

CPD LIVE

Free CPD education online

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The below answer sheet is for your own self-assessment.

Please keep your completed questionnaires and answers on file for your record.

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OPENING THE BLINDS ON SECTION J AND BEYOND

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1. What role can window coverings play in improving the thermal efficiency of commercial buildings?

Given that 30% of heating energy is lost through windows and 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters buildings to become heat, window coverings can play a significant role in improving thermal efficiency.

2. What are the relevant regulations when it comes to thermal efficiency and window coverings?

The National Construction Code (NCC 2019), Section J outlines the energy efficiency requirements for a Class 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 non-residential commercial buildings.

3. What tools do architects have at their disposal to help them specify effective window covering solutions?

Apart from the 'Deemed to Satisfy' and Performance based solutions set out in the code, they can use tools like the NCC Façade Calculator and other modelling software.

4. What role do the Internet of Things and the 'Smart Building' concept play in the functioning of window coverings?

A major role. These concepts refer to the use of digitally connected sensors to help control utilities. They literally empower designers and building managers to optimize window coverings and therefore cut energy consumption.

5. Is meeting the regulations the end of the story or are window covering systems that go beyond what is required possible?

NCC 2019 Section J is a starting point. As numerous real-life examples illustrate, the use of the latest materials combined with sophisticated modelling technology and the IoT make it quite possible to go beyond the regulations.

6. How fully has the energy efficiency imperative been accepted by the construction industry?

While the response has been mixed, initiatives like 'Architects Declare' provide grounds for hope. Similarly, in areas like the window coverings sector, energy efficiency is now a key driver of product development.