
From: Frank Ritter <Frank.Ritter@3AComposites.com>
Sent: 19 February 2016 14:41
To: Nick Jenkins
Subject: AW: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height
Attachments: N073 Technical Report facades.pdf

Mit freundlichen Grüßen | Best regards

Frank Ritter
Senior Engineer

3A Composites GmbH
Architecture & Display Europe
Alusingenplatz 1
78224 Singen | Germany

Achtung! Seit dem 01.06.2015 haben wir neue Telefon- und Faxnummern: [REDACTED] xxxx; die Durchwahl Ihrer Ansprechpartner bleibt unverändert.

Attention! Since June 1st 2015 our telephone and fax numbers have changed: [REDACTED] xxxx; the extension of your contact person remains unchanged.

Tel: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: Frank.Ritter@3AComposites.com
www.alucobond.com

Sitz der Gesellschaft: Osnabrück - eingetragen im Handelsregister des Amtsgericht Osnabrück unter HRB 15742
Geschäftsführer: Dr. Joachim Werner

Von: Frank Ritter
Gesendet: Freitag, 19. Februar 2016 2:47
An: 'NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk'
Cc: Monika Lutz; Amin Emami; Stefan Wauer; Vincent Spodar
Betreff: WG: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hello Nick,

as a member of the German expert group for Reaction to Fire and on behalf of the European Aluminium Association I'm participant of the European standardization for fire testing of facades. In the attached draft document the BS8414 can be discovered as one of the future test methods for façade. Hence it will come anyway sooner or later, although there is still discussion about some details of the test procedure.

However the test method is system related and the fire classification of the cladding material is only one small issue. Within BRE we do see tendencies wanting to draw up some sort of official document comparable to the fire resistance of e.g. dry wall systems, hence costing fabricators some 100 KGBP to cover individual solutions, certainly it will help though to finance BRE.

Actually the aluminum industry is in discussion with BRE how to cover major issues before hand, to limit the future effort for fabricators.

Therefore I am of the opinion that is not wise at this stage to start a discussion on ACM panels (or other materials) referring to BS 8414.

On the other hand we would appreciate to support the ban of ACM panels with PE-core and "cheating" ACM-FR products on facades, which unfortunately became almost a standard as well.
The first step in the UK would be to eliminate the possibility of referring façade materials to BS476-6/7.

Next Tuesday will be the next meeting with Sarah from BRE in Watford. Probably it makes sense to have a conference call end of next week to coordinate future joint actions. Thanks for your sharing of information and we will most certainly do the same.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen | Best regards

Frank Ritter, D.-I. CEng
Senior Engineer

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Architecture & Display Europe
Alusingenplatz 1
78224 Singen | Germany

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E-Mail: Frank.Ritter@3AComposites.com
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Geschäftsführer: Dr. Joachim Werner

Von: Nick Jenkins [<mailto:NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>]

Gesendet: Donnerstag, 18. Februar 2016 11:07

An: Monika Lutz

Betreff: FW: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Monika,

Please find latest communications with below with DCLG who are the government department with responsibility for the building regs.

If you require any assistance to progress with the full scale 8414 tests I understand you have planned then please don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Nick

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [Brian Martin](#)

Sent: 18/02/2016 08:19

To: [Nick Jenkins](#)

Cc: 'Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk'; 'Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk'

Subject: Re: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

That sounds like a good plan to me. I'd be happy to help where I can.

You are right, of course, constructions complying with the rules of thumb may well fail an 8414 test. In an ideal world we'd make the test mandatory but that would be too costly to justify.

Please keep me posted.

Brian

From: Nick Jenkins [<mailto:NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 09:21 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Brian Martin
Cc: 'Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk' <Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk>; 'Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk' <Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height
Hi Brian,

Yes I think you are probably right in that people are claiming ambiguity to suit their needs. What I can't get my head around however is how buildings, that clearly include products that neither:

1. meet the rules as set in AD B2 out or
 2. have been the subject of a full scale 8414 test,
- are achieving building regulation compliance completion certification?

Is it that:

- a) the certification has been wrongly awarded? Thus pointing to a requirement for better informed/educated certifying officers or
- b) have they not achieved certification and are thus subject to indemnity policies to cover the risk?

I have completed the survey and also spoken to David Metcalf of the CWCT re forward inclusion in the CWCT group to talk about cladding and fire safety. I've already been in discussion with David regarding this matter. I think that perhaps the most straight forward way to better communicate the rules in any amended document would be by the inclusion of some annotated illustrations of commonly used multi layered wall constructions.

I do believe that ACM's classified as A2-s1, d0 in accordance with BS EN 13501 meet the rules of thumb. In this regard I have a meeting tomorrow with ARUP to run through the validity of test methods and associated data that have led to their classification.

I too will be very interested to see how the lower B-s1, d0 rated "flame retardant" cored ACM panels which represent the majority of the product we supply perform when it comes to the 8414 tests planned by their manufacturers. It would also be interesting to see by way of comparison how a construction featuring products that, according to the rules, negate the need for full scale 8414 testing would perform. Of course this would only happen as part of some noncommercial research as no manufacturer is going to fund such tests on products that the rules say don't require full scale testing.

In the meantime we intend to construct a guidance note/statement of Booth Muir's interim position which will err on the side of caution. It is our hope that in publishing this guidance note and diagrams, perhaps jointly with the BCA that we can educate and provide clarity of the rules as they specifically relate to the commonly used multi layered wall build-ups featuring ACM cladding panels.

Your input and/or review of this document would be very welcome.

Regards,

Nick

From: Brian Martin [<mailto:Brian.Martin@communities.gsi.gov.uk>]
Sent: 17 February 2016 09:49

To: Nick Jenkins <NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>

Cc: 'Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk' <Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk>; 'Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk' <Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Thanks Nick

I'm not sure the text is really all that ambiguous, given that it must cover all forms construction. People often argue that it isn't clear when they are trying to justify doing something that is clearly wrong. I'm not entirely sure that even the ACM products that have "flame retardant" cores would meet the rules of thumb in the AD so it'll be interesting to see if any of them get through an 8414 test.

But that's just my opinion. We've recently commissioned a survey of Part B users with a view to feeding into the next revision. In the first instance it might help if you put your views into that please.

<http://surveys.ribaenterprises.com/wh/s.asp?k=145200527201>

There is a meeting of the CWCT group to talk about cladding and fire safety, its run by Bath University, maybe you could ask them if you can get involved. Brenda Apted, details below, is organising things.

Brenda Apted

b.a.apted@bath.ac.uk

CWCT

The Studio

Entry Hill

Bath BA2 5LY

Tel: [REDACTED]

From: Nick Jenkins [<mailto:NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>]

Sent: 16 February 2016 21:54

To: Brian Martin

Cc: 'Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk'; 'Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk'

Subject: RE: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Brian,

Many thanks for your prompt response. In light of the fires that have taken hold of a number of buildings clad in ACM panels in recent years I also think that the core of ACM panels should most definitely be considered as a "filler". Some ACM cores meet the rules of ADB however the ones commonly used in the UK at present don't.

To the best of my knowledge there have been no full scale 8414 tests carried out to date of any wall constructions featuring any type of ACM panel. I am aware that 2 manufacturers of ACM have plans to have such tests carried out. This however unfortunately means that no existing buildings in the UK over 18m tall that feature ACM panels currently meet the B4 requirements. There are many such buildings and their numbers are growing.

Whilst I appreciate it is for the designer and building control body to consider if requirement B4 has been met, I do think the current situation is of grave concern. Surely this justifies the requirement for a less ambiguous statement of the rules?

With the above in mind do you think it would be worth setting up a meeting with the relevant bodies and experts represented to review the current presentation of the rules?

Regards,

Nick

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [Brian Martin](#)
Sent: 16/02/2016 17:09
To: [Nick Jenkins](#)
Cc: 'Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk'; 'Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk'
Subject: Re: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Nick

Its for the designer and the building control body to consider if Requirement B4 has been met.

ADB give guidance on this by saying that the external walls should not provide a medium for fire spread in tall buildings.

It then offers two approaches, a set of rules or a full scale test.

In the rules, we deliberately added the word "filler" to address things that form part of the cladding system that are not insulation but could provide a medium for fire spread.

I think the core of an ACP panel could reasonably be considered to be a "filler". So, unless the core material meets the "rules" then the AD suggests a full scale test.

However, if the designer and building control body choose to do something else then that's up to them.

I'm on the road at the moment so drafting this from memory.

Brian

From: Nick Jenkins [<mailto:NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 01:36 PM GMT Standard Time
To: Brian Martin
Cc: Howard, Stephen <Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk>; Colwell, Sarah <Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height
Hi Brian,

I am forwarding this query to you as recommended by Sarah Colwell of the BRE. As you will note from the correspondence below Sarah advises the DCLG are the body with responsibility for AD B2.

This matter is currently the topic of much discussion in the construction industry and if one thing is evident, that is there is much confusion and misunderstanding. Your soonest review of the matter would therefore be most welcome.

I look forward to hearing back from you with some clarification.

Regards,

Nick

On 12 Feb 2016, at 15:20, Colwell, Sarah <Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Nick

Further to my earlier email.

We have now had a chance to look at your email and I would suggest that you contact Brian Martin at DCLG (Brian.Martin@communities.gsi.gov.uk) with regard to this request as they are the body with responsibility for this document and therefore any interpretations associated with it.

Kind Regards

Sarah

Sarah Colwell
Director, Fire Suppression Testing and Certification
For and on behalf of BRE Global.

BRE, Bucknalls Lane, Watford, Herts, WD25 9XX Sat Nav Postcode WD25 9NH
T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED] E: sarah.colwell@bre.co.uk W: www.bre.co.uk

Customer Services: [REDACTED] / International: [REDACTED]
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From: Colwell, Sarah
Sent: 09 February 2016 15:31
To: 'Nick Jenkins' <NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>
Cc: Howard, Stephen <Stephen.Howard@bre.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Nick,

Apologies for not replying sooner, I had missed your previous correspondence. I will follow try and look at it this week and comeback to you.

Kind Regards

Sarah

Sarah Colwell
Director, Fire Suppression Testing and Certification
For and on behalf of BRE Global.

BRE, Bucknalls Lane, Watford, Herts, WD25 9XX Sat Nav Postcode WD25 9NH
T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED] E: sarah.colwell@bre.co.uk W: www.bre.co.uk

Customer Services: [REDACTED] / International: [REDACTED]
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From: Nick Jenkins [<mailto:NJenkins@boothmuir.co.uk>]
Sent: 09 February 2016 13:03
To: Colwell, Sarah <Sarah.Colwell@bre.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Sarah,

Could you please advise when you expect to be able to review my query issued on 20th Jan?
Apologies if you are not the right person in the BRE to be dealing with this. If this is the case could you please advise to whom I should redirect my query.

Many thanks,

Nick Jenkins

Executive Director – Business Development

Mobile – [REDACTED]

Tel : [REDACTED] | Fax : [REDACTED] | Web : <http://www.boothmuirie.co.uk/>

<image001.png>

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Company Registration Number: 7090842

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From: Nick Jenkins

Sent: 01 February 2016 13:42

To: 'ColwellS@bre.co.uk' <ColwellS@bre.co.uk>

Subject: RE: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Sarah,

Regarding my email of 20th Jan I received an auto reply at that time from which I understand you returned to the office last Tuesday. Could you please acknowledge receipt of my query and advise when I could expect to receive a response from the BRE on the matter.

I have received feedback from Steve Evans of the NHBC/BCA and also David Metcalfe of CWCT who have both confirmed that they think my interpretation of the Building Regs in relation to the use of combustible materials in high rise buildings is correct – i.e. to meet the requirements, paragraphs 12.6 - 12.9 and Diagram 40 need to be followed.

The question still remains however as to which materials/components have to meet the requirements of paragraph 12.7. Previously 12.7 was interpreted to mean simply the insulation had to be of limited combustibility (although this was not always adhered to). From recent meetings and discussions the general understanding is now that the scope of 12.7 extends to also include the external cladding. The BCA guidance agrees with this. David's thoughts are that this is logical, especially following the recent evidence of fire spread up the facade of a number of buildings in the Middle East with combustible cladding panels. A simple read through the Approved Document however would not tell you this.

We awaiting feedback and confirmation from the BRE as this is a perquisite to us issuing/publishing any much needed guidance note to the industry.

Kind regards,

Nick Jenkins

Executive Director – Business Development
Mobile – [REDACTED]

Tel : [REDACTED] | Fax : [REDACTED] | Web : <http://www.boothmuir.co.uk/>

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From: Nick Jenkins
Sent: 20 January 2016 13:48
To: 'ColwellS@bre.co.uk' <ColwellS@bre.co.uk>
Subject: Use of ACM Cladding Panels on Buildings Exceeding 18m in Height

Hi Sarah,

I hope this finds you well? We haven't met however I understand that you might be the best person to help me with some clarification I'm seeking in relation to my understanding of the current UK regulations as they apply to wall constructions for buildings over 18m featuring rainscreen panels formed from ACMs?

Last week I attended a Siderise/BRE facades conference on the topic of fire safety. During the day I asked some questions of the panel relating to the permissible use of rainscreen cladding panels formed from various grades of ACM (aluminium composite materials) when used as part of multi layered wall systems for buildings over 18m. There was some ambiguity in the answers provided by the panel.

I believe this ambiguity stems from some people making the assumption that in the absence of BS8414-2:2005 test evidence or a fire engineering analysis of walls featuring ACM rainscreen panels that compliance can be achieved for such wall systems by **either**:

1. Meeting the guidance given in paragraphs 12.6 to 12.9 of AD B2 by restricting insulation product, filler material (not including gaskets, sealants and similar) etc. used in the external wall construction to materials defined as being of limited combustibility as defined in Table A7, Appendix A of AD B2 **or**
2. providing cladding in accordance with Diagram 40 of AD B2. This stipulating that if a boundary exists less than 1000mm away and/or the building has a height of over 18m then a cladding material meeting Class O (national class) or B-s3, d2 or better European class is required.

In my understanding compliance is not achieved via an **if either 1 or 2** are satisfied scenario, rather only via an **if 1 and 2 are both** satisfied scenario? I think this is a logical, especially following the recent evidence of fire spread up the facade of a number of buildings in the Middle East with combustible cladding panels. A simple read through the Approved Document however would not tell you this.

If my understanding is correct and the scope of 12.7 extends to also include the external cladding and the 3mm thick core associated with 4mm ACM is to be considered a filler material then as far as I'm aware the only ACMs available to the UK market that meet the AD B2 definition of being materials of limited combustibility are Alpolic A2 and Alucobond A2. Both of these products are classified as A2-s1, d0 in accordance with BS EN 13501-1:2007.

In our experience of supplying fabricated ACM rainscreen panels to specialist cladding contractors in the UK market we are rarely asked to provide such A2 rated ACM materials. The vast majority of ACM panels we are asked to provide for architectural application are either Alucobond plus, ALPOLIC/fr, or Larson fr products all of which are classified as B-s1, d0 in accordance with BS EN 13501-1:2007 and thus whilst they can be classified as products that are hard to burn are not accepted as being of limited combustibility in accordance with Table A7, Appendix A of AD B2.

In many instances it is not even the B-s1, d0 rated ACM panels we are asked to supply but standard polyethylene core material ACM that burns quite efficiently. What's more I'm aware of many tall residential buildings recently constructed in the UK where such panels are installed in combination with various foil faced rigid foam thermal insulation boards which are also not accepted by as being of limited combustibility in accordance with Table A7, Appendix A of AD B2.

As a responsible supplier Booth Muirie/Euroclad would like to put a guidance note out to the market written specifically on routes to compliance in relation to the use of ACM rainscreen cladding panels and associated thermal insulation products used as part of multi layered built-up wall systems. Before we publish any such guidance we are ensuring that we have our facts straight. With that in mind I would very much appreciate your thoughts on my understanding of the current regulations.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best regards,

Nick Jenkins

Executive Director – Business Development

Mobile – [REDACTED]

Tel : [REDACTED] | Fax : [REDACTED] | Web : <http://www.boothmuirie.co.uk/>

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