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Review façade cavity drainage & pressure-equalization

Review façade cavity drainage and pressure-equalization strategy in design using an interactive checklist that is commentable and can export as PDF/Excel.

Project:
Date:
Filled by:

Design Inputs & Criteria

1	Derive zone-specific design wind pressures (kPa) using wind-tunnel report or recognized method; tabulate serviceability and ultimate values. Evidence: signed calculation sheet and pressure map; Acceptance: pressures referenced on elevations and details.
2	Establish driving-rain exposure using local climate data (mm/h and wind m/s); size drainage and venting accordingly. Evidence: climate summary and basis-of-design memo; Acceptance: exposure class noted on general notes.
3	Set target pressure-equalization response time by calc or CFD; aim for rapid response under step gusts. Evidence: spreadsheet or simulation screenshot; Acceptance: response criterion stated in specifications.
4	Confirm corrosion and durability category for cavity components; specify compatible alloys, coatings, and membranes. Evidence: specification excerpts; Acceptance: service life aligned with façade design life.

Cavity & Vent Geometry

5	Dimension a continuous vertical cavity depth of 25–50 mm behind cladding, clear of obstructions. Method: scale-check on sections; Evidence: redlined details; Acceptance: minimum 25 mm clear after tolerances.
6	Provide vent free area at base and top of each compartment; target $\geq 50 \text{ cm}^2$ per metre run. Method: vent area spreadsheet; Evidence: vent schedule; Acceptance: free area listed on details.
7	Specify insect/rodent screens with stainless or polymer mesh, 1–3 mm aperture, low blockage. Evidence: product datasheet; Acceptance: screen location and fixing shown on details.
8	Maintain 10 mm minimum clearance between insulation/drainage mat and vent openings to avoid clogging. Method: section review; Evidence: annotated detail; Acceptance: clearance dimensioned and noted.

Air/Water Barriers & Seals

9	Define a continuous primary air barrier (AB) plane with sealed transitions at slab edges, columns, and openings. Method: AB continuity redline; Evidence: AB diagram; Acceptance: no unsealed breaks shown.
10	Detail weather-resistive barrier (WRB) laps shingle-fashion ≥ 100 mm with terminations into flashings. Method: detail review; Evidence: keyed notes; Acceptance: lap dimensions called out.
11	Limit open-joint widths or add baffles so water reaching the cavity is drained, not driven inward. Method: joint section check; Evidence: joint schedule; Acceptance: joint strategy noted for each zone.
12	Select sealants/gaskets with movement capability \geq calculated joint demand and substrate compatibility. Method: movement calc vs datasheet; Evidence: submittal with compatibility note; Acceptance: movement rating meets or exceeds demand.

Flashings & Drainage Paths

13	Provide base flashing with outward kick, slope $\geq 6^\circ$, and end dams ≥ 25 mm. Method: detail review; Evidence: redline; Acceptance: slope and end-dam dimensions specified.
14	Detail head flashings and drip edges at openings with drip projection ≥ 10 mm to shed water clear. Method: elevation/section check; Evidence: marked details; Acceptance: drip dimension shown.
15	Include through-wall flashings at slab edges and façade transitions; upstand ≥ 100 mm and laps ≥ 150 mm. Method: detail cross-check; Evidence: callouts; Acceptance: dimensions indicated on drawings.
16	Confirm uninterrupted drainage path from cavity to exterior via weeps/slots without capillary traps. Method: water-path trace on sections; Evidence: annotated trace; Acceptance: no reverse falls or dams.

Compartmentalization, Fire & Movement

17	Lay out pressure-equalization compartments typically ≤ 1.5 m high and one bay wide with sealed perimeters. Method: elevation markup; Evidence: compartment map; Acceptance: boundaries dimensioned and labeled.
18	Specify cavity barriers/fire-stops at compartment lines; where ventilation is required, use tested ventilated/intumescent units. Evidence: product datasheet; Acceptance: location tags on plans and sections.
19	Check structural deflection and service movements; size joints and supports to maintain ≥ 10 mm clear cavity under movement. Method: deflection calc review; Evidence: movement table; Acceptance: clearance maintained.
20	Detail sliding/adjustable connections so panels move without abrading WRB or blocking vents. Method: connection detail review; Evidence: marked joint details; Acceptance: movement paths shown.

Testing, Maintenance & Documentation	
21	Define mock-up tests for rain penetration and pressure-response per approved project specifications and authority requirements. Evidence: test plan with pass/fail criteria; Acceptance: referenced on spec section.
22	Provide cleaning and inspection access to vent screens and flashings; document method and interval. Evidence: O&M; notes; Acceptance: access points dimensioned and reachable within 500 mm.
23	Create a vent-area schedule and equalization calculation sheet; link to drawings. Evidence: uploaded PDF/Excel; Acceptance: cross-references match detail tags.
24	Record multidisciplinary sign-offs (architect, envelope consultant, contractor) with dates and actions closed. Evidence: signatures and comment log; Acceptance: all high-risk items closed before IFC issue.

Comments:

Filled by:

Signature:

Introduction	How to use this checklist
<p>Review façade cavity drainage and pressure-equalization strategy in design ensures rainscreen drainage, pressure equalized rainscreen performance, and reliable cavity ventilation are integrated into coordinated details. This checklist targets envelope engineers, architects, and QA reviewers focusing on the drainage plane, air barrier continuity, and controlled venting that enable rapid pressure equalization and reduced water ingress. It confines scope to design deliverables: drawings, specifications, calculations, mock-up criteria, and interface coordination, not installation execution. By validating cavity depth, vent free area, compartment baffles, weeps, and flashings, teams minimize risks like water tracking, wet insulation, corrosion, mold, and freeze–thaw damage. Outcomes include predictable rain management, faster pressure response to wind gusts, serviceable interfaces, and documentation that supports testing and approvals. Use this interactive, commentable tool to assign actions, capture markups, attach calculations, and record approvals. Tick items as complete, add notes, and export as PDF/Excel with a secure QR code for traceable sign-off.</p>	<p>1. Preparation: Assemble elevations, sections, details, specifications, wind/rain data, and prior calculations. Have CAD/BIM, a calculator or spreadsheet, and product datasheets ready. Ensure team roles and review deadlines are defined. 2. Preparation: Open a project folder for evidence capture, including redlines, screenshots, and sign-offs. Confirm access to the platform from site and office devices. 3. Using the Interactive Checklist: Start interactive mode, assign items to team members, and set due dates. Tick progress as you complete each review task. 4. Using the Interactive Checklist: Add comments on each item, attach marked-up drawings, calculations, and datasheets. Use photo uploads for mock-up evidence and link detail tags. 5. Using the Interactive Checklist: Generate a live vent-area and compartment schedule from your spreadsheet and upload the PDF/Excel for traceability. 6. Using the Interactive Checklist: Filter open actions by risk (e.g., interfaces, high wind zones) and notify responsible parties through the comment thread. 7. Sign-Off: When all high-risk items are closed, finalize with digital signatures from architect, envelope consultant, and contractor representatives. 8. Sign-Off: Export the full record as PDF/Excel. Share the QR-authenticated package with stakeholders and archive in the project CDE.</p>