

Overhead glazing

Supersedes Technical Note 68

Introduction

- 1 Glass used in sloping glazing overhead may present a risk to people if it breaks and falls and restrictions on the types of glass that are suitable for such use have been in place for many years. More recently concern has grown about the safety of vertical overhead glazing particularly when used in large panes or with novel fixing systems.
- 2 This Technical Note describes the risks associated with the use of different types of glazing in roofs and facades. It discusses methods of risk analysis and of assessing post failure behaviour and gives guidance on the selection of glazing. It supersedes the advice on glass selection in the CWCT Standard for slope glazing systems and Technical Update 10 and extends the advice to include vertical glazing. The topic of overhead glazing is also discussed in 'Guidance on glazing at height', CIRIA (2005).
- 3 This Technical Note was originally published as TN68 in 2009. The current revision has been issued to take account of the revised recommendations for slope glazing in BS 6262-4:2018, the publication of EN 16612 and the recommendations in BS 9999 relating to glazing in atria.

Definitions

- 4 In this Technical Note the following definitions apply.

Overhead glazing is glazing that has the potential to fall on breakage, causing safety and other related concerns, including:

- All types of façade (vertical and sloping);
- Glass roofs and canopies;
- Glass in barriers protecting against a fall from height.

This is the definition used for 'glazing at height' in the CIRIA document.

Vertical glazing is glazing which is nominally vertical.

Sloping glazing is any glazing that is not nominally vertical.

- 5 These definitions of vertical and sloping glazing differ from those used in BS 6262 and BS 5516 where vertical glazing is considered to include glazing up to 15° from true vertical. The distinction between vertical and sloping glazing in this Technical Note relates to the risk of glass falling from its frame after fracture. It is considered that gravity is likely to cause broken glass to fall at slopes within 15° of vertical.

Scope

- 6 This Technical Note provides guidance relating to: