



Guidance on Narrow Cavity Insulated Glazing Units.



Narrow cavity insulated glazing units are often favoured in listed buildings or conservation areas, as they provide a compromise between energy-efficiency and authenticity.

Where possible, it is always preferable to use standard cavity IGUs when replacing windows. They are less expensive, have a longer life and are more energy-efficient. They can provide modern standards of comfort in a timber frame that has correct, narrow glazing bars and authentic detailing.

However, where narrow cavity insulated glazing units are required, it is important to check they have the correct test evidence in place to ensure they are not subject to premature loss of performance or failure.

Placing an order

Members should seek confirmation from the glass 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 the test evidence applies to the glass units 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 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 article 6 of the Construction Products Regulation and 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 advised to discuss the length of warranty offered by their glazing suppliers and to check the detail of what is covered.

They should also confirm they will employ an acceptable glazing method using appropriate and compatible materials in an effort to avoid future potential problems.

Notes: This advice does not cover all aspects of the requirements for insulating glass units or the glazing of windows, screens or doorsets. 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 & periodic tests*

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

A list of window and door manufacturers is available from <https://windows.bwf.org.uk/>