

APPLICATION OF SELF ADHESIVE LEAD

On a number of occasions CENSolutions are confronted with clients requesting information on what to do when self adhesive lead products have been pushed away around the edge of the glass on the internal surface of insulating Glass Units.

This “popping” of the lead is unsightly to the end user and occurs when the lead has been applied tight to the spacer bar. The cyclic movement of the spacer bar, caused by the pumping action during changes in ambient temperature and barometric pressure (see information sheets on deflection and spacer deflection in sealed units) has then pushed the lead up where it contacts the spacer bar.

Reference to the lead manufacturers’ application recommendations will advise that the lead is cut “short” of the spacer by 2 to 3 mm. This allows the very slight movement of the spacer to occur without it putting any pressure on the lead.

Although this cutting back is recommended and essential it does, on a small number of occasions lead to complaints from the householder that the visual appearance of this “cut back” is unsightly and appears to suggest that the unit is faulty or of poor manufacturing quality.

It could be pointed out to the householder that GGF recommendations on the visual quality of Insulated Glass Units are quite specific in that the unit should be viewed from 2 metres, looking through the unit in normal day light (not at it) and that there is a 50 mm exclusion area around the edge of the unit. The normal glazing system, if complying with GGF glazing recommendations should also mean that the spacer bar is below the site line and therefore the exposed lead should be within the glazing rebate and not obtrusive.