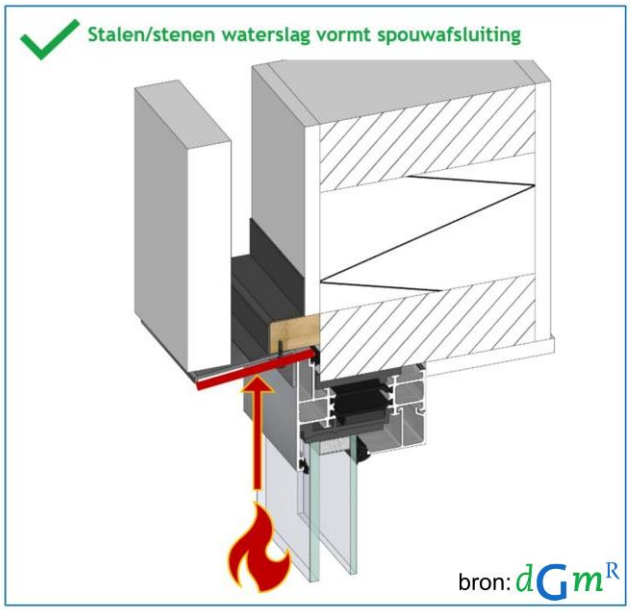
FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY OF FACADE CLADDING: PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE LEGISLATION

No building is 100% fireproof. Therefore, the primary goal of fire legislation is not to eliminate the risk of fire entirely but to ensure that, in the event of a fire, residents or users have sufficient time to evacuate the building safely and efficiently. This means, above all, that the fire must not be allowed to spread rapidly through the building. This is achieved by dividing the building into compartments separated by walls with increased fire resistance.

When we apply this philosophy to ventilated facade constructions, we see that the legislator aims to prevent fire from spreading quickly through the facade cladding to other parts of the building or even to adjacent buildings. The requirements are stricter for medium to high-rise buildings because residents and users need more time to reach the exit, especially those who cannot evacuate on their own (e.g., patients or residents of care facilities).



A vertically continuous cavity endangers spaces on multiple floors almost simultaneously. Therefore, it is crucial to limit or stop fire propagation by using continuous horizontal facade interruptions or cavity barriers.

To prevent fire spread from easily accessing the upper air cavity during an external fire, the closure of the air cavity above a window frame also deserves attention and must be made of non-combustible, non-melting materials.
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