Retail *display cabinet* glass and security

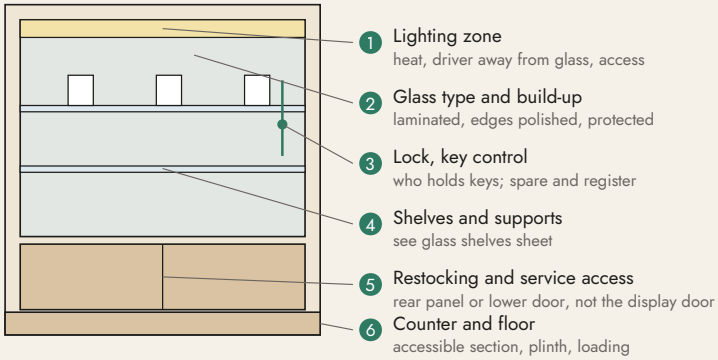
What to specify for the glass, locks, lighting and counter of a retail display cabinet, and why a security class belongs to a tested assembly. It quotes no security class or thickness.

Compliance guidance. Statuses come from BSI Knowledge listings and Approved Document M volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating 2024 amendments, England), read on 8 November 2026; no standard was read and no security class, test result or thickness is given. Guidance, not legal, insurance, security or engineering advice: the glass supplier, the insurer, a security consultant and building control (for fitted work) decide what a given cabinet needs.

AT A GLANCE

Item	Usually chosen	How it behaves	Ask for
Glass door or panel within reach	Laminated, or toughened if the risk is injury only	Stays in one sheet (laminated); small pieces (toughened)	Laminated build-up and edge protection; certificate of conformity
Glass that must resist forced entry	Security glazing classified to BS EN 356, as a tested assembly	Delays access for a short time (BSI's description)	The class on the certificate, for the glass AND the frame, lock and fixing as built
Top or shelf glass	See the glass shelves sheet	Depends on the glass	Supplier's calculation; edges named
Lock and key control	Lock fitted to the door type; key system chosen by the operator	Not a break pattern	Lock type, number of keys, keyed alike or not, spare and register
Lit compartment	Low-iron glass; thermal check if the lamp is close	Depends on the glass	Driver and heat outside the glass compartment; access for lamp change
Counter section for a seated customer	Not a glass question	Not applicable	Section at least 1500 wide, surface no higher than 760, knee recess not less than 700 above floor (ADM volume 2, 3.6)

General descriptions. Where a security class is wanted it must be written from the insurer's letter and a certificate for the assembly, not from this table.



A glazed display cabinet and the six decisions on a specification: lighting zone, glass, lock and key control, shelves, service access, and counter and floor. Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

STANDARDS: STATUS AS SEEN ON BSI KNOWLEDGE, 8 NOV 2026

BS EN 356:2000 (security glazing, manual attack) current, under review. BS EN 12600:2002 (pendulum impact) current. BS EN 1303:2015 (cylinders for locks) withdrawn 17 Aug 2026. Counter dimensions: Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2024 amendments (England), paragraph 3.6 (d) and (e). None of these was read in full.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

GLASS FOR A DISPLAY DOOR

Door glass: [8.8] mm laminated safety glass to BS EN ISO 12543-2 [edition], [ ] mm plies of [toughened / annealed] glass with [interlayer type] interlayer, polished edges, [low-iron / clear], supplied with the supplier's declaration and [BS EN 12600 class [ ] where safe breakage is required]. Edges protected in transport. Holes, notches and patch-lock cut-outs as drawing [ref], made before toughening.

SECURITY CLAIM (ONLY IF REQUIRED)

Where the client's insurer requires a security rating, the insurer's written requirement [ref and date] is to be attached. The cabinet is to be supplied with a certificate for the complete assembly (glass, frame, lock, hinges and fixings) to [standard and edition named by the insurer]. No class is to be stated on drawings or marketing without that certificate.

LOCKS AND KEYS

Lock: [type] to the [hinged / sliding / lift-up] door, [ ] keys per cabinet, [keyed alike / individually keyed], master key [yes / no]. A spare set and a key register are to be delivered in the handover pack. Hinges concealed so that no pin or screw is reachable with the door shut.

LIGHTING AND SERVICE

Lighting: [LED strip, [ ] mm from glass], driver located [outside the glass compartment, accessible via [panel]], ventilation route as drawing [ref]. The compartment is to be re-lamped without removing shelves. Goods are [light-sensitive: yes / no]: the lighting designer is to advise the level.

COUNTER SECTION

Counter: one section at least [1500] mm wide with its surface at [ ] mm (not above 760 mm) and a knee recess at least [500] mm deep with clear height of not less than [700] mm above floor, clear space in front [1200 x 1800] mm, as drawing [ref]. The architect and building control to confirm against the current Approved Document M.

TERMS USED

Laminated glass
Two or more sheets of glass bonded with a plastic interlayer so broken pieces stay stuck together. It is used where breakage must not leave sharp openings.

Toughened glass
Glass heated and cooled rapidly so it is several times stronger and breaks into small granules. It must be cut and edged before toughening and cannot be altered after.

Security glazing
Glazing tested and classified for resistance to manual attack, as described by BS EN 356. BSI describes the aim as delaying access for a short time; the rating belongs to the tested glazing assembly.

Keyed alike
A lock system in which several locks are operated by the same key. The alternative, individually keyed, gives each lock its own key.

Knee recess
The clear space under the lowered section of a counter that lets a seated customer sit close to the surface.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BSI Knowledge, status as seen 8 Nov 2026: BS EN 356:2000 current, under review; BS EN 12600:2002 current; BS EN 1303:2015 withdrawn 17 Aug 2026. Listings only.
- Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2024 amendments (England): paragraphs 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6.
- BS 8300-2:2018 and BS EN 12209:2024: listings only; not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/retail-display-cabinet-glass-and-security. 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.