

## Cladding Test Specimens

### Introduction

- 1 This Technical Note provides guidance on the design and construction of the test specimen for large-scale performance testing of rainscreen and similar cladding systems in accordance with Test Sequence A or B of the CWCT *Standard for Systemised Building Envelopes*.
- 2 This guidance supplements that given in Sections 0.3.3 and 0.3.4 of the CWCT *Standard for Systemised Building Envelopes* and Section 4 of the CWCT *Standard Test Methods for Building Envelopes*. Further guidance is also given in TN77 *Assessment and certification of rainscreen systems*.
- 3 This Technical Note is intended for the testing of rainscreen and other panellised cladding systems installed on an SFS or similar flexible back wall (i.e. not a concrete or masonry back wall which is unlikely to flex/bow in service). Whilst many of the requirements would also apply to cladding systems on rigid back walls, some would not.
- 4 In the following sections the term '*Testing Client*' is used to refer to the company instructing the Test House to undertake the test. It is expected that the Testing Client would take overall responsibility for ensuring that the test specimen is designed to meet the performance requirements, even if manufacture and installation of some parts of the test specimen will be sub-contracted to other parties.
- 5 The Testing Client will normally be a specialist contractor in the case of a **Project-specific Test** or a system/material manufacturer/supplier in the case of a **System Test**:
  - For a **Project-specific Test** the specimen should be representative of the construction to be used on the project, and is likely to be agreed with the design team. The results of a **Project-specific Test** may be applicable to other projects if the same construction details are to be used and the same performance requirements apply;
  - For a **System Test** the specimen should be designed to subject the cladding to the most onerous conditions that it is designed for.

In this Technical Note some clauses refer specifically to either a **Project-specific Test** or to a **System Test**, and this is indicated where applicable. All other clauses should be considered to apply to both cases – this is generally apparent from the context.

- 6 The Testing Client should speak with their own client (in the case of a **Project-specific Test**), the Test House, building control authority (if for a live project) and any warranty provider (e.g. NHBC, LABC, Premier Guarantee) for any technical requirements or advice that they may offer prior to detailing the test specimen. CWCT are also able to provide advice on the detailing of specimens for test purposes.
- 7 A **System Test** will be carried out by a system supplier for promotional and certification purposes, in which case elements of the test specimen will necessarily be 'generic'. For a **Project-specific Test** the various elements of the test specimen should reflect those to be used on the actual project, where this is possible (it is accepted that some elements of detail