

Agrément Certification of External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems Policy

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1 Purpose

This policy establishes the general decision framework to be applied by NSAI Agrément when accepting, assessing, issuing, revising and maintaining Agrément Certificates for external thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS). It is intended to support consistent technical decisions, and the use of evidence appropriate to Irish conditions.

2 Scope

This policy applies to ETICS systems submitted for NSAI Agrément certification, including systems incorporating discontinuous natural cladding elements or prefabricated finishing strips. It applies to new applications and to existing certificates undergoing revision or review.

NSAI may apply the same policy reasoning and technical principles to a different product or system where the underlying technical issues, risks, or performance characteristics are sufficiently similar, even though the product is not strictly an ETICS system.

3 Policy Principles

NSAI Agrément certification assesses products and systems for use in Ireland and their ability to contribute to compliance with the relevant requirements of the Irish Building Regulations. Whilst European Technical Assessments (ETAs) provide important technical evidence, Agrément certification extends beyond the scope of an ETA by considering Irish regulatory requirements, climatic conditions, construction practices, installation methodologies and the characteristics of the Irish building stock.

Key considerations include:

- Irish regulatory requirements and construction practice. Agrément certification supports compliance with the Irish Building Regulations and relevant Irish standards and guidance. Unlike harmonised standards and ETAs, which primarily assess products as manufactured, Agrément certification also considers the design, specification, installation, workmanship and in-service performance of products and systems within the Irish built environment.
- Retrofit applications. The majority of ETICS installations in Ireland are applied to existing buildings as part of retrofit programmes. As a result, systems are frequently installed onto aged and variable substrates which may differ significantly from those used in laboratory testing and European assessments.
- Irish climate. Ireland experiences high levels of wind-driven rain, prolonged moisture exposure and extensive coastal exposure. These conditions can place

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greater demands on the durability, moisture management and long-term performance of external wall systems.

- Existing building defects. Issues such as defective concrete blocks and other forms of substrate deterioration highlight the need to consider the condition and long-term behaviour of existing structures when assessing external wall systems. Accordingly, NSAI may establish assessment criteria, limitations, conditions of use and surveillance requirements that extend beyond the minimum scope of an ETA where necessary to demonstrate suitability for use in Ireland. Further information on the assessment and classification of buildings affected by defective concrete blocks, including inspection, testing, risk classification and remedial considerations, is provided in Irish Standard I.S. 465.
- Irish installation experience and surveillance. Through the long-term operation of ETICS installer certification schemes in Ireland, NSAI has developed extensive experience of installation practices, workmanship, site conditions and in-service performance. This experience has been considered, together with technical and regulatory requirements, when establishing certification policies, assessment criteria, conditions of use and surveillance requirements for ETICS systems in Ireland.

Accordingly, the policy decisions contained within this document communicate NSAI's certification requirements for ETICS systems considered necessary to demonstrate suitability for use in Ireland.

4 Communication of Policy Updates and Changes

NSAI Agrément recognises that certification requirements may evolve in response to surveillance activities, research findings, technical investigations, changes to standards and regulations, and experience gained from the Irish built environment. Where such activities result in new or revised certification requirements, conditions of use, limitations, assessment criteria or surveillance requirements, NSAI Agrément will notify affected certificate holders of the changes, the rationale for the change, and any applicable implementation arrangements.

5 Transitional Arrangements

NSAI recognises that certification requirements evolve over time in response to experience gained through assessment and surveillance activities, published research, technical developments, changes to standards and regulations, and lessons learned

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from the built environment. Accordingly, existing Agrément Certificates may not fully align with all policy decisions contained within this document.

- Unless otherwise specified within an individual section of this policy, existing certificate holders will be afforded a transition period of up to three years from the date of formal notification by NSAI to demonstrate compliance with new or revised policy requirements.
- Where NSAI Agrément determines that a specific policy requirement requires earlier implementation, affected certificate holders will be contacted directly and provided with the required actions and implementation timeframe. The implementation period will be determined by NSAI Agrément having regard to the nature, significance and potential impact of the update under consideration.

Important Note: All transition periods quoted in this document are NSAI Agrément requirements and do not reflect European or Irish regulatory requirements.

6 Definitions

Certificate Holder - The legal entity responsible for the certified product or system and to whom the Agrément Certificate is issued.

EAD (European Assessment Document) - A document adopted under the Construction Products Regulation providing the assessment methods and criteria for the preparation of a European Technical Assessment.

ETA (European Technical Assessment) - A documented assessment of the performance of a construction product in relation to its essential characteristics, prepared in accordance with the relevant EAD.

ETICS (External Thermal Insulation Composite System) – An external wall insulation system consisting of insulation, adhesives and/or mechanical fixings, reinforcement layers, basecoats, finishing coats and associated components.

Technical Assessment Specification (TAS) - The project-specific document issued by NSAI Agrément defining the technical acceptance criteria, assessment requirements and evidence necessary to support an Agrément certification decision.

Surveillance - Activities undertaken by NSAI Agrément to verify that a certified product or system continues to comply with the requirements of certification.

Policy Decision - A general certification requirement, limitation, condition of use or surveillance requirement established by NSAI Agrément and communicated through this policy.

Natural discontinuous cladding element - Individual cladding components, such as tiles, natural brick slips, stone slips or similar units, which are installed with joints

or separations between adjacent elements and are not intended to form a continuous rendered finish.

Prefabricated discontinuous cladding element - Finishing layer with prefabricated strips made of material based on polymeric binder which may be bound with a mineral content.

7 Applications and Certificate Ownership

Applications for Agrément certification shall be submitted by, and Agrément Certificates shall be issued to, the system manufacturer responsible for placing the ETICS system on the market.

7.1 Certificate Holder Responsibilities

The certificate holder is responsible for maintaining conformity with the certified ETICS system and ensuring that the system continues to comply with the requirements of NSAI Agrément certification.

7.2 Manufacturing Responsibilities

The certificate holder shall ensure that all components of the certified ETICS system are manufactured and supplied in accordance with the certified specification and supporting technical evidence. The certificate holder shall maintain appropriate manufacturing controls and notify NSAI Agrément of any changes that may affect certification.

7.3 Design Responsibilities

The certificate holder remains ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with all design requirements contained within the Agrément Certificate. NSAI Agrément recognises that ETICS systems may be distributed and supported in Ireland through authorised distributors. In the absence of a distinct retrofit design profession within the Irish market, distributors usually undertake key design-support functions, including system selection, project-specific detailing, technical guidance, installer support and liaison with the manufacturer. Given the important role authorised distributors play in supporting ETICS design and detailing within the Irish market, NSAI Agrément requires authorised distributors involved in these activities to demonstrate competence in the ETICS design requirements of the Agrément Certificate and associated design documentation. Documented arrangements should be in place between the certificate holder and the authorised distributor defining their respective roles, responsibilities and authorities.

7.4 Installation Responsibilities

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The certificate holder remains responsible for the installation arrangements associated with the certified ETICS system, including the provision of appropriate installation documentation, training, technical support, supervision and quality assurance processes intended to support installation in accordance with the Agrément Certificate, applicable NSAI Installer Scheme requirements and any project-specific design requirements. NSAI Agrément recognises that authorised distributors within the Irish market frequently undertake key installation-support functions on behalf of the certificate holder, including installer recruitment, training, technical support, site supervision, quality monitoring, complaint management and liaison with installers. Given the important role authorised distributors play in supporting the correct installation of ETICS systems in Ireland, NSAI Agrément requires authorised distributors involved in these activities to demonstrate competence in the installation requirements of the Agrément Certificate, associated installation documentation and applicable NSAI Installer Scheme requirements. The certificate holder shall maintain appropriate arrangements for installer training, technical support, supervision, competency management and quality assurance. Documented arrangements should be in place between the certificate holder and the authorised distributor defining their respective roles, responsibilities and authorities.

8 Assessment Scope and Certificate Scope

To promote clarity, consistency and ease of use, NSAI Agrément assesses and certifies ETICS systems separately based on the insulation substrate utilised (e.g. EPS, mineral wool, phenolic foam or other insulation types). Separate technical assessments and Agrément Certificates help ensure that technical evidence, design requirements, installation requirements and certificate limitations remain clearly aligned to the system being certified, reducing complexity and avoiding overlap between differing system configurations. While the use of separate assessments improves assessment efficiency and reduces unnecessary assessment overlap, each Agrément Certificate is subject to its own maintenance activities and therefore attracts separate annual certification fees.

9 General Technical Acceptance Criteria Applicable to ETICS

9.1 System Configuration

ETICS systems certified by NSAI Agrément shall utilise mechanical fixings and supplementary adhesive. Purely mechanically fixed systems will not be accepted due to the potential for air gaps within the system which may adversely affect thermal performance, and because ETICS systems rely on supplementary adhesive to transfer self-weight to the substrate. Purely adhesively fixed systems will not be accepted due to the variable nature and condition of substrates commonly encountered in Irish refurbishment and retrofit applications.

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Where combustible insulation materials form part of an ETICS system, the assessment shall consider compatibility with mineral wool fire barriers to support compliance with Part B of the Irish Building Regulations.

Due to concerns arising from the performance of ETICS installations in Ireland, the use of polyurethane (PU) foam adhesive as a substitute for the supplementary cementitious adhesive component of an ETICS system is not accepted by NSAI Agrément.

Dual-density mineral wool insulation boards are acceptable for use within an Agrément-certified ETICS system, provided they are covered by a valid European Technical Assessment (ETA) and satisfy the requirements of this policy.

Mineral wool products of alternative density, including dual-density mineral wool, may be used as fire breaks in place of lamella mineral wool where representative testing, such as BS 8414, demonstrates equivalent fire performance for the proposed ETICS configuration, adequate performance of renders applied across the interfaces of insulations with different physical properties and buildability of achieving adequate fit etc. Evidence based solely on product classification or component testing will not be considered sufficient for this purpose.

9.2 European Technical Assessments (ETAs) and Supporting Technical Evidence

A current European Technical Assessment (ETA) shall be a mandatory requirement for all ETICS systems seeking NSAI Agrément certification. The ETA shall correspond to the ETICS system being certified. Applicants shall provide a complete copy of the ETA, the associated Evaluation Report and all supporting technical evidence (including test reports e.g. render strip tensile test report, fire test reports) required to demonstrate compliance with the Technical Assessment Specification (TAS). Please refer to Test Result acceptance policy (PO-SBE-02) for further information on acceptance. NSAI requires all tests required by the applicable EAD to be carried out in accordance with the EAD. Technical justification will be required from the Technical Assessment Body (TAB) for any missing or incomplete tests. Where supporting evidence is incomplete, unavailable or not representative of the ETICS system under assessment, NSAI Agrément may require additional testing, technical justification, or assessment from the issuing body before assessment can progress.

Transition and Upgrade Arrangements:

Manufacturers have a maximum of 3 years to upgrade their ETA to the latest version of the EAD published in the OJEU. After 3 years, only ETAs based on the latest EAD will be accepted for any Agrément decision. Timeframes for upgrading an ETA may

also be agreed between manufacturers and their assessors at manufacturing surveillance stage.

9.3 Additional System Evidence and Testing

The majority of ETICS systems are installed on existing buildings in Ireland which may exhibit significant variation in substrate condition, exposure and long-term performance characteristics. In addition, Ireland's climatic conditions, including high levels of wind-driven rain, prolonged moisture exposure and extensive coastal exposure, may place demands on ETICS systems beyond those considered within the scope of standard test methods and assessment conditions under the EAD. Accordingly, additional technical evidence may be required where necessary to demonstrate fitness for purpose in the Irish context. Additional testing will include the following parameters which will be detailed in the Technical Assessment Specification for the assessment:

- Assessment of substrate suitability and fixing performance for both new-build and retrofit applications, including job-site tests in accordance with EOTA TR051 to evaluate fixing performance and pull-out resistance.
- ETICS systems are assessed against the wind actions applicable in Ireland, taking account of Irish experience of wind loading and exposure, together with the Nationally Determined Parameters specified in the Irish National Annexes to the applicable Eurocode design standards. Additional assessment, justification or project-specific calculations are required to demonstrate suitability for the intended application.
- In recognition of Ireland's exposure to high levels of rainfall and severe wind-driven rain, NSAI has developed and applies a wind-driven rain assessment methodology based on I.S. EN 12865 and Irish meteorological data from Met Éireann to assess performance under Irish exposure conditions.
- Fire performance testing, including additional testing of specific components/configurations, or to BS 8414, may be required to demonstrate the suitability of the system depending on its intended application.

9.4 System Design Requirements

NSAI Agrément requires all ETICS installations to be supported by project-specific design and wind load calculations. Designs shall take account of building geometry, substrate condition, site exposure and system configuration, and shall be completed by suitably competent persons in accordance with the Agrément Certificate and the design responsibilities outlined in Section 7.3. The design shall incorporate minimum material factors of safety of 10 for adhesive connections and 3 for mechanical fixings,

together with appropriate load factors for permanent and variable actions such as 1.35 for dead loads and 1.5 for wind loads.

9.5 Impact Resistance Requirements

ETICS systems certified by NSAI Agrément shall achieve minimum impact resistance classifications of Category I or II in accordance with the applicable EAD. The areas of usage will be limited appropriately in the certificate. Systems classified as Category III will not normally be accepted for certification. Where alternative reinforcement mesh configurations are proposed, NSAI Agrément may accept technical justification in accordance with the extended application provisions of the applicable EAD, provided the applicant demonstrates that the proposed configuration is at least equivalent to the assessed configuration with regard to impact resistance, mechanical performance and reaction-to-fire characteristics. NSAI Agrément reserves the right to require additional testing or evidence where such equivalence cannot be demonstrated.

9.6 ETICS with natural discontinuous claddings to EAD 040287-00-0404

9.6.1 European Technical Assessment

ETICS incorporating natural discontinuous cladding elements shall be covered by a current European Technical Assessment (ETA) issued in accordance with EAD 040287-00-0404.

The ETA shall correspond to the specific system, components and intended use proposed for certification. All testing and assessment required by the EAD shall have been completed. Where evidence is incomplete or unavailable, NSAI may require additional assessment, testing, or technical justification from the issuing Technical Assessment Body (TAB).

The ETA must clearly identify the cladding elements utilised in the testing and assessment i.e. manufacturer, specification and brand-name(s). Alternatively, the Technical Assessment Body (TAB) must provide a full specification (to the appropriate EN Standard) for claddings (including groupings etc.). The specification must include all relevant characteristics as outlined in EN 14411, EN 1469, EN 15286 and their associated standards.

9.6.2 Acceptable Materials & Limitations

Only elements falling within the scope of EAD 040287-00-0404 will be considered for certification.

Acceptable materials include:

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- Ceramic tiles complying with EN 14411.
- Natural stone complying with EN 1469.
- Agglomerated stone complying with EN 15286.

Technical Data Sheets or Declarations of Performance must be available for such claddings demonstrating availability for the Irish Market.

Other cladding materials such as clay, concrete etc. are not currently being assessed for Agrément Certification¹.

Natural discontinuous cladding is currently being assessed to a maximum height of 3m above ground level only. The rationale for this is based on maintenance, health and safety, workmanship, SR325 -Recommendations for the design of masonry structures in Ireland to Eurocode 6, the availability of sufficient technical data and testing, published evidence of failures in comparable systems, replacement of cladding at end of life, movement of substrates behind the ETICS, dead load behaviour, long term creep and behaviour in fire.^{2, 3}

1. The European Assessment Document (EAD) applicable to ETICS with discontinuous claddings is currently under revision and is expected to incorporate provisions relating to clay brick slip finishes. NSAI will monitor developments in the relevant EADs and any associated European Commission publications. The policy positions and technical requirements contained within this document may be reviewed and updated, where appropriate, following the publication of revised or new EADs in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
2. The use of brick slip finishes outside the limitations, conditions and scope defined within an NSAI Agrément Certificate is not precluded. However, such applications fall outside the scope of the Agrément assessment and certification and are not covered by the certificate issued by NSAI Agrément.
3. When establishing limitations on the use of discontinuous cladding elements, NSAI will take into account the saturated weight of the cladding system (kg/m²), the size of individual units, and the individual weight and thickness of the cladding elements.

9.6.3 Component & ETICS Substrate Requirements

Individual discontinuous cladding elements:

- Must have a water absorption rate of $\leq 10\%$.
 - Cladding Adhesives (separate to the basecoat)
 - Must comply with EN 12004.
 - Must demonstrate bond strengths $\geq 500\text{N/mm}^2$ as outlined in EN 12004.

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- Must be applied with 100% coverage.
- Particular attention shall be given to areas of increased stress concentration, including window heads, window and door corners, movement joints, and other critical interface details. The proposed adhesive specification, application method and coverage shall be demonstrated as suitable for these locations.

Substrate ETICS Insulation:

- The proposed insulation(s) must have a minimum tensile strength perpendicular to faces of 80kPa, a minimum shear strength of 20kPa and a minimum shear modulus of 1000kPa. The availability of such insulation(s) in the Irish market must be demonstrated.
- Insulation products shall be conditioned in accordance with the requirements of the applicable EAD prior to testing and assessment.

9.6.4 Design Provisions applicable to Natural Discontinuous Cladding

ETICS incorporating natural discontinuous cladding elements shall be designed to accommodate the effects of structural movement, thermal movement and other serviceability actions that may occur throughout the intended service life of the system. In particular:

- Consideration shall be given to differential movement and deflection of supporting structural elements, including lintels and beams spanning openings. Applicants shall demonstrate that such movement will not adversely affect the performance of the ETICS or result in cracking, debonding or detachment of cladding elements. The deformability and performance characteristics of adhesives shall be appropriate for the anticipated movements within the system.
- Adequate provision shall be made for the thermal movement of cladding elements and associated grout joints. Movement joints shall be incorporated where necessary and shall not be limited solely to the movement joints provided within the supporting structure.
- Cladding grout shall be finished with flush joints.

NSAI Agrément certification does not cover the use of natural discontinuous cladding elements on windowsills, parapet copings, cappings or non-vertical building details.

9.6.5 Installation Provisions applicable to Natural Discontinuous Cladding

Installation of ETICS incorporating natural discontinuous cladding elements shall only be undertaken by personnel who have received appropriate training and are authorised by the certificate holder to install the certified system.

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- The certificate holder shall implement appropriate traceability and record-keeping procedures for all discontinuous cladding elements incorporated within the certified system. Records shall be maintained for each project and shall demonstrate that the cladding elements supplied and installed are consistent with those assessed by NSAI and identified within the relevant Agrément Certificate and European Technical Assessment (ETA).
- The certificate holder shall ensure that suitable technical documentation is available for the discontinuous cladding elements used, including, as applicable, Declarations of Performance, Technical Data Sheets, product identification records and installation records.
- The certificate holder remains responsible for the performance, compatibility and conformity of all components incorporated within the certified system, including components sourced from third-party manufacturers. Warranties provided for the certified ETICS system shall extend to the discontinuous cladding elements and associated components included within the scope of certification.

9.7 ETICS with prefabricated strips to EAD 040083-01-0404

9.7.1 European Technical Assessment

ETICS incorporating prefabricated slips shall be covered by a current European Technical Assessment (ETA) issued in accordance with EAD 040083-01-0404.

The ETA shall correspond to the specific system, components and intended use proposed for certification. All testing and assessment required by the EAD shall have been completed. Where evidence is incomplete or unavailable, NSAI may require additional assessment, testing, or technical justification from the issuing Technical Assessment Body (TAB).

The ETA must clearly identify the cladding elements utilised in the testing and assessment i.e. manufacturer, specification and brand-name(s). Alternatively, the Technical Assessment Body (TAB) must provide a full specification for the prefabricated slip.

9.7.2 Acceptable Materials & Limitations

Prefabricated slips must comply with EAD 040083-01-0404 (EAD) i.e. material to be based on polymeric binder which may be bound with a mineral content.

9.7.3 Component & ETICS Substrate Requirements

9.7.3.1 Height Limitations

Prefabricated cladding is currently being assessed to a maximum height of 10m above ground level only¹. The rationale for this is based on maintenance, health and safety, workmanship, the availability of sufficient technical data and testing, replacement of cladding at end of life, movement of substrates behind the ETICS, dead load behaviour, long term creep and behaviour in fire².

1. The use of brick slip finishes outside the limitations, conditions and scope defined within an NSAI Agrément Certificate is not precluded. However, such applications fall outside the scope of the Agrément assessment and certification and are not covered by the certificate issued by NSAI Agrément.
2. When establishing limitations on the use of discontinuous cladding elements, NSAI will take into account the saturated weight of the cladding system (kg/m²), the size of individual units, and the individual weight and thickness of the cladding elements.

9.7.3.2 Adhesive Requirements

Prefabricated finishing strips shall be installed using a dedicated adhesive that has been assessed and demonstrated as compatible with the certified ETICS system.

9.7.3.3 Bond Performance

Applicants shall provide objective evidence demonstrating adequate bond performance between the prefabricated finishing strips, adhesive and ETICS basecoat. As a minimum, a bond strength of 0.08 MPa shall be achieved at all relevant interfaces.

9.7.3.4 Fire Performance

The reaction-to-fire classification of prefabricated finishing strips shall be representative of all colours, finishes and product variants intended to be covered by the certification.

9.7.4 Design Provisions applicable to Prefabricated Cladding Elements

ETICS incorporating prefabricated discontinuous cladding elements shall be designed to accommodate the effects of structural movement, thermal movement and other serviceability actions that may occur throughout the intended service life of the system. In particular:

- Consideration shall be given to differential movement and deflection of supporting structural elements, including lintels and beams spanning openings. Applicants shall demonstrate that such movement will not adversely affect the performance of the ETICS or result in cracking, debonding or detachment of cladding elements. The deformability and

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performance characteristics of adhesives shall be appropriate for the anticipated movements within the system.

- Adequate provision shall be made for the thermal movement of cladding elements and associated grout joints. Movement joints shall be incorporated where necessary and shall not be limited solely to the movement joints provided within the supporting structure.
- Cladding grout shall be finished with flush joints.

NSAI Agrément certification does not cover the use of prefabricated discontinuous cladding elements on windowsills, parapet copings, cappings or non-vertical building details.

9.7.5 Installation Provisions applicable to Prefabricated Cladding Elements

Installation of ETICS incorporating prefabricated discontinuous cladding elements shall only be undertaken by personnel who have received appropriate training and are authorised by the Certificate Holder to install the certified system.

- The certificate holder shall implement appropriate traceability and record-keeping procedures for all discontinuous cladding elements incorporated within the certified system. Records shall be maintained for each project and shall demonstrate that the cladding elements supplied and installed are consistent with those assessed by NSAI and identified within the relevant Agrément Certificate and European Technical Assessment (ETA).
- The certificate holder shall ensure that suitable technical documentation is available for the discontinuous cladding elements used, including, as applicable, Declarations of Performance, Technical Data Sheets, product identification records and installation records.
- The certificate holder remains responsible for the performance, compatibility and conformity of all components incorporated within the certified system, including components sourced from third-party manufacturers. Warranties provided for the certified ETICS system shall extend to the discontinuous cladding elements and associated components included within the scope of certification.

9.8 Transitional Arrangements for Natural Discontinuous Claddings and Prefabricated Finishing Strips

The standard transitional arrangements set out in Section 5 of this policy shall apply to all requirements relating to natural discontinuous claddings and prefabricated finishing strips, except for the height limitations specified in this section and the

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exclusion of clay brick slip finishes from Agrément certification. These requirements shall apply from 1st of February 2027. Existing and new applications shall therefore comply with the applicable height limitations and clay brick slip restrictions from that date, while compliance with all other new or revised requirements may be demonstrated in accordance with the normal transitional arrangements. NSAI will continue to monitor developments in the relevant European Assessment Documents (EADs) and associated European Commission publications. Where revised or new EADs are published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) that address clay brick slip finishes or related systems, NSAI may review and amend the requirements, limitations and transitional arrangements contained within this policy, as appropriate.

10 Windowsills and Ancillary Components

Pressed aluminium windowsills complying with the requirements of the Technical Assessment Specification (TAS) are considered suitable for incorporation within an ETICS Agrément Certificate. To support adequate durability, dimensional stability and fabrication quality, pressed aluminium windowsills shall be manufactured from aluminium sheet of not less than 1.5mm thickness.

Precast concrete windowsills may be considered acceptable for incorporation within new-build ETICS applications where their suitability is demonstrated as part of the project-specific design assessment. The Project Design Team shall demonstrate that the proposed arrangement does not adversely affect the thermal performance of the external wall construction and does not introduce unacceptable risks relating to thermal bridging, surface or interstitial condensation, moisture accumulation, or other detrimental effects on the performance of the ETICS system.

All other windowsill systems shall require a separate Agrément assessment and certificate. Where such systems are intended for use in conjunction with a certified ETICS system, compatibility between the windowsill system and the ETICS system shall be demonstrated as part of the assessment.

NSAI Agrément recognises that certain system components may be manufactured or supplied by third-party organisations. Notwithstanding such arrangements, the certificate holder remains responsible for ensuring that all components incorporated within the certified system continue to comply with the requirements of the Agrément Certificate and the certified specification. The certificate holder shall maintain appropriate controls over component selection, approval and change management and shall notify NSAI Agrément without undue delay of any actual or proposed changes to components, suppliers, formulations, specifications, manufacturing arrangements or other matters that may affect the certified system or its continued compliance with the Agrément Certificate.

Transitional Arrangements

The standard transitional period provided under this policy does not apply to non-aluminium pressed windowsills. From 1st of February 2027, non-aluminium pressed windowsills will only be included within an NSAI Agrément Certificate where the applicant has demonstrated compliance with the requirements of this section and any associated testing, assessment and evidence requirements specified by NSAI. Any existing or new application seeking inclusion of non-aluminium pressed windowsills after this date shall be subject to these requirements.

11 ETICS Renders and Claddings on Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF).

Rendered finishes and discontinuous cladding finishes, including brick slips, intended for application to Insulating Concrete Formwork (ICF) substrates are assessed separately by the NSAI Modern Methods of Construction Department. This reflects the fact that ICF substrates generally require different substrate preparation and installation methodologies than ETICS insulation substrates. Acceptance of a finish for use on ETICS does not constitute acceptance for use on ICF substrates.

12 Dry Dash and Wet Dash Aggregate Finishes Applied to Acrylic or Silicone-Based Renders

NSAI Agrément has reviewed the available evidence relating to the application of dry dash or wet dash aggregate finishes onto renders used within ETICS systems. Based on the evidence available to date, NSAI has concluded that the long-term durability and reliability of the adhesive bond between aggregate finishes and underlying acrylic-based or silicone-based render layers have not been satisfactorily demonstrated. Accordingly, dry dash or wet dash aggregate finishes applied directly onto acrylic-based or silicone-based renders will not be accepted as part of an Agrément-certified ETICS system. This restriction does not apply to aggregate finishes applied to cementitious renders, which may be considered for assessment subject to the submission of appropriate supporting evidence.

13 Surveillance Activities

NSAI Agrément operates a risk-based surveillance programme to verify the continued conformity of certified ETICS systems with the requirements of certification. Surveillance activities are typically undertaken on a three-year cycle comprising:

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- Year 1: Manufacturing surveillance, typically carried out at the manufacturing facility(ies), including review of production controls, specifications, traceability arrangements and product conformity.
- Year 2: Design surveillance, typically undertaken through the Irish distributor or organisation responsible for design-support activities within the Irish market, including review of design calculations, system specifications, technical documentation and compliance with certificate requirements.
- Year 3: Installation surveillance, typically carried out at the authorised distributor and/or installer level, including assessment of installer supervision, training, competency management, compliance processes, installation practices, workmanship and compliance with the requirements of the Agrément Certificate and applicable NSAI Installer Scheme requirements.

All policy decisions, requirements, conditions of use, limitations, assessment criteria and surveillance provisions contained within this document are applicable to both initial assessment and ongoing surveillance activities. NSAI Agrément may require corrective actions, additional evidence, testing, training or other measures where surveillance activities identify non-conformities or matters requiring further review.

14 Policy Review

This policy is subject to periodic review and may be revised by NSAI to reflect changes in applicable legislation, regulatory guidance, accreditation requirements or the operation of the NSAI Agrément certification scheme.

15 Revision History

Date	Change