



FIRE RATED GLASS INFORMATION. (Brief information)

Fire rated glass is used to protect areas, stored materials and people from harm or damage.

How is it rated?

Fire glass is rated in two ways.

1 = Integrity

Glass rated as integrity only is a fire rated glass that will prevent the passage of flames from one area to another. The product itself can be rated from 30 minutes to 120 minutes-this is the length of time the system will perform to its maximum. Fire rated glass that is integrity only is designed to prevent the spread of flames but will not prevent heat transferal from one side of the building to the other.

2 =Integrity and Insulation.

Glass rated integrity and insulation will provide fire protection from the spread of flames with the added properties that allow this glass to retain the heat from the fire side of the building and prevent the transfer of heat from one area to another. Again this product can be rated from 30 minutes to 120 minutes.

Eg If there was a room where all the substances stored were potentially explosive the glass installed would have to be integrity and insulated because the transferal of heat could trigger an explosive reaction.

Note, all glass types are designed to match criteria that suits today's market, all glass is tested under extreme conditions along with the supporting materials such as the frame, sealants, fixings and beading. Therefore any glass supplied must be installed using the same products that gained the pass mark-in other words all parts of the installation must be fully compatible and offer the same level of protection. The use of other materials will not meet the performance criteria met during testing or Building Regulation requirements and will cause the installation to fail.

The spread of smoke and fumes is also an issue and new systems take this into account.

For further information see Approved Document B and GGF Guide to Best Practice in the specification and use of Fire-Resistant Glazed systems

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