

BSWC01 Maximum Length for Vertical Wall Cladding

3 February 2026

Version 1

The Metal Roofing and Wall Cladding Code of Practice (COP) does not have a maximum recommended length for vertical profiled metal wall cladding, either direct-fixed or on a drained cavity.

Figure 9.1.8.4 of E2/AS1 limits the height of continuous cavities behind all cladding types to 2 stories or 7 metres, to limit the amount of water a cavity may have to drain. Profiled metal cladding does not have this restriction. The laps are very weathertight, and profiled metal cladding have been designed for exposure as a roofing material.

Leaks on profiled metal cladding are not cumulative over length. They invariably reflect poor installation of architectural features such as windows and penetrations.

By virtue of their irregular shape, profiled metal cladding also provide better passive ventilation to the drained cavity, which helps prevent internal moisture build-up and assists natural drying.

It is therefore our recommendation that the cavity height behind vertically fixed profiled metal roofing should only be limited by practical considerations (such as transport, site access, and handling) to a practical maximum of 15 metres for residential buildings, and 20 metres for non-residential.

Yours Sincerely,

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