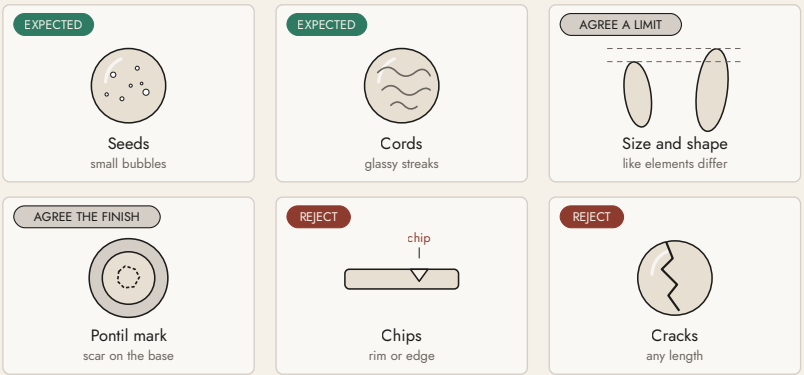
Acceptance criteria for *handmade glass*: bubbles, cords and defects

What is normal and what is a defect in hand-blown glass lighting, in three bands, with the points at which to inspect. No standard sets these limits: this is recommended project practice, agreed with the workshop before production.

AT A GLANCE

Feature	Band	What to agree in writing
Seeds (small bubbles)	Expected	Largest size, number per element and where.
Larger bubbles and blisters	Agree a limit	Size; reject any that break the surface.
Cords (glassy streaks)	Expected	Whether visible at the agreed distance, lit.
Stones (unmelted lumps)	Reject	Or agree case by case with the workshop.
Size and shape variation	Expected	A tolerance in mm; which elements must match.
Wall thickness variation	Expected	How the workshop checks thin spots at joins.
Pontil mark	Agree a limit	Ground smooth, no sharp edge, and where it faces.
Scratches and scuffs	Agree a limit	None visible at the agreed distance, lit.
Chips, flares, sharp edges	Reject	Remake, or repair if the workshop shows how.
Cracks and crazing	Reject	Any length. Intended crazing is a design, so say so.
Strain (internal stress)	Agree a limit	Not visible by eye: the workshop states its check.
Loose or rocking joints	Reject	Every element seats and holds.

Recommended project practice, not a standard: no standard was found. Every number in the wording below is an example for you and the workshop to set.



Six things seen in handmade glass and the band each falls in. Original line drawings by Make Bespoke Studio: schematic, not photographs and not to scale.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

HANDMADE VARIATION

Glass elements are hand-made. Variation in size, shape and wall thickness, small bubbles (seeds), glassy streaks (cords) and a ground pontil mark is characteristic of the process and is accepted within the criteria in [schedule ref], agreed before production. The criteria sheet and the reference samples form part of the order.

CRITERIA

Seeds not larger than [ ] mm, not more than [ ] per element, none in a rim or joint. Cords accepted where not visible from [1.5] m with the fitting lit. Like elements within [ ] mm of the control piece in [height and width]; mould-blown elements within [ ] mm. Pontil marks ground and polished smooth. Scratches not visible from [1] m lit. Chips, flares, cracks, stones, sharp edges and loose joints not accepted.

VIEWING CONDITIONS

Elements judged at [1.5] m, lit at [full output and fully dimmed] with the specified lamp and unlit in daylight, by [named person] in person, side by side with the control piece [and limit sample ref].

INSPECTION

The workshop inspects each element against the criteria sheet and sends a numbered photo set [as listed in schedule ref] not less than [ ] working days before dispatch. The client may place a hold before crating. On arrival the contractor unpacks, counts and inspects, and notes damage on the delivery note. After hanging, [designer] and [workshop representative] view the fitting lit and sign a snag list.

REMEDY

An element outside the criteria is remade [or repaired, as the workshop proposes and the designer approves] by [workshop] within [ ] weeks of written notice. The effect on the programme is stated in writing at the same time. Acceptance of an element is recorded on the snag list, signed by both parties.

TERMS USED

Seed (bubble)

A tiny gas bubble trapped in glass. Common in hand-made pieces, and judged by size, number and place against criteria agreed in advance.

Cord

A thin glassy streak where glass of slightly different make-up has not fully mixed. Common, and often acceptable.

Pontil mark

The scar left where the piece was held on a rod while it was worked, normally ground or polished away.

Strain

Stress locked into glass by uneven cooling. The Glass Museum Murano says it can make glass crack, perhaps after it has fully cooled, hence slow cooling in an annealing oven.

Limit sample

A sample showing the worst element that would be accepted, kept beside the control piece, so a limit is something you can look at.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Glass Museum Murano: What is glass? (English leaflet): read 5 Nov 2026: pp. 3 and 4 (annealing; refining), pp. 7 and 8 (the pontello), p. 10 (glossary).
- BS EN ISO 12543-6, Glass in building: laminated glass and laminated safety glass, Appearance: BSI listing read: the 2011 edition, shown as withdrawn on 24 Feb 2022. Named only as an example of a flat-glass standard that does not apply. Text not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/acceptance-criteria-for-handmade-glass. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.