

Recommendations when placing orders for Narrow Cavity Insulating Glass Units

Introduction

Slim insulated glazing units are often favoured in listed buildings or conservation areas as they allow thinner timber profiles and bead detail. It has been noted by the BWF that some of our members have experienced quality issues with this type of unit (supplied by a range of different manufacturers). Further investigation by the BWF has highlighted that there are some slim IGUs in the market that do not have the correct test evidence in place to ensure performance of the unit in the long term.

What to do when placing an order

When placing orders for insulating glass units (IGUs) including narrow cavity or "slim" glass units, the BWF would advise members to seek confirmation from their suppliers that the units will be CE marked and meet the requirements for the durability of glass units given in the BS EN 1279 series of standards.

In order to establish that the test evidence applies to the glass units which a member is intending to buy the member should ask their supplier to provide a copy of the system description, as defined in EN 1279-1:2004 clause 4 and Annex A. The system description should be consistent with the glass units that are to be supplied and the glass units that were tested during the assessments for durability given below.

The supplier must also be able to provide CE marked units supported by a Declaration of Performance (DoP) which should be in accordance with Annex ZA of the

harmonised Standard BS EN 1279-5:2005 +A2:2010. To ensure the durability of IGUs the units described on the system description should have met the requirements of the following tests:

- EN 1279-2, moisture penetration
- EN1279-3, gas leakage (for gas filled units only)
- EN 1279-4, edge seal strength



The production of the IGUs should also follow a Factory Production Control system and periodic testing meeting the requirements of EN 1279-6.

Terms and Conditions of Sale

Members are also advised to discuss the length of warranty that is being offered by their glazing suppliers on these units and to check the detail as to what these warranties will cover. They should also confirm that they will employ an acceptable glazing method using appropriate and compatible materials in an effort to avoid future problems and potential liabilities.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advice given, the federation cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of the information supplied in this publication.

Notes: This advice does not cover all aspects of the requirements for insulating glass units or the glazing of windows, screens or doorset. In particular it does not refer to the provision of safety glass nor does it cover specific requirements for glass units manufactured under a certification scheme.

The BS EN 1279, Glass in buildings, Insulating glass units series is;

Part 1: Generalities, dimensional tolerances and rules for the system description

Part 2: Long term test method and requirements for moisture penetration

Part 3: Long term test method and requirements for gas leakage rate and for gas concentration tolerances

Part 4: Methods of test for the physical attributes of edge seals

Part 5: Evaluation of conformity

Part 6: Factory production control and periodic tests