Verre *églomisé* and gilded glass: specification

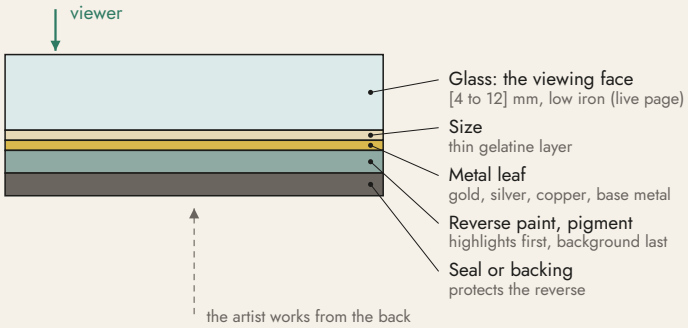
The glass, the leaf and paint, the seal that protects the back and edges, and the fixing. The three distances that matter in Approved Document K, a mirror standard as a benchmark for moisture, and wording for the specification. No standard covers gilded glass, so working sizes are left to the partner.

Compliance guidance. Figures and statuses come from the documents named, read on 8 November 2026: Approved Document K (2013 edition, England) paragraphs 5.1 to 5.8 and Diagram 5.1, and a BSI listing for BS EN 1036-1. No glass standard text was read. Guidance, not engineering or legal advice: whether a decorative glass panel counts as glazing, and which glass and fixing it needs, are questions for the glass supplier, a glazing engineer and building control for the project.

AT A GLANCE

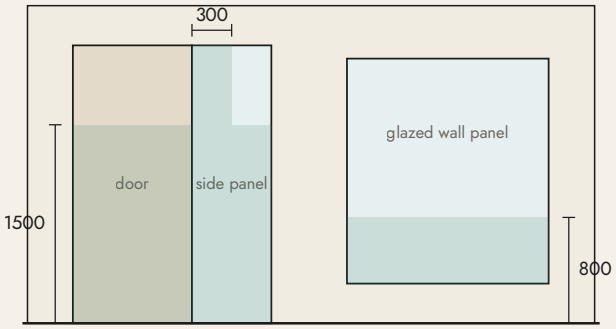
Item	What our pages and the sources say	Why it matters	Ask for
Glass	Low-iron, 4 to 12 mm, chosen for the use and the fixing; almost all toughened (our pages)	Toughened glass cannot be altered afterwards	Size, edges, holes and bevels fixed before toughening
Leaf	Gold, silver, platinum, copper, aluminium, nickel, chrome, bronze; base-metal (Dutch) leaf (our pages)	High-carat gold will not tarnish; copper, brass and Dutch leaf oxidise (our pages)	Name the leaf, the carat and whether it is sealed
Paint	Reverse-painted lightfast pigments, powders, Japan paints (our pages)	Seen through the glass; fades if not lightfast	Pigment lightfastness
Seal	Reverse sealed with a protective paint or backing (our pages)	Gelatine size is water based; moisture is the risk	The sealing system and edge sealing
Safety	Approved Document K critical locations: 1500, 300 and 800 mm	A panel in a zone may need class 3 to BS EN 12600 or class C to BS 6206	Class, certificate, or building control decision
Size	From small furniture insets to full-height wall panels (our pages)	Mass is about 2.5 kg per m² for each mm of glass	Maximum panel, weight, fixing
Care	Viewing face is glass; the reverse is the finish	Wet or abrasive cleaning reaches the edge	Written care instruction

Glass, leaf, paint and size statements are from our own pages. The safety distances are Approved Document K (2013), diagram 5.1. No standard for gilded glass was found.



Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

Reverse-gilded glass in section: glass, size, leaf, paint and seal. The artist works from the back, highlights first and background last; the viewer sees the layers in the opposite order. Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Shaded: critical locations
Approved Document K (2013), diagram 5.1

Door and side panel: up to 1500 mm.
Side panel: within 300 mm of the door.
Other glazing in walls: below 800 mm.
Routes are in paras 5.2 to 5.8.

A decorative gilded panel: is it 'glazing' here? Ask building control.

Redrawn from the diagram's three dimensions, not traced. Schematic, not to scale.

Critical locations for glazing beside a door and low in a wall, redrawn from the three distances in Approved Document K (2013), diagram 5.1: 1500, 300 and 800 mm. Schematic, not to scale. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

GILDED GLASS PANEL

Reverse-gilded glass panel, [ ] × [ ] mm, [4–12] mm [low-iron] [thermally toughened to BS EN 12150-1 [edition] / laminated to BS EN ISO 12543-2 [edition]], [heat soaked to BS EN 14179-1 [edition]: yes / no]. Edges [polished / bevelled [ ] mm], holes and cut-outs as drawing [ref], all made before toughening. Leaf: [24 ct gold / silver / copper / base metal], [sealed / unsealed]. Reverse paint: [lightfast pigments, report ref]. Reverse and edges sealed with [system stated by the partner]. Approved sample [ref] and mock-up [ref] govern.

SAFETY GLAZING

Where the panel is in a critical location as defined in Approved Document K [edition], paragraph 5.1 (door or side panel to [1500] mm, within [300] mm of a door, or other glazing below [800] mm), the glass is to achieve class [3] to BS EN 12600 [edition] or class [C] to BS 6206 [edition], or another route accepted in writing by building control. The supplier is to provide the certificate. Locations to be agreed with building control before the order: [list].

ENVIRONMENT AND MOISTURE

The panel is intended for [dry interior / bathroom / spa] use at up to [ ] per cent relative humidity with [no] direct sun. The partner is to state the damp-air or condensation test the build has passed, or that none has been done, before the sample is approved.

FIXING, CARE AND HANDOVER

Panel fixed to a dry, fully cured [wall] with mechanical fixings and an air gap of [ ] mm as drawing [ref], fixings and isolation by the supplier; no adhesive-only fixing. Written cleaning and care instructions for the glass face, the edges and the reverse are to be provided for the handover manual. Panel weight [ ] kg per panel to be stated by the supplier before delivery.

TERMS USED

Verre églomisé
Glass decorated on its reverse with metal leaf and paint, so that the glass face is the viewing surface. The name comes from the Parisian frame-maker Jean-Baptiste Glomy (our craftsmanship page).

Size
The thin layer, here gelatine in water, that holds metal leaf to the glass.

Critical location
A place where Approved Document K requires glazing to break safely or be otherwise protected: doors and side panels up to 1500 mm, within 300 mm of a door, and other wall glazing below 800 mm.

Safe breakage
Breakage in an impact test that leaves a small clear opening, small particles, or pieces that are not sharp or pointed (Approved Document K, paragraph 5.3).

Dutch metal
Base-metal leaf, also called schlag or imitation gold, that tarnishes over time (our craftsmanship page).

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document K, Protection from falling, collision and impact, 2013 edition (England): Requirement K4; paragraphs 5.1 to 5.8; Diagrams 5.1 to 5.3. Read 8 Nov 2026. Check the current edition.
- BS EN 1036-1:2007, mirrors from silver-coated float glass for internal use: current, under review (8 Nov 2026). Benchmark only.
- BS EN 12600:2002, BS 6206:1981, BS EN 12150-1:2015+A1:2019, BS EN 14179-1:2016, BS EN ISO 12543-2: current per earlier library notes (6 to 7 Nov); not re-checked.
- Our verre églomisé pages: glass, leaf, paint and sealing statements.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/verre-eglomise-and-gilded-glass-specification. 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.