Achieving BFRC Window Energy Ratings

Rising energy costs are a significant concern for both home owners and occupiers. Purchasers are increasingly looking at the total lifecycle cost, and specifying energy efficiency when procuring building products.

With the recent introduction of initiatives such as Home Information Packs, and the Decent Home Standard for local authority / housing association dwellings, the ability to prove your windows are energy efficient is an important aspect of improving the energy rating of a dwelling – which will make it more saleable. However, the main benefit of installing energy efficient windows is the ability to maintain a comfortable environment, with lower energy usage.

The BFRC Window Energy Rating scheme provides a straightforward method for manufacturers to demonstrate the energy performance of the window. Taking into account heat loss from the window through thermal transmittance (U Value) and air leakage, together with heat gained from the sun (Solar gain), the scheme gives A to G ratings for windows in a clear format. The energy rating system is already well recognised by consumers, as it is widely used on white goods and other energy efficient products.

In a competitive market, the Window Energy Rating scheme provides a cost-effective way of differentiating your product from your competitors, who will find it impossible to legitimately demonstrate that their windows can achieve a similar level of performance without achieving an Energy Rating themselves.

Why use BM TRADA when selecting an Independent Agency?
BM TRADA was involved in the introduction of the BFRC scheme and its requirements. As a customer focused organisation, BM TRADA has a proactive approach with an effective auditing technique and the ability to clearly outline the process for achieving a Window Energy Rating. Through sister company Chiltern Dynamics; we are able to offer in-house simulation through its own BFRC Certified Simulators, thereby providing a one stop shop for manufacturers.
Customer Process Flow
BFRC Energy Rating Scheme

Customer to return application form & registration cheque

Customer outlines what is in place in terms of test evidence
Factory Production Control (F.P.C. procedures)

Time frame agreed to achieve full certification

Customer to return BFRC scheme checklist
Customer to return Technical Specification questionnaire
Customer to supply BFRC simulation report or hot box test report*
Customer to supply Air Leakage test report

Satisfactory F.P.C. audit to be completed at customer premises

Issue BM TRADA certificate to customer
Issue BM TRADA scope of certification to customer

BM TRADA to register all approved energy-rated windows with BFRC
BFRC will send label artwork to customer and update BFRC website (www.bfrc.org)

Customer entered on BM TRADA website as full member
Customer entered onto BM TRADA website as provisional member

Customer may register with Energy Saving Trust only when window energy ratings are in band A, B or C

Note: This flowchart is a simplified overview of the actual certification process for clarity.
*Chiltern Dynamics can provide BFRC accredited thermal simulations if required.

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