

Contractor UPDATE

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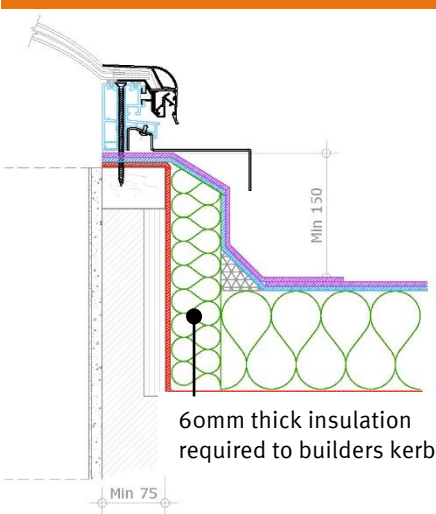
Insulating Rooflight Builder's kerbs

Clarification of the Bauder approach to preventing a thermal bridge through builder's kerbs supporting rooflights.

What do the regulations say?

The amount of insulation required for builder's kerbs supporting rooflights has never been clear in Building Regulations, but it has been clear for some years that thermal bridging should be avoided as much as possible, and that the maximum U value on any part of a flat roof should be $0.35\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$.

The most recent version of BR443 (Conventions for U-value calculations) states the method of calculation to be used for builder's kerbs in clause 11.5.3 but does not prescribe the U value to be achieved, as this is to be set by Building Regulations. Early signs are that clarification of the U value to be achieved on rooflight builder's kerbs will finally be addressed when the Building Regulations in all UK nations are next revised.



The interim solution for Bauder projects

Bauder has decided that within our insulated specifications we will include for 60mm insulation to be applied to the external face of builder's kerbs, whenever they exist on a project. This will achieve a U value of $0.35\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$ when using BauderPIR insulation, but pragmatically for now, this thickness will be the same for other insulation types.

Our standard drawings and specification paragraphs will call for this with immediate effect, and we would ask Contractors to be aware of this when pricing and installing Bauder systems. It is important to remember that if this thickness of insulation is to be increased for any reason, then Bauder must be notified as this will have an effect on the size and possibly the design of the rooflight supplied.

Please note

This applies solely to builder's kerbs supporting rooflights, as shown in the diagram. Rooflights supplied complete with integral upstands do not need additional insulation.

Any questions regarding this should be directed to Paul Felgate using the details below.

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