5: Installing vertical cladding
New build

This drawing is for vertical cladding fixed to a timber frame structure. For masonry walls the same batten and cladding configuration may be used.

Counter battens are an essential design detail for vertical cladding to permit unrestricted drainage and air circulation in the cavity. Counter battens must be at least 16mm thick.

Cladding support battens should be at least twice the thickness of an individual board.

The top edge should be machined, prior to preservative treatment, to an angle (15°) sufficient to shed water running down the back of the cladding into the ventilation cavity.

Battens should be preservative treated to Use Class 3.

A cavity of at least 21mm is required to permit air circulation and unrestricted drainage.

All openings into the cavity should be fitted with insect mesh.

Cavity gap (min 21mm)

Counter batten (min 16mm thick)

Horizontal batten (min 16mm thick) angled to shed water into the cavity

Breather membrane (not essential for cladding fixed to a masonry building with cavity walls)

Insect mesh to be fixed across all openings (not illustrated)