

GypWall Systems and Smoke Shaft Guidance

Within Approved Document B Volumes 1 and 2 there are references to various types of shafts, ducts and vents, all with specific performance requirements. The performance requirements vary greatly and may require (but are not limited to) fire resistance, reaction to fire, pressure performances, air leakage, ventilation and hot or cold smoke control.

British Gypsum GypWall Single Frame and GypWall Shaft have been tested or assessed as systems against the following performance criteria;

- Fire resistance to BS EN 1364-1 or BS 476 Part 22
- Maximum height, typically based on cold state L/240 at 200Pa but project specific variations and Uniformly Distributed Load's may be offered
- Certain systems have been assessed against a range of deflection ratios and pressures
- Laboratory airborne Sound insulation as defined in ISO 717 Part 1
- Duty rating in accordance with BS 5234 Parts 1&2
- Reaction to Fire classification of products forming the systems e.g. Glasroc F FireCase Class A1 in accordance with EN 15283-1:2008+A1:2009.

In specific cases we may provide cold air leakage figures based on a sealed GypWall Shaft system. We review the specific performance requirements provided by the customer on a case by case basis and where the requirements are within the above specific performances only, we offer advice on GypWall Single Frame and GypWall Shaft forming partitions, linings and enclosures.

British Gypsum systems are regularly specified to meet Fire Resistance and Reaction to Fire requirements e.g. non-combustible constructions to form enclosures to shafts and risers, but these systems should not be used as a replacement for ducting which has specific pressure requirements and is tested to different standards.

For performances outside of those standards given above e.g. BS EN1366-8, BS EN 12101-3, as we have not tested GypWall Single Frame or GypWall Shaft in accordance with these standards we are unable make any performance claims, or offer advice based on them and therefore recommend consulting a specialist specifier/manufacturer.