

Histoglass

BS EN 1279

*The British Quality
Standard for Gas-Filled
Insulating Glazing*

BS EN 1279

Boring? Perhaps. Essential? Absolutely!
There are many misinterpretations of the BS EN 1279 standard for insulating double glazing. Perhaps a boring subject, but essential when choosing good quality glazing. We will try to keep it as simple as possible.

What is BS EN 1279?

CE Marking is a guarantee that a product complies with the essential requirements of the relevant European Legislation Product Directives. These Product Directives contain the "essential requirements" and / or "performance levels" and "Harmonized Standards" to which products must conform. Harmonized Standards are the technical specifications which are established by several European standards agencies.

Source: CE Marketing Institute

BS EN 1279 comprises 6 parts in total, the first 5 for the quality of the unit, part 6 for the production environment:*

Part 1:
Generalities, dimensional tolerances and rules for 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:
Method of test for the physical attributes of edge seals

Part 5:
Evaluation of Conformity

Part 6:
Factory Product Control and periodic tests

*Source: British Standards Institute

Obtaining the standard is not a one-off ratification, it involves continual periodic testing of both units and the production environment.

Histoglass double glazed units comply with all 6 parts of BS EN 1279.

BS EN 1279 part 3 is important for gas-filled units. This ensures that the units retain the insulating gasses (in the long term) which are so essential for longevity.

Why is this important?

The definition BSI give for IGUs is: a combination of two or more panes of glass with hermetically sealed air space between the panes of glass. This space may or may not be filled with an inert gas. All Gas-filled units should comply with BS EN 1279, part 3.

(From: Glass Reassurance: helping ensure protection, security and energy efficiency, BSi Product Services)

Certain parts are more or less achieved when producing a double glazed unit. However, part 3 in particular is essential for gas-filled units. It is easy to manufacture a double glazed unit, but much more difficult to produce units which retain their gas insulation, even after many years.

Histoglass units, in addition to complying with all the tests, have a long track-record of being successfully installed in historic buildings for over 35 years.

How does Histoglass achieve this quality?

We work with 2 seals: the primary seal, which bonds the 2 panes of glass to the aluminium spacer bar, and the secondary seal, which is a special butyl seal around the perimeter. With this combination we achieve a perimeter seal of 8-9mm. If we could make it thinner and still be able to guarantee the highest quality, we certainly would. But after more than 35 years of testing, we haven't found a way yet!

What does this mean for you?

When specifying double glazed units, make sure that you select a product which complies with all 6 parts of BS EN 1279. It is the basic guarantee of quality and provides you, the specifier, with the assurance that the units will not leak gas, which in the long term leads to a loss in the insulating capacity. Always make sure to request a copy of the test certificates, any reputable manufacturer should be happy to supply them.

BS EN 1279 compliance is a legal requirement. The standard comprises 6 parts in total, the first 5 for the quality of the unit, part 6 for the production environment.

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