



## YOUR GUIDE TO CHECKING GLASS UNITS FOR QUALITY OF VISION

Viewing Insulated Glass Units (double/triple glazing) for scratches/defects on the outer faces of the panes must be carried out before any rendering, plastering or other works take place adjacent to the glazing of the window, and as early as reasonably practicable following installation.

**A simple guide to checking the quality of vision of glass is shown below. This is based on British product standards, and the Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF) observation guidelines which is also available from [www.ggf.org.uk](http://www.ggf.org.uk).**



### HOW TO DO A PROFESSIONAL CHECK

- 1) Stand in the room no less than 2 metres away from the IGU and look directly through it.
- 2) For toughened, laminated or coated glasses, stand no less than 3 metres away.
- 3) Do so in natural daylight, but not directly towards the sun and with no visible moisture on the surface of the glass.
- 4) Where it is not possible to stand at the right distance, then stand as far away as you can from the IGU.
- 5) Glass must be viewed at 90° to the window.
- 6) The area to be viewed is the main viewing area, except for the edge zone (5% of W x H or 50mm whichever is greater).

### NOTE:

- It is not permissible to find defects at a closer range and then mark them to be visible from given distance.
- In a visual observation you look through the glass, not at it. Any defects should be identified within 20 seconds.
- If the defect is not visible at the specified distance, or it takes longer than the time limit to identify, it is regarded as neither obtrusive nor visually disturbing.

### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN VIEWED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Flat transparent glass, including laminated or toughened (tempered) or coated glass it is acceptable if the following are neither obtrusive nor bunched:

- Bubbles or blisters
- Fine scratches not more than 25mm long
- Minute particles.

The obtrusiveness of blemishes is judged by looking through the glass, not at it, under natural light. It must be understood that the glass used in double glazing is a processed glass, and so consequently blemishes are to be expected.

Insulating glass units with optical defects such as smears, fingerprints or other dirt on the cavity faces of the glass, or extraneous material in the cavity are unacceptable, except in some cases where small particles of desiccant can be seen.

### SPECIAL GLASSES

**Toughened Glass** may show visual distortions which are accentuated by reflections in double glazing. Such surface colourations and patterns do not indicate a change in physical performance.

**Laminated Glass** may have a few more blemishes due to it being made of several layers.

This guide does not apply to **Patterned Glass** as its manufacturing process is different.

**For further assistance, call 01702 613733**

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