APL Cladshield
The FULL SYSTEM 25 year warranty

What it is – and what it means to you
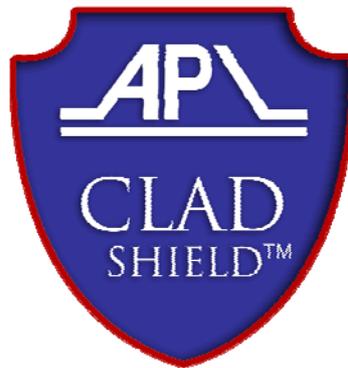
Our Industry today is awash with claims and counter-claims regarding guarantees and warranties for exterior cladding systems for the building envelope. At APL we are very proud of our record for the provision of FULL SYSTEM warranties – we have been providing them now for 30 years and, we believe, that our Cladshield 25 year Full System warranty is simply the most comprehensive and genuine warranty available.

So, how do we differ? Well firstly, unlike most guarantees which bring together a number of different guarantees issued by the various manufacturers of the products integrated into the system, we make all the metal components of the cladding system ourselves, and that usually represents 90% of the finished system….. and that which we do not manufacture e.g. insulations, our installation contractors commit, under seal, to only incorporate non-combustible A1/A2 materials as per our specification, so that the whole system complies with, and can be certificated, to meet the strict product and system performance parameters demanded to qualify for a Cladshield Full System warranty.

That said, a 'Full System Warranty' is a partnership between the system manufacturer and the cladding installer in which the manufacturer takes full responsibility for the materials, the detailing and the assembly, and the installer takes responsibility for the labour and quality of installation. The second difference between the APL Cladshield warranty and others hangs on how the project is controlled and 'policed' to give a fully traceable written record on all aspects of both materials and installation.
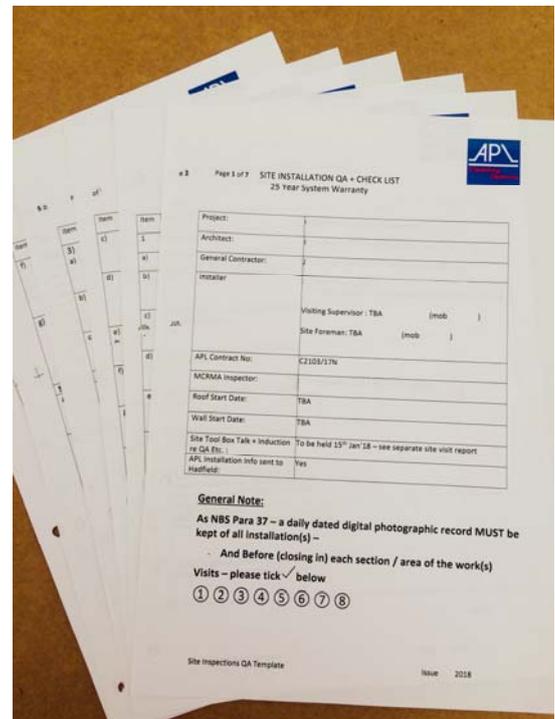
How does this work?   All installations are regularly inspected, with written reports and photographic records of the actual installation, by an independent, PI backed, registered MCRMA inspector. The number of visits to site will be structured to suit the size and complexity of the project. The on-site 'Cladshield' process starts with the initial 'tool box' talk to the actual fitters on site and carries right through to the final completion and hand over.

All aspects of the installation are assessed, documented and agreed by all parties in a Pre-Start Quality Plan which is then followed by a very detailed, hard copy, rigorous, On-Site Inspection and Quality Plan which has to be completed and 'signed off' at every stage.   In this way there is 100% traceability, 100% responsibility and 100% accountability. There can be no opportunity left at any point to cut corners so there can be no doubt, when the building owner receives his 'Cladshield' 25 year Warranty, that it really is a document of real substance and real value.
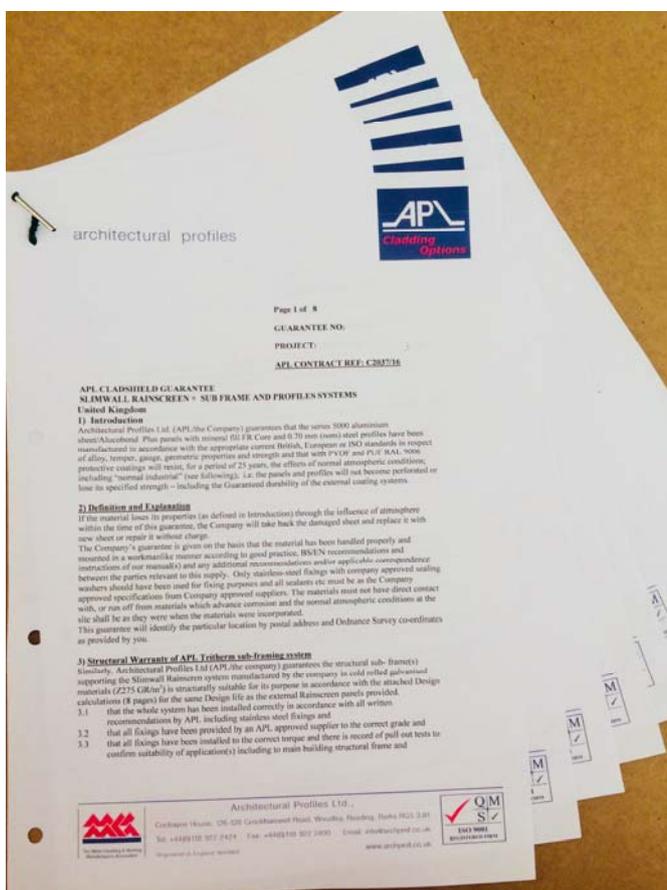
So, how is the Cladshield programme initiated? It all starts when the APL prepare a quotation for supply of products and systems and include the option for Cladshield into the project. Given the projected project timing and budgets, APL give a projected costing for the inclusion of site inspections. Such Quality Controls have been talked about a lot, but in the past all too often such controls have been either overlooked or not costed in to the project at the outset, again often at the risk of expensive retrospective site inspections and remedial works, or the issuance of a worthless piece of paper. Today the cost of the preparation of the QA plans and the cost of the inspectors' site visits represent a tiny fraction of the cost of the project, subject to size and complexity usually less than 0.025%, yet can regularly demonstrate real benefits for the building owner, not only for the peace of mind it brings, but also in terms of substantial reductions in annual Buildings Insurance Premiums for the occupier, and for the Designer/Architect similar savings in PI Insurance which we all know to be a serious consideration.

One day we are sure that it will become a legal requirement for all projects to be quality checked in this way, but until then it is the responsibility of the Project Lead to demand it.

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