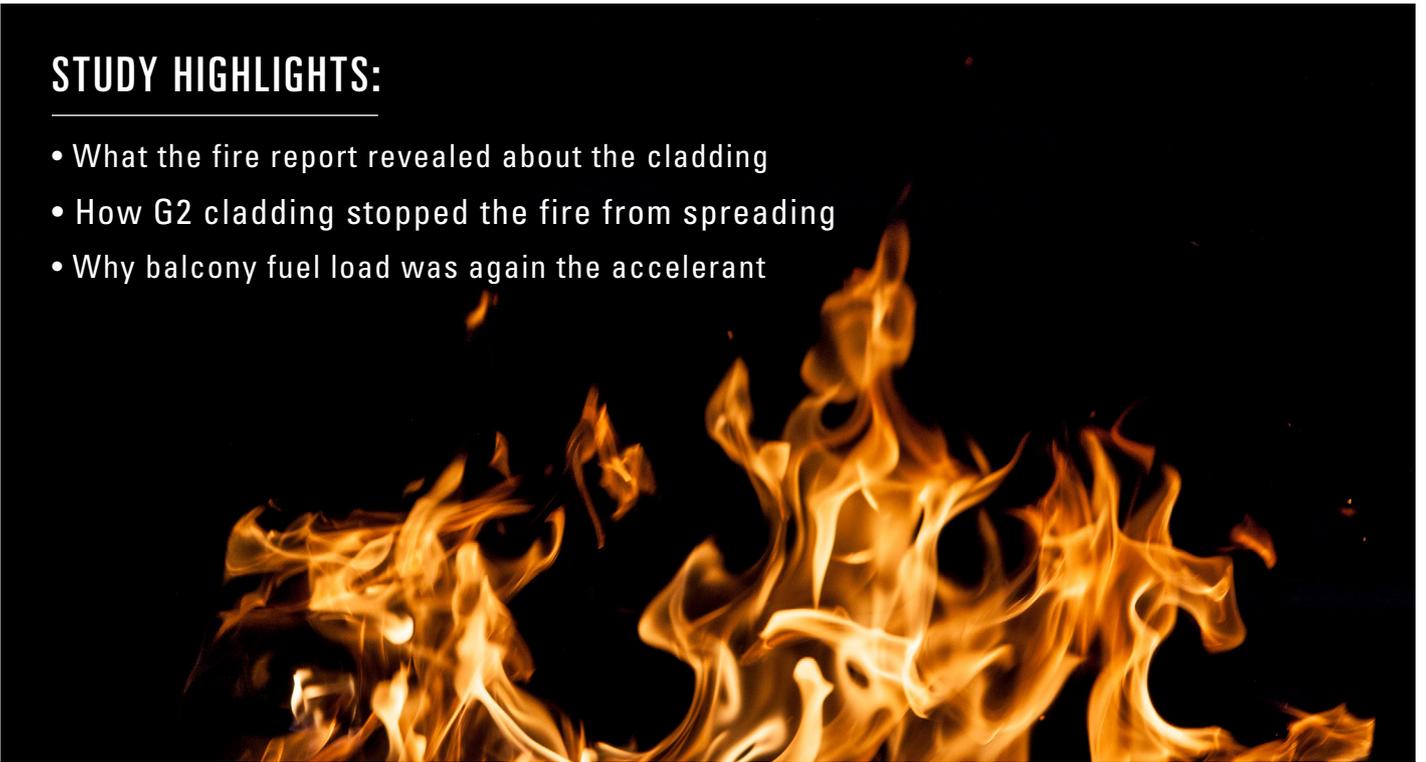


CLADDING UNDER FIRE

A CASE STUDY FROM THE FAÇADE FRONTLINE

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS:

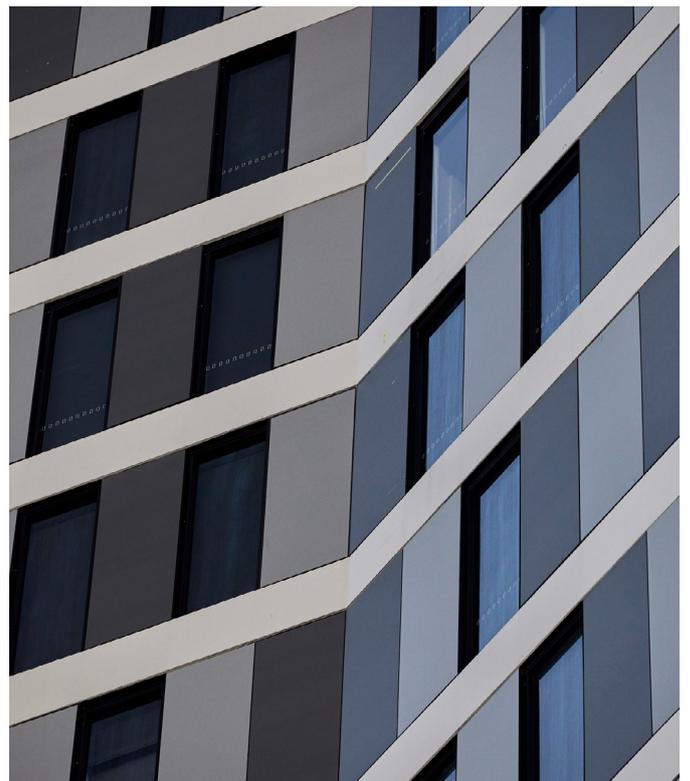
- What the fire report revealed about the cladding
- How G2 cladding stopped the fire from spreading
- Why balcony fuel load was again the accelerant



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vitracore G2 did not ignite, flame or conduct fire even under 20-minutes of fire attack. After discarded cigarette butts ignited a fuel source of stored domestic items - including paper and food packaging on a high-rise balcony - an aircon unit and fridge also caught fire: Yet the balcony's cladding - Vitracore G2 - only showed soot and smoke marks after 20+ minutes of fire.

The MFB report into the 2019 incident confirmed that the G2 bonded aluminium cladding was located next to the likely fire locus. And while the immediate cladding melted, it did not conduct or spread the fire around the building's 8th floor. In effect, the G2 cladding acted as a de-facto fire break, stopping the fire engulfing the clad façade.



SYNOPSIS REPORT

PERCEPTION PROBLEMS

While many reports claim all cladding is combustible, real-life fires involving bonded aluminium cladding (e.g. Vitracore G2) have not made headlines over contained fires at The Fifth building in Melbourne's Rose Lane in 2019, nor at an under construction site at the Paper Mill apartments in Sydney in 2017.

Why? In both cases, while fire swarmed around the sites, the cladding didn't conduct or promote the fire; it actually inhibited it both times! So, clearly, whether in independent verified tests or in real-life incidents, Vitracore G2 cladding exhibits strong, fire-resistant performance.

CASE IN POINT

The latest case involved a non-occupied, 8th floor unit in Melbourne's CBD. When lit cigarette ends started a fire amid books, papers and personal effects on a balcony with no external sprinklers, residents feared for the worst. But even at the fire locus, the G2 cladding did not spread the blaze: The MFB report notes no signs of fire to external surfaces of the building, except to walls near the fire source. The exteriors were also clad in Vitracore G2, yet evidence shows zero facade ignition during the fire's 20+ minute duration.

TESTED IN THEORY & IN PRACTICE

Vitracore G2 is the most extensively tested and scrutinised cladding around. We can thank our jealous and zealous competitors for that attention. Yet whether it's at independent and verified test facilities like Exova, or in real-life installations in Melbourne or Sydney, G2 is the deemed non-combustible alternative to ACP, as its performance shows. Remember, these latest facts come from an independent MFB incident report!

NOT ALL CLADDING IS EQUAL

As a bonded aluminium product, Vitracore G2 is not an ACP and has zero PE component, yet it's lightweight, rigid, flat and cost-effective enough to be installed like traditional Aluminium Composite Panels (ACP). It's the leading and highest-performing, compliant cladding in its category - with good reason.

CASE CLOSED

As this Dec 2019 case shows, some cladding types don't promote fire. There are legitimate concerns over cladding being used in the wrong application, but that shouldn't be cause to vilify all aluminium cladding.

Any cladding exposed to sustained fire for 20+ minutes could fire or flame, but Vitracore G2 didn't - it melted and gave off smoke and soot traces, according to the official "Firey's" report.

If you want facts over fiction and proof over piffle, ask to see this case: Whether in person or on a conference call, we'll take you through the report; it's all there in black and white!

