



CASE STUDY

Specwall introduced to the UK market following thorough BRE testing

Thorough testing from BRE established the true performance of the system in preparation for introduction to this new market.



Challenge

Specwall, a UK-based manufacturer of high-quality wall systems, focus on surpassing customer expectations, achieving customer satisfaction and improving overall safety within the construction industry. Specwall identified that the construction industry urgently required more environmentally friendly materials, and subsequently decided that a modern, alternative sustainable walling solution was required.

Specwall is an advanced interior and exterior wall system with inherent insulation, acoustic and fire ratings in the form of a lightweight solid A1 and A2-rated panels which are ready to decorate. Specwall developed the A1-rated panel based on research and development of the A2-rated panel, which they undertook in response to regulatory developments.

Factory-manufactured wall systems with a cement-based core have been used in the United Arab Emirates for a number of years. Specwall's systems have therefore been subjected to a wide range of testing procedures in the Middle East over the years. In the process of bringing the system to market in the United Kingdom, Specwall required testing by a UK-based testing facility.

Benefits



Performance

Testing confirmed the true performance of the Specwall system



Testing

Independent testing strengthened customer confidence



Expert insight

Expert insight enabled better understanding of how the system performed



// The construction industry needs to pivot to more environmentally-friendly materials urgently, and products like Specwall which are reusable, recyclable and fireproof, offer a way to do that, with plenty of other benefits on top. //

Martin Pickering, Project Director, Specwall

What was done

BRE tested the Specwall system in late 2021 at their site in Watford, in accordance with British Standard 5234-2:1992, and the process formed part of a certification process with the British Board of Agrément (BBA).

BRE have a wide range of testing facilities related to the performance of timber and timber engineering, concrete, stone and other traditional and innovative construction materials and components. This provided assurance that BRE were capable of determining the true performance of their system. Another benefit was BRE's level of stature within the construction industry, and this was a key consideration for Specwall when deciding which organisation to commission for testing.

The test specimen was installed by Specwall on a purpose-built rig, constructed by BRE. During testing, the system was subjected to a number of impacts to identify whether any damage was caused, and ultimately determine the systems resistance to structural damage. BRE's experts and consultants provided guidance throughout the testing programmes.

Project outcome

Specwall believe that systems such as theirs are a crucial element of the construction industry going forward. Commenting on behalf of Specwall, Martin Pickering said "The construction industry needs to pivot to more environmentally-friendly materials urgently, and products like Specwall which are reusable, recyclable and fireproof, offer a way to do that, with plenty of other benefits on top".

By commissioning BRE to test their system, Specwall have been able to successfully determine product performance and use this information to bring the benefits of the system to the UK market.

Next steps

BRE's testing has played a crucial role in Specwall's development and introduction to market. As a customer-centric organisation, testing has helped Specwall understand the true performance of their product, demonstrate this to the market, and encourage improvement throughout the organisation. Specwall were pleased with the outcome of this successful testing and plan to commission BRE for further products, once developed.

Following a successful audit by the BBA undertaken during this project, BRE's test reports for BS 5234-2 can be submitted as evidence by manufacturers seeking a BBA Agrément Certificate on an appropriate system.



About Specwall

Specwall is an advanced wall system with inherent insulation, acoustic and A1 & A2 fire ratings, and allows for the direct application of finishes including tiles and paint.

The company was set up in 2019 by three construction and property specialists, who bring decades of experience with them across a number of global markets. They all have a shared aim to introduce cutting-edge manufacturing processes to the construction industry and their product, Specwall, has been key to driving greater efficiencies in the sector.



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About BRE

BRE delivers innovative and rigorous products, services, standards and qualifications which are used around the globe to make buildings better for people and for the environment. For a century we have provided government and industry with cutting edge research and testing to make buildings safer and more sustainable. BRE's ambition is to be the world's leading innovation, science and data hub for the built environment. By developing science-led solutions to urgent challenges, we will build a thriving and sustainable world.



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