



## **Data required for BCA Section J analysis**

Section J has been included in the BCA for the purpose of reducing green house gas emissions. To this purpose a building must be capable (among other things) of using less energy for heating and cooling. This requires performance improvements for all components of the building. Glass is one important component in this process and it is assessed under part J2 of the BCA. This involves the comparison of the calculated aggregate air-conditioning value with an allowed value. The BCA website has a calculator which enables users to undertake the analysis.

It is important to note that in this process the glass cannot be analysed alone. It can only be analysed as part of a window. This requires a separate analysis to determine the performance values for the total window (frame and glass combined). The values required are the “U Value” and the “SHGC” for the window. These values are different to the values for glass alone.

Viridian has published performance data for glass for many years and this data is used by air-conditioning designers, and for comparison of the relative performance of different glass types for a variety of reasons. However, this data is not directly suitable for use in the Section J analysis; whole of window data must be used. Unfortunately, whole of window data for the countless combinations of glass and framing systems are not always easy to obtain. The WERS database is the main authoritative reference for such information – it provides whole of window data for a range of commercial window systems, but this is arranged by window manufacturer rather than glass type, so it can be challenging to find what you want. Alternatively, specific frame and glass combinations can be modelled through accredited simulators, audited, and registered as new WERS entries.

The important thing to retain from this article is that “glass only” performance data is not directly suitable for BCA Section J energy analysis.

### Further information

Please visit [viridianglass.com](http://viridianglass.com) or freecall 1800 810 403

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