

What certification does Thermoblock have?

Marmox Thermoblock has been BBA certified since 2012. It is ATG certified in Belgium and Netherlands and is currently undergoing the final stages its ETAg certification.

Can Eurocode 6 be applied to Thermoblock designs?

Marmox Thermoblock is not covered by Eurocode 6, the design strength can therefore not be determined by that method. This is because the product is a non-homogenous "load bearing insulation block" which is not categorised as a masonry unit. Thermoblocks therefore do not have specific criteria to conform to or multiplication strength factors which can be applied. Furthermore, the density of the product cannot be used to determine its suitability – this is done on its performance only.

Can Thermoblock be used in damp and wet locations?

Yes, Marmox Thermoblocks are not affected by water and can be used in the wettest conditions. If laid with some separation between each other, Thermoblocks can even be used to provide drainage channels.

The top and bottom surfaces are low porosity concrete designed to be completely unaffected by the presence of water and the core is completely impermeable to moisture. Because water cannot penetrate the block, expansion and contraction of the blocks due to water absorption cannot occur. Water will not affect the dimensions of the Thermoblock or result in any deterioration.

Is a DPM still needed with Thermoblock?

Although when sealed together, Marmox Thermoblocks comprise a permanent waterproof barrier, a DPM is still legally required. Typically, although not always, the DPM is placed on top of the row of Thermoblock in the same way it would be laid over a row of concrete blocks.

What is Thermoblock's fire classification?

Marmox Thermoblock is categorised, in common with most insulation products as Euroclass E.

In accordance with EN13501-2, it has 2 hours fire resistance (*Warrington Fire*) when used in an approved detail. Wherever Thermoblock is used, it must be used in an approved detail - with either an NBS specification or an in-house approved specification (*as detailed on this website*). Bespoke specifications can of course be used but they should be approved by Marmox at the design stage.

Can Thermoblock be used above 11m / 18m because of their fire classification?

The 2018/19 and subsequent June 2022 amendments to English and Welsh Building regulations restricting the use of combustible materials on the outside of buildings apply to the external walls and specified attachments with a storey above 11m or in some cases, 18m. In Scotland, the use of combustible cladding from 2022 is completely banned from a height of 11m.

Thermal break materials where the inclusion of such is necessary to meet the thermal bridging requirements of Part L of Schedule 1 are exempted from this requirement.

Consequently, Marmox Thermoblock, being a specified thermal break material is allowable. As with all designs however, it must be detailed to an approved specification which will guarantee that the product is not in a location which could contribute to the spread of fire.

Can Thermoblock be used in timber frame and SIP walls?

Yes, specifications are shown in the specifications document

Can Thermoblock be used at the base of steel frame walls?

Yes, specifications are shown in the specifications document

Can Thermoblocks be stacked – 2 or 3 layers?

Because only one layer of Thermoblock is necessary to resolve the thermal bridging, independent testing of compressive and shear strength has only been carried out on one layer of Thermoblock. The resistance to compression if using more than one row of Thermoblock is consequently not determined and not guaranteed.

When used under a load bearing wall or any load-bearing situation, only one course of Thermoblock is approved.

Can Thermoblocks be cut?

Only the lengths can be cut, the minimum length should be no less than the width of the block.

To create right angles at corners and junctions the blocks are simply butted up to each other and the overhang/underhand is cut off to create a flat edge. Because there are no concrete elements within these 'lips' this can be done with a hand saw.