

URSA's rainscreen cladding secures BBA certification

A new insulation slab from **URSA UK** has been certified by the British Board of Agrément (BBA) for use behind rainscreen cladding systems, in both newbuild and refurbishment projects. **Ian Claydon**, technical manager at the company, explains more about the new slabs in greater detail

URSA Walltec 32B and URSA Façade N35 slabs mark a UK first as the only BBA-certified glass wool insulation for this application, delivering multiple benefits to the installer and end-user.

Glass wool delivers far reaching benefits to the end-user. It offers lower thermal conductivity, reaching to 0.032 W/mK (as well as standard 0.035 W/mK) with the option to use thinner slabs. It is also independently certified as non-combustible (Euroclass A1 to BS EN 13501-1), so can be used in high rise applications without the need for any additional full-scale testing. In addition, it is lighter and therefore easier to handle, especially at height.

The product can be compressed in packaging, making transport and handling simpler and more cost effective. Typically, we are able to load twice as much material per delivery wagon compared to stone wool, presenting considerable savings.

The product is also available in a larger slab size of 1,350mm x 600mm, compared to the industry standard 1,200mm x 600mm.

These benefits, now coupled with BBA certification, make this an attractive specification for almost any project.

As we are seeing further changes to Approved Document B, and specifiers and building owners are insisting on the use of non-combustible insulation products for every project from single level to multi storey, endorsement and approval from the BBA reinforces the emphasis we have placed on offering one of the safest products available on the market today.

Support on hand

URSA's in-house technical team can support customers during the initial detailed design works and throughout each project.

The U-value calculation is more complex because of the supporting brackets, and must be assessed using three-dimensional thermal modelling software.

URSA has the in-house capabilities to provide the most complex and challenging U-value calculations. Knowing the wall construction in detail, along with the data on the bracket system, including the material used,



The URSA Façade N35 slab (top right) is now BBA-certified for use behind rainscreen cladding systems.

Profile picture: Ian Claydon, technical manager at URSA

their size and shape, the number of brackets and details on a thermal brake pad, enables us to calculate the 'Point Thermal Transmittance' (or Chi-value).

The Chi-value and the number of brackets per square metre is then used to correct the basic U-value to account for the effect of the brackets.

Available up to 200mm thick, URSA Walltec 32B and URSA Façade N35 can be installed in multiple layers if a very low U-value is required.

Lightweight, non-loading bearing system

Rainscreen cladding is a lightweight, non-load bearing system attached to the outside of a building using a bracket and rail system. The system works by providing protection from wind and rain, improving the thermal performance, and limiting solar gains.

With a ventilated void behind the cladding, keeping the system dry, rainscreen systems that use a traditional

brick (or block) external leaf and nominal 50mm clear cavity are also available.

The class leading performance URSA Walltec 32B, thermal conductivity 0.032 W/mK, provides a continuous envelope of insulation around the building. Alternatively, URSA Façade N35, thermal conductivity 0.035 W/mK, may be used. The ventilated cavity and external insulation protects the building from overheating in the summer, whilst during the heating season, advantage can be taken of the high thermal mass of concrete framed buildings.

URSA Walltec 32B and URSA Façade N35 are non-combustible and Euroclass A1, so they are essential for high rise buildings, and are highly recommended for other buildings too. In addition, they do not add any fire load to the building or prejudice the overall fire performance of the wall. **rci**

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