F, condition sheeting 24 hours at 65˚-75˚F (18˚-24˚C) before cutting. After cutting, follow storage conditions above. Excessive humidity may cause curling of liner, and/or cutout letters after removing weed.
4. A sheeting roll holder is recommended to allow the sheeting roll to rotate and feed smoothly with minimum resistance. The roll holder should be positioned at least 12 inches back from the cutting area to allow some relaxation of the sheeting as it is pulled into the machine. The feed roll must be in correct alignment with the machine to ensure proper tension on the sheeting. Another technique is to unwind some yardage by hand to minimize feed tension on the sprocket mechanism as it feeds the sheeting; this will reduce any tendency to buckle or feed sheeting incorrectly.
5. Adjust weight on cutting blade to maintain desired cutting depth. Replace blade as needed to maintain a clean sheeting cut.
6. Spacing between letters should be adjusted to the preference of the user. Consult the operating manual for instructions on how to regulate spacing on the unit.
7. SCPS-2 prespacing tape is recommended with Series 3260 sheetings. After removal of the “weed” apply prespacing tape SCPS-2 using a squeeze roller or hand applicator.
8. Consider all surfaces contaminated. Wipe sheeting or substrate with a clean cloth dampened with isopropyl alcohol. Wipe surface dry with a clean, dry, lint-free cloth.
9. Register copy and secure with premask or masking tape to provide a tape hinge.
10. Apply using hand application or hand squeeze roll applicator procedures. See Information Folder 1.5 and Information Folder 1.6 for details. Remove the liner from the copy. DO NOT use the premask to lift the letters off the liner.
11. Remove premask at 180˚ (pull back on itself).
12. **RESQUEEGEE COPY**. This is very important.

General Performance Considerations

The durability of 3M™ Scotchlite™ Engineer Grade Reflective Sheeting will depend upon substrate selection and preparation, compliance with recommended application procedures, geographic area, exposure conditions, and maintenance.

Maximum durability of Engineer Grade sheetings can be expected in applications subject to vertical exposure on stationary objects when processed and applied to properly prepared aluminum according to 3M recommendations provided in Information Folder 1.7 on Sign Base Surface Preparation.

The user must determine the suitability of any nonmetallic sign backing for its intended use. Applications to unprimed, excessively rough or non-weather-resistant surfaces, or exposure to severe or unusual conditions can shorten the performance of such applications.

Signs in mountainous areas that are covered by snow for prolonged periods may also have reduced durability.

3M™ Scotchlite™ Process Colors, when used according to 3M recommendations, are generally expected to provide performance comparable to colored reflective sheeting, except for certain lighter colors, such as yellow, gold, or heavily toned colors or blends containing yellow or gold, whose durability depends on how much of each color is used. Dilution of color and atmospheric conditions in certain geographic areas may result in reduced durability.

3M™ Scotchcal™ Film 3655 Black, 3M™ Scotchcal™ Film 7720-12, 3M™ Controltac™ Film 180-12 Black, and 3M™ Scotchlite™ ElectroCut™ Film Series 1170 can be expected to perform satisfactorily for the life of the sign when direct applied to Engineer Grade sheeting, except where shortened durability is stated in the literature.

Literature Reference

Hand Application Instructions	IF 1.5
Hand Squeeze Roll Applicators	IF 1.6
Sign Base Surface Preparation	IF 1.7
Premasking & Prespacing Sign Base Materials	IF 1.10
Scotchlite™ Engineer Grade Reflective Sheeting	PB 2200/3200

3M assumes no responsibility for any injury, loss or damage arising out of the use of a product that is not of our manufacture. Where reference is made in literature to a commercially available product, made by another manufacturer, it shall be the user's responsibility to ascertain the precautionary measures for its use outlined by the manufacturer.

Important Notice

All statements, technical information and recommendations contained herein are based on tests we believe to be reliable, but the accuracy or completeness thereof is not guaranteed, and the following is made in lieu of all warranties, express or implied. Seller's and manufacturer's only obligation shall be to replace such quantity of the product proved to be defective. Neither seller nor manufacturer shall be liable for any injury, loss or damage, direct or consequential, arising out of the use of or the inability to use the product. Before using, user shall determine the suitability of the product for his/her intended use, and user assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection therewith.

Statements or recommendations not contained herein shall have no force or effect unless in an agreement signed by officers of seller and manufacturer.

3M

Traffic Control Materials Division
3M Center, Building 225-5S-08
P.O. Box 33225
St. Paul, MN 55133-3225

3M Canada
P.O. Box 5757
London, Ontario N6A 4T1

3M Mexico, S.A. de C.V.
Apartado Postal 14-139
Mexico, D.F. 07070

Printed on recycled paper
75-0300-3404-7