Glass and metal *together*

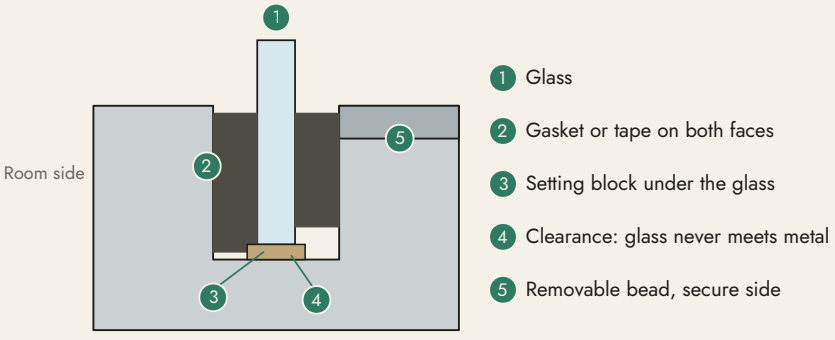
Keep glass and metal apart, meet the safety glazing rules for doors and low glass, and ask for the glass class and the clearances before manufacture.

Compliance guidance. Building regulation numbers are from Approved Document K (2013 edition, England), read on 7 November 2026. Standards named were not read: confirm editions with your glazier. Sizes, thicknesses, setting blocks and fixings are set by the glazier or the system supplier for each job. Guidance, not engineering, legal or safety advice. The studio coordinates manufacture through partner workshops and does not test or certify glass.

AT A GLANCE

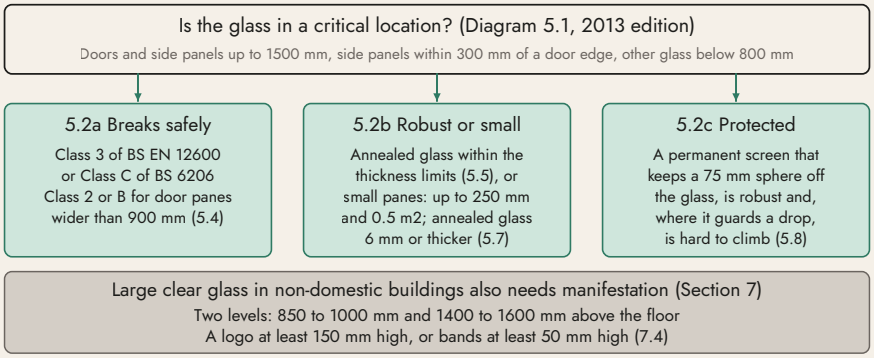
Detail	What to do	Why or limit	Basis
Glass in or beside a door, or below 800 mm	Doors and side panels up to 1500 mm (300 mm zone); other glass below 800 mm	Critical location: glass breaks safely, is robust, is a small pane or is protected	Approved Document K 5.1, 5.2, Diagram 5.1 (read)
Safe breakage	Class 3 of BS EN 12600 (or Class C of BS 6206)	Class 2 or B only for door panes wider than 900 mm	Approved Document K 5.4 (read)
Small annealed panes	250 mm maximum, 0.5 m² maximum, 6 mm minimum thickness	Leaded and copper lights may be 4 mm where fire resistance is not important	Approved Document K 5.6, 5.7 (read)
Large clear glass, non-domestic	Manifestation at 850 to 1000 mm and 1400 to 1600 mm	Logo at least 150 mm high or bands at least 50 mm high	Approved Document K 7.4 (read)
Glass in a metal frame	Glass never touches metal: gasket or tape, setting block, edge clearance	Sizes from the glazier and the system	Glazing guidance; no standard read
Mirror	Off the wall with air behind, sealed edges, neutral-cure products, grommets on screws	No contact between silvering and bare metal or strong solvents	One maker's guide citing BS EN 1036

First four rows: Approved Document K (2013, England), read 7 Nov 2026. The rest is qualitative guidance.



Schematic, not to scale. Sizes come from the glazier and the system.

Section through the foot of a glazed metal frame: gasket or tape both faces, a setting block, a clearance so glass never meets metal, and a removable bead on the secure side. Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



The three routes for glass in a critical location (Approved Document K 2013 edition, England, paragraphs 5.2 to 5.8) and the manifestation heights of paragraph 7.4. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

GLASS IN A METAL FRAME

Glass in [frame ref]: [type and thickness confirmed by the glazier for the rebate, size and exposure], bedded on [glazing gasket or tape] on both faces and set on [setting blocks of material and number] at [positions]. Edge clearance [ ] mm on every edge; no glass-to-metal contact. Beads on the [secure] side, fixed with [fixings]. Glass edges [polished or arrised]; [thermal stress checked by the glazier for frame colour [ ] and shade]. Glass permanently marked with the maker and the standard class.

CRITICAL LOCATION

Glass at [position refs, Approved Document K Diagram 5.1] to break safely to BS EN 12600 Class [3] [or robust or small-pane under ADK 5.5 to 5.7, agreed in writing]. Large clear areas: manifestation at [850 to 1000] mm and [1400 to 1600] mm above finished floor, [logo at least 150 mm high or bands at least 50 mm high] contrasting from both sides. Evidence of the class and the glass marking before manufacture.

MIRROR OR SHELF ON METAL

Mirror [ref] to BS EN 1036-1, edges [polished] and sealed with [edge sealer approved by the mirror maker]. Fixed with [neutral-cure adhesive stated suitable for mirror backing] and [mechanical fixing with non-metal grommets], set not less than [5] mm off [painted, fully dry] wall with air circulation behind; not fixed into a recess. No acid-cure or algaecide silicone, no strong solvents. Glass shelves: [soft liner between glass and bracket; fixings into the wall, not the glass; holes and edges formed before toughening].

TERMS USED

Setting block

A small soft block under the lower edge of a glass pane that carries its weight and keeps the edge off the frame.

Critical location

A glazed position where people are likely to be hit by or fall into the glass, mapped by heights in Approved Document K Diagram 5.1.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document K (2013 edition, England): Sections 5 and 7 and Diagram 5.1 read 7 Nov 2026.
- BS EN 12600:2002, BS 6206:1981, BS EN 12150-1, BS EN 14179-1, BS EN ISO 12543-2, BS 6262-6:2005, BS EN 1036-1:2007: BSI listings: all current (some under review); BS 6206 largely replaced per secondary sources. None read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/glass-and-metal-together. 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.