

# BFRC Guidance Note

## THE LIMITS OF BFRC RATING

### Energy efficiency

BFRC rating is a new concept in the glazing sector and provides a range of benefits for all sectors of the industry. Despite this, there are limits to the use of BFRC ratings, this Information Sheet is designed to act as a guide to the limitations of the BFRC Rating Scheme.

The BFRC scheme is designed to:

- Provide a simple method of assessing the energy efficiency of competing window products.
- Clearly identify the best performing window as a whole system.
- Allow comparison and selection of products based on independent assessment of energy performance rather than on manufacturer's claimed values.

### A comparison and not an absolute

The BFRC Rating is designed to allow consumers and specifiers to compare competing products using a simple and easy to understand ranking and labelling system. A BFRC Rating does NOT provide an absolute measure of the energy performance of a specific window or application.

The actual energy consumption for a specific application will depend on the location of the window in the building, the building parameters such as insulation and occupancy, the building geometry and orientation, the local climate and the indoor temperature set by the occupants.

The BFRC Rating allows accurate comparison of window performance under identical conditions.

**BFRC Rating is designed to compare products rather than to provide an absolute measure of energy efficiency for every window.**

The BFRC Rating refers only to the standard BFRC sample size - this is the same sample size used in both the relevant European Standards and in the Building Regulations.

It is NOT possible to provide a BFRC Rating for any other specific style/shape or configuration of window.

The BFRC Rating refers only to the general orientation of windows in UK homes.

It is NOT possible to provide a BFRC Rating for a specific house or orientation of window.

The BFRC Rating refers to the general UK climate zone.

It is NOT possible to provide a BFRC Rating for a specific and local climate zone in the UK.

### A voluntary scheme and not a statutory requirement

Energy labelling of many products is a statutory requirement under EU law and it is illegal to sell certain items without an energy rating and label attached to them.

This is not the case with the BFRC Rating scheme. Although the scheme uses the standard and familiar energy rating label, the use of a BFRC Rating label is entirely voluntary.



Every BFRC label clearly states:

*'This label is not a statutory requirement. It is a voluntary label provided as a customer service to allow consumers to make informed decisions on the energy performance of competing products.'*

**BFRC Rating is an entirely voluntary process. It is not a statutory requirement.**

**Energy Window**  
Energy Windows Ltd.  
XYZ 68/abc

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		C				
Energy Index (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year) <small>(Energy Index certified by BFRC and based on UK standard window. The actual energy consumption for a specific application will depend on the building, the local climate and the indoor temperature)</small>		<b>-15</b>				
The climate zone is:		<b>UK</b>				
Thermal Transmittance (U <sub>window</sub> )	1.5 W/m <sup>2</sup> ·K					
Solar Factor (g <sub>window</sub> )	0.41 W/m <sup>2</sup> ·K					
Effective Air Leakage (L <sub>factor</sub> )	0.02 W/m <sup>2</sup> ·K					

[www.bfrc.org](http://www.bfrc.org)

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### Domestic windows and not commercial windows

The BFRC Rating system and equation are designed for domestic replacement window applications. The sample size, occupancy factors and building parameters used to create the BFRC Rating equation are specifically those for domestic windows.

The BFRC system is NOT designed for use with large commercial windows and projects where the window sizes, occupancy factors and building parameters are very different from those of domestic buildings. Using the BFRC Rating system for projects of this type may not give the most energy efficient product for the project.

BFRC approved simulators are able to undertake specific simulating for commercial or specific domestic window replacements. These are not within the scope of BFRC.

### BFRC Rating is designed for domestic replacement window and not for commercial windows.

### A specific window and not a general window

A BFRC Rating refers to a specific combination of frame and glass. These are declared by the manufacturer/installer and only this specified combination manufactured by the specified manufacturer/installer is covered by the BFRC Rating. A BFRC Rating is NOT transferable to other combinations of frame or glass.

### BFRC Rating is based on a specified frame and glass combination.

### A specific manufacturer / installer and not a general approval

The BFRC Rating system provides a rating for the frame and glass combination and information on the energy performance of frame and glass combinations is freely transferable down the supply chain.

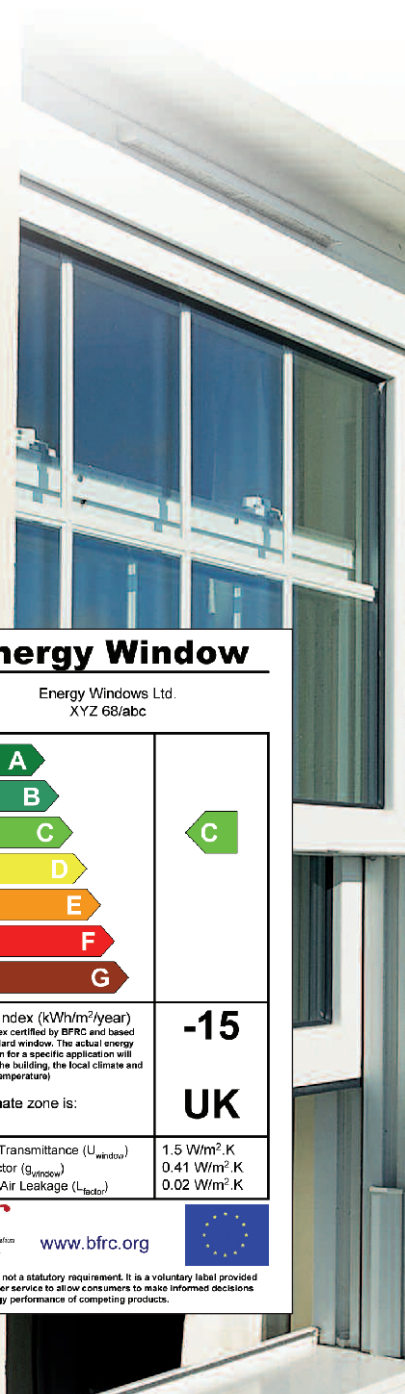
However, an essential requirement for the issue and use of the BFRC label is an assessment of the manufacturer/installer's quality management system and this is not transferable down the supply chain.

A BFRC Rating is NOT transferable to other manufacturers or suppliers.

### BFRC Rating is valid only for the specified manufacturer/installer.

### BFRC Rating - A new tool

BFRC Rating is a new tool for consumers and specifiers to use during the selection of windows. However, like any tool it must be used wisely and the limitations of the tool accepted.



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