



MGMA HELPS DEVELOP BEST PRACTICE

Since its formation in 1994 the Metal Gutter Manufacturers Association (MGMA) has been instrumental in raising standards within the industry and the latest evidence of its influence is that MGMA, in collaboration with BSI, is developing a new best practice British Standard for the design and manufacture of metal gutter systems.

In the absence of an existing standard for general metal gutter systems, the MGMA has been at the forefront of a campaign to develop the first standard in this field. The new standard will specify requirements for the design and manufacture of metal gutters on industrial, commercial and residential buildings. It will reflect the advancement of available materials and manufacturing technologies and will apply to the manufacture of all heavy duty metal gutter systems, not just steel. The new standard is expected to be published in early 2014.

Tony Wereszczynski, MGMA chairman, 'We are delighted that work on this new standard is now going ahead. The MGMA has engaged experts from all sectors of this industry to assist in the drafting process ensuring that all aspect of this product is fully and comprehensively represented. This is a very large marketplace which at present is completely unregulated due to a lack of a national or even European standard, and which often leads to poor quality products being used. The new standard will be used by bespoke and proprietary metal gutter manufacturers, construction consultants, architects and installers of commercial and domestic buildings to ensure that metal gutters are correctly specified and manufactured'.

The MGMA is the authority on metal gutter systems and plays an influential part in the raising of standards in building materials specification. In addition to developing a performance specification for steel gutters MGMA, again in collaboration with the British Standards Institute, introduced BS 8530:2010, a new national standard for traditional UK historic styles of aluminium gutters.

This standard covers traditional cast and extruded aluminium gutters and fittings, together with extruded aluminium rainwater pipes with cast aluminium sockets and fittings. The standard will ensure that the integrity and quality of the UK's traditional gutter styles are protected for use on the refurbishment of the country's historic buildings as well as for use on retro-style new buildings in keeping with British architectural heritage.

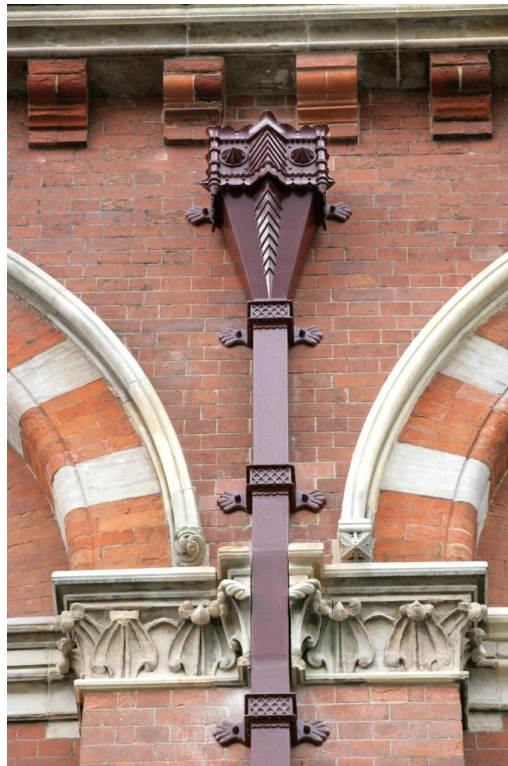


Traditional Moulded Ogee gutter system installed at the BRE Innovation Park, Watford. Image courtesy of Alutec

In a further initiative to improve both knowledge and standards within the industry, the MGMA has published a series of data sheets designed to educate specifiers, contractors and home owners, about the type of metal gutter systems available, their application, superior life expectancy and unrivalled value over other low cost material alternatives.

The *Guidelines on Membrane Gutter Thickness* data sheet highlights the need to set an industry-wide minimum thickness criteria of 1.2mm for both steel substrates and membrane which is required in order to negate the risk of abrasion to the membrane, caused by the foot traffic necessary to maintain the gutters after installation. The new guidelines issued by MGMA will help to minimise the risks associated with gutter maintenance and ultimately pay dividends.

Two new features have been added to the web site to simplify the metal gutter specification process. A product matrix has been designed to help specifiers quickly find a suitable manufacturer for their next project. Users can select from ten different material types, including fabricated steel, cast iron, cast aluminium etc. There is also an option to select from product application type namely, non-domestic, domestic, heritage, new build and refurbishment.



*St Pancras Station cast iron hopper
Image courtesy of Alumasc*

During the past 17 years MGMA has represented the leading UK manufacturers of metal gutter systems and the growing membership is a testament to the respect and authority that the MGMA has gained within this industry over this period. Membership is open to all companies that manufacture and market metal gutters, downpipes and their associated fittings in the United Kingdom.

The Association seeks to foster and take part in research and all forms of technical development in relation to metal gutters and to encourage the best methods of their production and use within the construction and allied industries.

Metal guttering systems are designed and manufactured to give many years of reliable service and detailed guidance can be found on the MGMA web site at www.mgma.co.uk.

Tony Wereszczynski, the MGMA chairman, discusses the MGMA's collaboration with BSi to develop a best practice British Standard for metal gutter systems.

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