

What's lurking behind your façade?



The recent rise in popularity of rainscreen façades has been accompanied by ever more stringent energy regulations, meaning that the space available for insulation materials within these systems is at a real premium. A suitable product must obviously possess the greatest possible thermal efficiency, but, given the potential 'chimney' effect of an openly ventilated cladding system, its ability to withstand the effects of fire is also a vital consideration.

BS 8414-1: 2002¹ is the latest full scale test method for non-load bearing external cladding systems, and can be regarded as the only genuine test of the suitability of an insulation product for rainscreen applications. For buildings over 18 metres in height the stringent requirements of Approved Document B², Technical Booklet E³ or Technical Handbooks Domestic / Non Domestic⁴ apply, and these documents demand that for such applications only those materials considered 'non-combustible', or those assessed to BR 135⁵ to show limited spread of flame through the façade, can be considered acceptable for use.

Since traditional 'non-combustible' insulation materials struggle to meet the challenge of providing today's required energy performance in the space available, specifiers are left on the horns of an unenviable dilemma – whether to compromise a building's thermal efficiency, or to take the risk of compromising its fire performance. Fortunately for all concerned, help is at hand in the form of **Kingspan Kooltherm® K15 Rainscreen Board**.

Kingspan Kooltherm® K15 Rainscreen Board has been successfully tested at the Building Research Establishment to BS 8414-1: 2002 and, when assessed in accordance with BR 135, it is acceptable for use above 18 metres in accordance with the English / Welsh, Scottish and Irish Building Regulations. Since it also achieves a Class O / Low Risk fire rating and exhibits less than 5% smoke obscuration when tested to BS 5111, its fire performance is certainly not to be doubted.

Kingspan Kooltherm® K15 Rainscreen Board consists of premium performance rigid phenolic insulation which is CFC/HCFC-free with zero Ozone Depletion Potential (zero ODP). With a thermal conductivity as low as 0.021 W/m·K, **Kingspan Kooltherm® K15 Rainscreen Board** not only achieves required U-values with minimal thickness but also represents the prime insulation solution for external cladding systems in today's energy-conscious world.



Kingspan Insulation Ltd

Pembridge, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9LA, UK
Tel: 0870 850 8555 Fax: 0870 850 8666
email: info.uk@insulation.kingspan.com
Castleblayney, County Monaghan, Ireland
Tel: 042 97 95000 Fax: 042 97 46129
email: info.ie@insulation.kingspan.com

¹ Fire performance of external cladding systems. Test methods for non-load bearing external cladding systems applied to the face of a building.

² Fire Safety: 2000 Edition (UK).

³ Fire Safety (Northern Ireland).

⁴ Domestic / Non Domestic Handbook: Section 2 – Fire (Scotland).

⁵ Fire performance of external thermal insulation for walls of multi-storey buildings.