

Glass Technical Document

Applied Insulation

The practice of the application of insulation directly to the inner most surface of a lite of spandrel glass should be avoided at all possible cost. Insulation must never be attached to or be in contact with a lite of spandrel area glass.

When insulation is applied directly to the back of a lite of glass, condensation forms at the glass/insulation interface. The condensation and/or moisture is trapped against the glass and insulation as it has no way to dissipate. The net result is that the insulation becomes moisture laden over time and becomes so heavy with water that it sags or peels off the glass as well as loses its functionality.

To this end, we advocate that the insulation be spaced back from the inner most surface of the glass a minimum of ½" [12mm] and preferable 1"[25mm] and be secured so that it cannot come in contact with the inner most surface of the glass, even if it should sag over a period of time. The addition of the air space will improve the thermal properties of the spandrel glass cavity and help to assure an even distribution of heat behind the glass. Further, any and all condensation that may develop within this cavity would quickly evaporate accordingly.

In summary, the application of insulation to the inner most surface of spandrel area glass must be avoided. Insulation must never be attached to or be in contact with spandrel area glass.

**Sincerely,
TriStar Glass Products**

**Gregory A. Oehlers
Director Architectural Sales**

