



whitesales

Part L

What Does It Mean for Rooflights?



Part L – A Quick Guide.

The 2022 updates to Part L of the Building Regs set tougher minimum energy performance targets for all new build and refurbishment projects. Alongside changes to Part F (ventilation) and the introduction of a new Part O (overheating), they are the first step on the road towards the government's decarbonising Future Homes Standard, due in 2025.

While the expectation is that Future Homes will initially only apply to new homes as part of the government's drive towards net zero carbon, the 2022 Building Reg changes already apply to both new builds and refurbishments and to houses and commercial buildings.

Here's a quick guide to how the updated Part L impacts on rooflights and the all-important U-Value targets that have been set:

The New Documents

The updated Part L is easier to get to grips with than the old one. There are no longer two documents split into four parts. Instead, things have been simplified into Part L (volume 1) for dwellings and Part L (volume 2) for buildings other than dwellings.



Both volumes use the familiar U-Value method to demonstrate compliance with the new thermal efficiency limits for buildings, with thermal transmission (the rate of transfer of heat through a structure) measured in W/m^2K and calculated in accordance with BS EN 10077-1.

Is it a rooflight or a roof window?

Different U-Value limits have been set for windows, doors and rooflights, so the first thing to establish to ensure compliance is whether what you are fabricating or installing is defined within the Regs as a roof window or a rooflight. Essentially, a rooflight is an out-of-plane glazed unit that projects from the surface of the roof on a kerb or upstand, and a roof window is a glazed unit installed in the same plane as the surrounding roof and in the same orientation.

Anything with an incline of less than 30° is treated as a rooflight and should be calculated as being horizontal. There is a sliding scale for the limiting U-Values that apply to in-plane roof windows, with adjustments of between $0.1 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ and $0.4 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ from the limits for windows as the incline shifts from $70^\circ+$ to $30^\circ+$ (these should be calculated as being vertical).

What are the limiting U-values?

The inevitable solar gain that comes from being horizontal means the limiting U-Values for rooflights are higher than they are for windows. In both volume 1 and volume 2 of the new Part L (new, existing and non-dwellings), the maximum limiting U-Value for both rooflights and rooflight and kerb assemblies is 2.2.

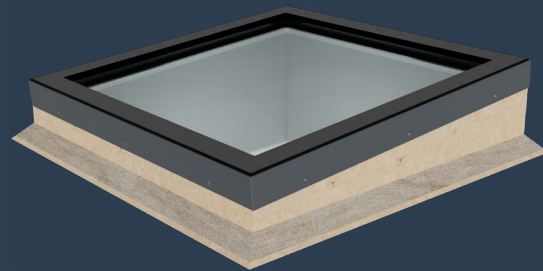


The rules on upstands and kerbs

The U-Value calculation should be done using the outer surface area of the rooflight or the rooflight and kerb assembly rather than the area of the roof opening. An important point to note is that the 2.2 U-value can only apply to a rooflight and kerb assembly if it is sourced from the same supplier. If the kerb or upstand is built on site, then a maximum U-Value of 0.35 W/m²K applies, which is very challenging to achieve without making the kerb so deep that it reduces the amount of light coming through the rooflight.

Whitesales range of em.glaze rooflights easily comply with the 2.2 limiting value and the good news is that we have also developed a new proprietary timber sloping kerb for the em.glaze range which makes compliance quick and easy.

All the details are at: www.whitesales.co.uk



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