



Let's Be honest

Complying honestly when it comes to supplying aluminium products that meet the required thermal performance of the building regulations doesn't have to be complicated, it sometimes just needs a different way of thinking – or perhaps a different and more honest, aluminium system supplier, writes Roger Hartshorn.

When Garnalex was founded, writes founder Roger Hartshorn, we made a simple promise on thermal performance – that all our products would meet the then upcoming tightened Part L regulations introduced in the 2022 revision to the building regulations.

We achieved this by developing our own thermal break technology, Thermlock. Wider, multi-chambered and less conductive than legacy polyamide systems, Thermlock, which sits at the heart of all Garnalex' Sheerline products, enabled our customers to sell an easily understood range with consistent U-values that met these

new targets with straightforward glazing requirements.

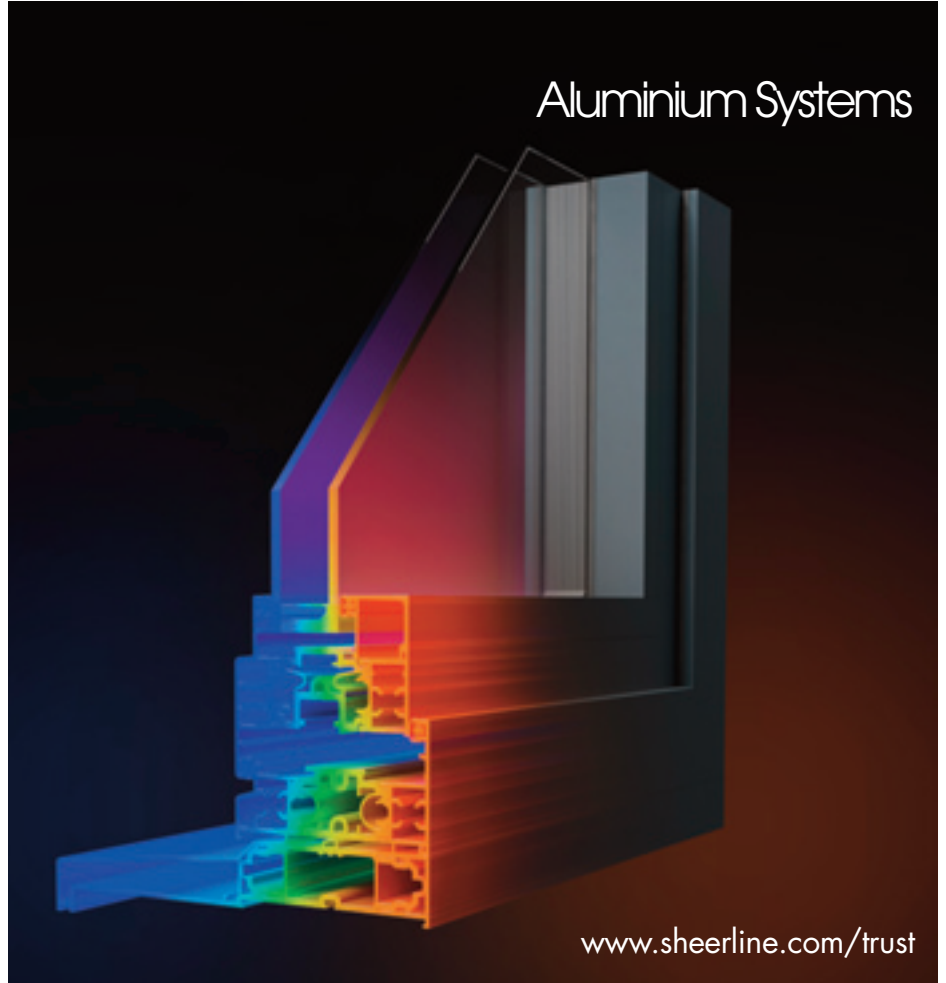
Our values are calculated to the EN14351 and BRFC standards, at the prescribed sizes and simulated with realistic combination of profiles and glazing that our customers actually use. All to give anyone choosing

Sheerline aluminium products complete confidence.

Let's be honest

When we started operating in the aluminium sector, we were a bit aghast at how murky, and sometimes downright dishonest some claims were.





www.sheerline.com/trust

It is time to change all that. That's why we are calling for a tightening of standards and want to challenge our fellow systems companies to make their U-value reports publicly available, as we have. It's time people know clearly what they are buying, as it's their necks on the line.

Our challenge to the industry

- Publish independently verified U-value reports. As well as having two BRFC accredited thermal simulators in house. Sheerline also gets its U-value reports independently verified, which should be the gold standard across the industry. It's time industry bodies and building regulations made this compulsory.
- Stop selling products that don't conform. The market tells us that many aluminium systems firms are paying lip service to these tighter thermal standards – claiming U-values based on a very 'niche' specification that rarely or never gets manufactured, then

blithely carries on selling products they know don't conform. It's time that stopped too.

- Be honest and take responsibility. From systems companies 'fabricating' their U-value reports, to turning a blind eye to what their fabricators are making, to fabricators claiming U-values based on a spec of product they aren't actually making. Everyone involved needs to take ownership and responsibility, making sure the companies supplying them are being honest and have the evidence to back up their claims.

Reputational damage

We are heartened that other voices in the industry are beginning to pay at least lip service to bringing clarity to the subject of U-values in aluminium. Although as the tighter new standards came in over two years ago now, you do have to wonder how compliant their products were during that time.

Misrepresenting what you are

selling can have disastrous consequences, just ask the Volkswagen group about its emissions scandal or much more seriously the residents of Grenfell. We are beginning to see window and door companies being taken to court for claiming one thing and supplying another. Pleading ignorance just won't cut it.

Building inspectors and specifiers alike are increasingly adamant about seeing the evidence that backs up the thermal performance claimed. Those who get caught out can face compensation claims and legal bills that could cripple an otherwise healthy business. **i**

Pictures: Roger Hartshorn says it is time for energy-efficiency honesty in aluminium profile supply. He says: "Our U-value reports can be viewed on our website. If your systems house isn't doing the same, ask why."

Built For Speed



Designed as an investment and hospitality opportunity for serious motorsport fans, Escapade Silverstone is a collection of contemporary villas built on a 14-acre site next to Copse, Maggots and Becketts.

For those in the know, these are the most nail-biting corners on the Silverstone circuit, which also give unbroken views over Chapel Corner and Hangar Straight.

There are a mix of trackside, dual-aspect and countryside villas on the project.

Noise & light

With some of the properties just 11m from the trackside fence, views and acoustics were critical to the glazing specification. Arkay Contractors worked closely with architect Twelve and main contractors HG Construction to refine the specification so that it delivered the slim sightlines, U-Values and dB levels required within the client's budget.

All the villas feature a mix of AluK SC156 sliding doors opening up on to viewing terraces, AluK C70s TBT and top hung windows in kitchen, bathroom and bedroom spaces and SL52 capped curtain walling maximis-

ing the views out and the light into living spaces.

Lots of glass

There is 3200sq.m of glazing in total, with sightlines of just 89mm for the C70S windows and 50mm for centre interlock on the SC156 sliders. U-Values are 1.4 W/m²K throughout and 45dB acoustic glass has been fitted in the villas nearest to the track.

AluK's technical team supported Arkay throughout, advising particularly on the compatibility of the systems with the thickness and weight of the acoustic glass.

Relationships

Arkay Contractors was awarded the window, door and curtain walling fabrication and install contract for Escapade Silverstone on the basis of a previous working relationship with HG Construction – including the recent joint project at the £77m Canada Street development in London's docklands.

Canada Street was the first large scale installation of AluK's C70S window system and it proved such a success that HG opted for the same system again at Silverstone.

The Canada Street project was entered for the G-Awards 2023

in the Commercial Installation of the Year category. Escapade Silverstone has been entered in the same category for 2024.

Tight programme

Arkay's onsite team showed all the benefits of their experience at Silverstone, with a tight programme and numerous individual villas being built at the same time. Arkay had to carefully coordinate with all the other trades, work around difficult weather conditions and overcome the challenge of using specialist glass lifting machinery to fit much of the heavy, oversized glass in areas where space and access were limited.

BREAM specification

The Silverstone Escapade villas all feature a steel framing system with rainscreen timber cladding and luxury specification throughout – from the AluK aluminium windows and doors to the under-floor heating, comfort cooling, bespoke kitchens and ensuite bathrooms. They have been rated BREEAM 'Very Good'. **■**

Pictures: AluK has partnered with Arkay Contractors on a residential project overlooking Silverstone racetrack.