July 2022

Aquarian Cladding Design & Installation Policy

General Product Information

*The **Gebrik Insulating Brick Cladding System**, as manufactured by Isosystems AG, has been in use since 1980, during which time it has been widely used throughout Europe. It has been independently tested in Belgium, France, Germany and United Kingdom and certified by UBAtc, CSTC and BBA. The system is provided with a 10-year insurance-backed Product Warranty and, as a result of independent assessment, its design life is deemed to be a minimum of 60 years.*

*The **MechSlip Brick Cladding System** is a non-combustible, mechanically-fixed brick slip cladding system, developed by Ash & Lacy and Ibstock Kevington, which has been used in the UK since 2018. The unique system includes brick slips cut from standard Ibstock bricks (or other suppliers bricks subject to approval), with grooves cut into the slips to enable them to be secured to an aluminium cladding support system on site. It has been independently tested in the UK, is supplied with a BBA certificate, and can also be supplied with a 25-year product warranty.*

*The **NaturAL-X Brick Cladding System** is a non-combustible, mechanically-fixed brick slip cladding system, developed by Ash & Lacy, which has been used in the UK since 2020. The unique system includes extruded clay brick slips in a limited range of colours and textures, multi-patterns, and surface textures and an aluminium cladding support system. It has been independently tested in the UK, is supplied with a BBA certificate, and can also be supplied with a 25-year product warranty.*

Design

For the product warranty and certification to be valid, it is the designer's responsibility to consult with Aquarian Cladding Systems (ACS) to obtain, understand and use the generic detailing techniques available for the safe application of any of its brick cladding systems. ACS will 'signpost' the designer to all relevant test data, certification and generic drawings but will not accept responsibility for the project-specific design.

It is the designer's responsibility to ensure the substrate to which the brick cladding system is fixed is designed to the appropriate Code of Practice and that pull-out tests are carried out on the substrate by a suitably qualified engineer.

Where pull-out data is available, it should be provided to ACS to obtain comment from its supplier to ensure its suitability. If not, a sample may be required, which will be tested by the supplier and a report submitted for consideration by the designer.

It is recommended that a pre-installation survey of the building is carried out to determine whether any repairs are required to the substrate and if so, the repairs should be carried out before application of the system. The survey should include tests conducted on the structural frame of the building by the approved installers, or a suitably qualified engineer, to determine the pull-out resistance of the proposed mechanical fixings against the substrate to which the brick cladding system will be applied. This will enable a final assessment and recommendation on the type and number of fixings and/or brackets required to withstand the building's expected wind loading, based on calculations using the relevant wind speed data for the site, and the pull-out resistances of the chosen system.

Façade engineering advice, including calculations, may be available through ACS upon request and at an additional cost.

ACS can provide U-Value calcualtions for most construction methods upon request, using the JPA Designer U-Value Calculator, which has been approved by the BRE. The calculator also performs interstitial condensation risk analysis to ISO 13788 and BS 5250:2011. The data within the calculator is provided to JPA by the material suppliers, so ACS will not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the pre-loaded data as it does not supply, design or produce the other materials which will contribute to the calculation.

Installation

For the manufacturers' product warranty and certification to be valid, installation of the brick cladding systems can only be carried out by installers who are part of the Aquarian Installer Network (AIN) and provide photo-id cards as evidence.

For further information, please refer to the ACS AIN policy

Maintenance and Repair

Regular checks should be made on the installed system and any damaged areas must be repaired using the appropriate components and procedures in accordance with ACS guidance.

For further information, please refer to the ACS Operations and Maintenance manual