



Technical Bulletin

Finish appearance in conditions of difficult light

No British, European or Trade Association Standard or Code of Practice currently exists that is specifically applicable to External Wall Insulation (EWI) Systems, the nearest guidance is currently in BS EN 13914-1 *Design, preparation and application of external rendering and internal plastering. External rendering.*

INCA Technical Committee Chairman's summary note concluded:

'The subject of render appearance under harsh lighting conditions is a difficult one to rationalise as inevitably with any wet formed, hand applied material there will always be some surface irregularities. For this reason, aesthetic acceptability is very subjective'.

This is recognised in the British Standard for external rendering BS EN 13914-1, which defines the limits of acceptability and the viewing conditions under which those assessments should be made. It is suggested that any judgment made on the finish is undertaken in accordance with the recommendation of this standard. The relevant clauses from BS EN 13914-1 are summarised below:

NA.14 Assessment of external rendered finishes

NA.14.1 General appearance

Rendering on external walls should be reasonably consistent in texture, finish, colour and line. However, rendering cannot be expected to provide a perfect finish and the following should be observed:

- some minor surface cracking and crazing is likely to occur, but should not affect its performance.
- some patches and daywork joints may be visible, but should not be unduly obtrusive.
- some tooling marks may be visible, but should not be unduly obtrusive.

NA.14.2 Lighting – General recommendations

The intensity and angle of illumination can have a critical effect on the appearance of a finished externally rendered surface. For this reason, normal working and acceptance conditions are limited to when lighting and viewing are from positions perpendicular to the surface.

NA.14.3 Glancing light conditions

If the surface is to be assessed under glancing light conditions, this should be stated in the contract specification.

NA.14.4 Viewing conditions

When inspecting a finished externally rendered surface, it should be viewed in daylight, standing at ground level, from a generally accessible viewing position. Where possible it should be viewed at a distance of 10 m, with the sunlight, if any, not falling on the surface in a glancing direction.

NA.14.5 Line

The line of the rendered surface will largely be determined by the line of the substrate.