



## VISUAL QUALITY STANDARD FOR GLASS

The Glass and Glazing Federation suggest the following checks to examine the visual quality of glass to an objective standard.

The obtrusiveness of blemishes is judged by looking through the glass, not at it, under natural light. It must be understood that the glass used in double glazing is a processed glass, and so as a consequence, blemishes are to be expected.

### HOW TO CHECK

- Stand in the room no less than 2 metres away from the Insulating Glass Unit (IGU) and look directly through it.
- For toughened, laminated or coated glasses, stand no less than 3 metres away.
- Do so in natural daylight, but not directly towards the sun and with no visible moisture on the surface of the glass.
- Where it is not possible to stand at the right distance then stand as far away as you can from the IGU.
- Exclude 50mm wide band around the edge of the glass from the check.
- Glass must be viewed at 90° to the window.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Flat transparent glass, including laminated, toughened (tempered) or coated glass (low 'E') is acceptable if the following are neither obtrusive nor bunched:

- Bubbles or blisters.
- Fine scratches not more than 25mm long.
- Minute particles.

Insulating glass units with optical defects such as smears, fingerprints or other dirt on the cavity faces of the glass, or extraneous material in the cavity are unacceptable, except in some cases where small particles of desiccant can be seen.

Toughened glass may show visual distortions which are accentuated by reflections in sealed units. This is a natural phenomenon and not a fault. Laminated glass may have a few more blemishes due to it being made of several layers.

Some low emissivity coatings may produce transient visual effects. In some lighting conditions the coating may look like a transparent film or produce a haze, ie a cloudy look to the surface. When light coloured objects such as net curtains are placed close to the glazing they may look slightly darker.