THWC
FIRE RATED WINDOWS & DOORS

Technical Guide 06
Specification Checklist For Fire-Rated Glazing

The Information Every Architect, Contractor & Client Should Establish Before Requesting Quotations.

Overview

The quality of a fire-rated glazing project is often determined long before manufacture begins.

Incomplete drawings, assumed fire ratings or missing technical information can result in revised quotations, programme delays and unnecessary redesign. By contrast, a well-prepared enquiry allows manufacturers and specialist suppliers to recommend suitable tested systems from the outset.

Spending a little more time gathering the right information at the beginning of a project almost always leads to a smoother procurement process.

Start with the Fire Strategy

Before considering products or manufacturers, establish exactly what the building requires. Confirm:

- Is fire-rated glazing required?
- What fire classification has been specified?
- Is the requirement for E, EW or EI performance?
- What fire resistance period is required?
- Are there any project-specific fire engineering requirements?

These questions should always be answered before requesting quotations.

Understand the Application

Fire-rated glazing is used in a wide range of applications, each with different technical requirements.

Confirm whether the installation is:

- Internal or external.
- New build or refurbishment.
- Fixed screen, window or doorset.
- Single opening or part of a larger glazed assembly.

This information immediately helps narrow the range of suitable systems.

Confirm the Supporting Construction

The surrounding structure forms part of many tested fire-rated glazing systems.

Suppliers will usually need to know whether the installation is fixed into:

- Masonry.
- Concrete.
- Steelwork.
- Fire-rated partition systems.
- Other specialist constructions.

Without this information it may not be possible to confirm that a proposed system is supported by the available fire test evidence.

Accurate Dimensions

Provide as much dimensional information as possible.

Useful information include:

- Structural opening width.
- Structural opening height.
- Head, jamb and cill conditions.
- Finished floor levels.
- Any known site tolerances.

For refurbishment projects, photographs are often just as valuable as dimensions and can help identify potential issues before a site visit.

Consider Other Performance Requirements

Fire resistance is rarely the only design requirement.

The specification may also need to consider:

- Thermal performance.
- Acoustic performance.
- Security.
- Safety glazing.

- Weather performance.
- Accessibility.
- Appearance and finish.

Identifying these requirements early reduces the likelihood of specification changes later.

Doors and Opening Elements

Where the project includes doors or opening vents, additional information may also be required, including

- Door configuration.
- Access control.
- Panic hardware.
- Door closers.
- Hold-open devices.
- Threshold details.
- Automatic operators.

These items can influence both compliance and system selection.

Site Constraints

Practical site considerations are often overlooked during the enquiry stage.

Where known, advise suppliers of:

- Restricted access.
- Occupied buildings.
- Manual handling limitations.
- Crane or lifting requirements.
- Installation programme.
- Delivery restrictions.

Early discussions help identify potential challenges before products reach site.

Supporting Documentation

Depending on the project, technical documentation may be required before products are approved.

This may include:

- Fire classifications.
- Classification reports.
- Fire test reports.
- Technical assessments.
- Installation guidance.
- Product data sheets..

The level of evidence required will vary from project to project, but should provide confidence that the proposed system is appropriate for the intended application.

In Practice

A request for “an EI60 glazed screen” provides very little information.

By comparison, providing dimensions, supporting construction, intended location and any additional performance requirements allows suppliers to offer accurate advice and produce reliable quotations with fewer follow-up questions.

Better information at enquiry stage usually leads to a better outcome on site.

Specification Checklist

Before requesting a quotation, confirm:

- ✔ Required fire classification.
- ✔ Fire resistance period.
- ✔ Internal or external application.
- ✔ Opening dimensions.
- ✔ Supporting construction.
- ✔ Building type.
- ✔ New build or refurbishment.
- ✔ Acoustic, thermal or security requirements.
- ✔ Door hardware or access control (where applicable).
- ✔ Drawings, sketches or photographs.

Key Points

- Good specifications begin with the fire strategy rather than the product.
- Accurate information leads to more reliable quotations.
- Supporting construction is just as important as the glazing system itself.
- Consider all performance requirements—not just fire resistance.
- Early technical engagement reduces delays, redesign and unnecessary cost.

Relevant Standards

- **Approved Document B** – Fire Safety.
- **BS EN 13501-2** – Fire classification of construction products and building elements.
- **BS 8214:2026** – Installation of fire-resisting doorsets and associated glazing.
- Manufacturer technical documentation and fire test evidence.