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A SPECIFIER'S GUIDE TO COMMERCIAL GLAZED FACADE SYSTEMS



1. What is the defining characteristic of a shopfront glazing system?

It is a non-loadbearing glazed façade system that spans from the floor slab to the structure above, typically used at ground level.

2. How does a window wall differ from a curtain wall?

A window wall sits between floor slabs, while a curtain wall is hung off the slab edge as a continuous external system.

3. What are three core values used to evaluate the thermal performance of glazing?

- 1. U-Value.
- 2. Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)
- 3. Visible Light Transmittance (VLT)

4. What is the key benefit of thermally broken frames in commercial glazed facade systems?

They reduce heat transfer through the frame, helping achieve NCC Section J energy efficiency requirements.

5. What is the difference between stick and unitised curtain wall systems?

Stick systems are assembled piece-by-piece onsite, while unitised systems arrive as pre-fabricated, pre-glazed panels that are installed as complete units.

6. What is the purpose of AS 4284 in façade design?

AS 4284 provides full-scale performance testing specifically applicable to curtain wall and facade systems.