

UNDERSTANDING CWCT CLASSIFICATIONS OF ROOFLIGHT TYPES

The CWCT tests for non-fragility comprise of soft body and hard body impact tests as well as a load retention test. They are intended to identify what glass size and type can be deemed safe for anyone that might be working on or adjacent to the glass from outside as well as protect anyone that may be below the glass. There are 4 classifications assigned by the CWCT standards, these are classes 0, 1, 2 & 3. Simple descriptions are given below, further detail is currently contained in CWCT Technical Notes 66, 67 and 92, available from www.cwct.co.uk. Please check the CWCT

website to ensure you have the most up-to-date versions of the Technical Notes.

Class 0 = Rooflights which are designed for unrestricted access by building occupants.

Rooflights of this type must be designed as floors to the loadings for the intended use taken from the National Annex to BS EN 1991-1-1 and are outside the scope of Technical Note TN66, 67 and 92.

See typical examples below.



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THE ROOFLIGHT
ASSOCIATION

Class 1 = Rooflights which might be walked on for occasional cleaning/maintenance activities and which will therefore need to support both the weight of people on the glass and their equipment.

Such rooflights could be subject to impact from a person, and/or any object carried, falling onto its surface.



Whilst intended to be walkable Class 1 rooflights only need to have been designed to carry the relevant maintenance load and have passed a Class 1 test for the combined glass, glazing method and support system.

See typical examples below.



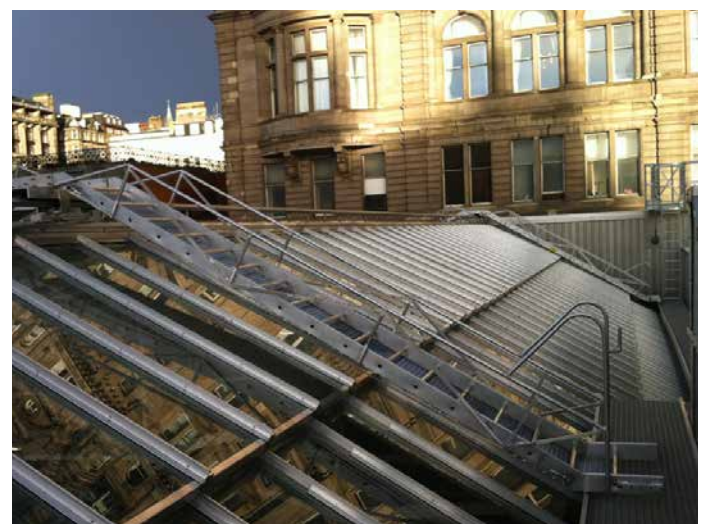
Class 2 = Rooflights where people are not intended to walk on the glass, but which are required to be non-fragile to protect people in the following circumstances:

- Where maintenance personnel walking adjacent to the glass rooflight could trip or fall onto the glass surface.



- Where maintenance personnel working on the glass rooflight could fall onto the glass surface from crawler boards or other access equipment.

See typical examples below.



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Class 3 = Rooflights which have not been assessed as complying with Class 0, 1 or 2 are considered as fragile.

Routine maintenance such as cleaning may be carried out from behind the barrier with long handled equipment or from a gantry or access platform. During such operations maintenance workers should not be able to fall onto the glass surface.

Some activities such as detailed inspection and sealant repairs may not be possible when working from behind a barrier or from a gantry or mobile elevating work platform. In such circumstances crawler boards may be used but these must either have adequate guard rails or alternative protection such as harnesses must be in use.



See typical example of suitable protection above.