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Durability Test of Cold-Bent Insulating Glass Units

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Abstract

Cold-bent glass has been utilized in a number of landmark projects globally, owing to its cost-effectiveness and low carbon footprint. To investigate the impact of cold bending loads on the long-term performance of insulating laminated glass, this paper proposes a durability testing method for cold-bent glass. This method is based on the hypothesis that the failure of the glass sealing system is caused by the cold bending process. It is novel in its use of full-scale glass panel specimens subjected to the maximum design cold-bend curvature to replicate the worst-case sealing boundary conditions present in actual installations. This method comprises three components: cold bending, cyclic immersion in water, and high–low temperature cycling. The durability is evaluated by assessing the laminating condition and sealing performance of the insulating laminated glass before and after testing. In total, 24 insulating glass samples from an actual engineering project were studied by the proposed methodology. The results indicate the following: (1) the proposed method demonstrates strong operational feasibility, suitable for durability testing and the assessment of cold-bent insulating laminated glass across diverse dimensions; (2) no significant quality or sealing issues were observed in the tested samples during the tests, suggesting that durability is minimally affected when the glass's cold bending warpage is controlled within certain range; and (3) a discernible trend observed in the full-scale test data is that cold bending results in increased misalignment and decreased argon content. These findings provide a valuable reference for the design and construction of cold-bent glass curtain wall projects.

Keywords: cold-bent glass; insulating glass; durability; laminated glass; building curtain wall

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Academic Editor: Ahmed Senouci

Received: 8 December 2025
Revised: 9 January 2026
Accepted: 14 January 2026
Published: 19 January 2026

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1. Introduction

With the modernization of the global economy, architectural design continues to evolve, with curved forms consistently favored by architects and clients alike. Curved glass curtain walls, in particular, have seen widespread application in construction projects [1].

Currently, curved building facades are primarily constructed using triangular flat glass panels, heat-bent glass, and cold-bent glass [2]. The triangular panel splicing method, which introduces numerous divisions and framing structures that impair both exterior esthetics and interior daylighting, has been gradually phased out by the industry. Although heat-bent glass achieves an excellent curved appearance, each pane requires the creation

of a bespoke mold [3]. This method is neither energy-efficient nor economical, and also poses significant challenges in terms of processing and transportation [4]. By contrast, cold-bent glass offers advantages such as strong adaptability, ease of processing, short production cycles, convenient transportation and storage, and low cost, all while ensuring its architectural effect. However, the realization of cold-bent glass necessitates its on-site formation through external force, a process that induces permanent stresses within the glass panels and ancillary components. These stresses do not dissipate after installation but persist throughout all operational phases of the glazing system [5]. This will result in increased peak internal stresses during the glass's service life, and such permanent stresses may also exert unknown effects upon the glass's durability.

Cold-bent glass has a service history of nearly three decades, with its inaugural application dating back to the skylight of 's-Hertogenbosch Station' in 1997 [6]. Advancements in applied research and related technologies have since facilitated its adoption in notable projects including the bus station in Amsterdam, Evolution Tower in Moscow, and Opus in Dubai [7]. The typical glass configuration has evolved from initial single-pane applications to the use of laminated and insulating glass units. Typically, cold-bent surfaces are single-curvature, developable surfaces, while double-curvature shapes can also be achieved via cold bending [8]. Bidirectional curvature induces higher stresses in glass; hence, single curvature is the most commonly employed technical approach [9]. To ensure the stresses in cold-bent glass remain within permissible limits, the conventional approach involves rationalizing architectural surfaces using interactive 3D software for automated design optimization. This form-finding process aims to strike an optimal balance between smoothness, maximum stress, and geometric fidelity [10].

Driven by the main development trends of cold bending and practical engineering needs, current glass research focuses on the following four areas: the numerical simulation of cold-bent glass, the mechanical response of the interlayer in laminated cold-bent glass, the influence of shape on the internal forces of cold-bent glass, and the stability of cold-bent glass.

Advances in fundamental theoretical applications have enabled the extensive use of computational numerical simulation in areas such as structural strength analysis, stability assessment, and seismic design. Numerical simulation has proven to be an effective approach for investigating the mechanical response of cold-bent glass [11]. It has been used to determine if peak stresses exceed the glass fracture limit and, when combined with numerical analysis methods, to perform reliability analysis of random factors, ensuring that the guidance derived from simulations is meaningful [5]. Zhang et al. [12] discovered through numerical simulation analysis that the region of maximum principal tensile stress in the cold-bent plate is located near the corners adjacent to the bent edges. The stress magnitude at the short-edge corners is greater than that at the long-edge corners. In engineering practice, the panels are subjected to not only the stresses induced by cold bending but also to sustained environmental loads. Simulation analysis reveals that temperature effects have a marked influence on the internal state of cold-bent glass [13], exhibiting a coupling phenomenon between the residual cold bending stresses and the maximum principal stress induced by thermal loading [14].

The polymer interlayer provides post-breakage ductility and residual strength to the glass panel. Furthermore, its viscoelastic behavior can lead to a redistribution of the internal stresses induced by cold bending. The use of laminated glass complicates overall stress analysis and prediction, as its polymer interlayer interacts with the glass deformation during the cold bending process. A fractional calculus model allows for the characterization of the viscoelastic response under cold bending conditions and the relaxation behavior of the polymer, leading to the determination of the interlayer shear coupling behavior in

laminated glass. This method does not consider geometric nonlinearity or large deformation assumptions, limiting its current application to qualitative analysis [15,16]. An assessment of the spatial shear stress distribution in cold-bent laminated glass, based on the quasi-elastic approximation theory, reveals that stress increases with the polymer's shear modulus, leading to significant stress concentrations which can cause delamination in the laminated glass. However, due to the polymer's viscous nature, these stress concentrations gradually attenuate over time [9]. This stress concentration is influenced by both the shear modulus and the thickness of the polymer interlayer. In glass with a 0.76 mm interlayer, insufficient thickness results in the excessive transfer of internal forces, leading to glass fracture [4].

Besides the interlayer thickness, cold bending geometric dimensions also significantly affect the internal force distribution. Notably, the use of a sinusoidal profile prevents stress concentration near the beam ends, even with a high interlayer shear modulus [17]. Moreover, the cold bending radius exerts a far greater influence on cold bending stress than cavity thickness and glass thickness, with the latter variations having a negligible effect on cold bending stress [18,19]. The intrinsic viscoelastic changes in the material complicate the identification of stresses in the panel.

Being a thin shell structure, the stability of glass has been extensively studied. In experimental and numerical investigations concerning the cold bending of single-pane glass plates into saddle-shaped surfaces, global buckling instability phenomena were observed in the panels [20]. Subsequent research has yielded a deeper understanding of the instability in free-form doubly curved glass panels [21]. Combined with numerical analysis, a formula for calculating the buckling instability of point-supported, single-layer, cold-bent glass was developed, thereby establishing a basis for its control [22]. Cold bending can compromise both the overall stability and local buckling resistance of the glass, ultimately affecting its optical performance [20].

While significant advances have been made in understanding the mechanical behavior of cold-bent glass, research into its long-term durability over the full life cycle remains relatively limited. Current research on the durability of cold-bent glass primarily focuses on the numerical simulation of sealants at glass joints [23], aiming to analyze their response to the permanent loads induced by cold bending. Furthermore, the cold-bent state of full-scale insulating glass units was simulated numerically to determine the glass strain. Following the American Standard specifications, the strain state of designated small-sized insulating glass units was replicated to comply with the durability testing requirements for standard-limited dimensions. The test criteria are based on the dew point and argon gas content [24]. In addition to the American standards, the European standard EN 1279 sets forth more detailed requirements for the durability of insulating glass [25]. However, none of the aforementioned research methods have involved full-scale physical testing for cold bending durability. Consequently, research on the durability of glass in a cold-bent state remains at the stage of theoretical feasibility. Furthermore, existing research has overlooked complex glazing systems, such as laminated insulating glass, and no validated test protocols for assessing their long-term durability have been established.

The cold bending process subjects glass to permanent loads and long-term deformation, with forces transmitted to the interlayer adhesive and sealing structures, potentially causing issues such as delamination and seal failure. The durability of conventional insulating glass units can be evaluated using standardized laboratory tests involving UV irradiation, humidity cycling, and thermal cycling. However, cold-bent glass must maintain the designed cold bend amount as an engineered product, rendering the fabrication of small-sized standard test specimens impractical. Consequently, traditional durability testing methods have proven to be unsuitable. To address this, the hypothesis that the failure of the glass sealing system is caused by the cold bending process forms the basis of

this investigation. This paper presents a durability testing method specifically designed for cold-bent insulating laminated glass, alongside the development of corresponding testing equipment and apparatus. This study was designed with two primary objectives: (1) to investigate the effect of cold bending on durability by comparing control and cold-bent specimens, and (2) to evaluate the long-term environmental durability of the glass sealing system. The method comprises three test phases: cold bending, cyclic immersion in water, and high–low temperature cycling. The durability is assessed by comparing the visual quality and sealing performance of the insulating laminated glass before and after testing.

2. Test Procedure

In cold-bent glass curtain wall projects, insulating laminated glass is extensively employed to fulfill dual requirements for safety and energy efficiency. The panels are connected via polymeric interlayers and edge spacers. During the cold bending process, the glass panes, the interlayer, and the edge–seal junctions are subjected to permanent loads and deformations. To investigate the durability of such cold-bent glass under service environments, the test method incorporates three phases: cold bending load application, cyclic water immersion, and thermal cycling, simulating the combined effects of bending stress and in-service climatic conditions. The test results are evaluated by characterizing the interlayer integrity and the edge seal condition, reflecting the durability of the laminated and insulating units, respectively. The key test items are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Test Items.

Serial Number	Assessment Content	Test Items	Testing Equipment
1	Laminated state	Bubbles and delamination.	Visual inspection and magnifying glass
2	Sealing performance	Dew point and argon content	Dew point meter (manufacturer: China Academy of Building Research, Beijing, China) (Figure 1a) and argon content analyzer (manufacturer: HELANTEC, Bruchsal, Germany) (Figure 1b)

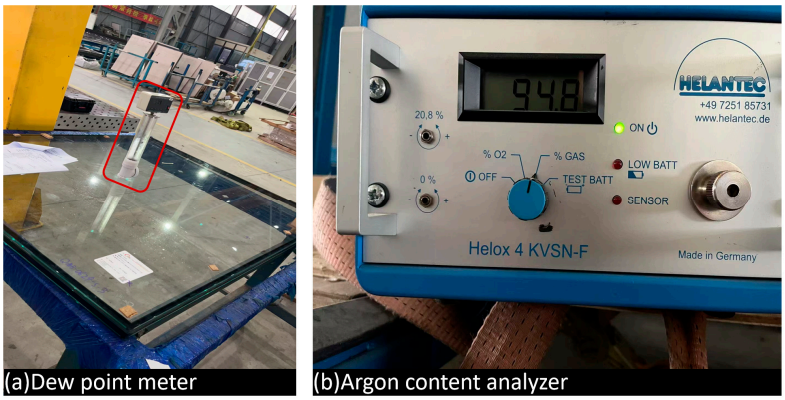


Figure 1. Testing equipment.

2.1. Cold Bending Loading Test Procedure

Common cold bending techniques include corner bending, long-edge bending, and cylindrical bending. To achieve the desired bent state, a customized platform must be configured according to the glass dimensions and bending method. The supporting frames are machined to the target bent shape and assembled into a loading platform. To ensure accuracy, the fabricated frame is measured using 3D scanning, and products failing to meet tolerances are reworked. Spatially adjustable connectors are used during the installation to

ensure the precise positioning of the steel frame. The loading process is guided by a 3D digital model to define the bending amount and path, and uniformly distributed press bars are used to deform the glass to the target shape. Due to the time-dependent viscoelastic behavior of the interlayer and sealant, the glass must rest for one week after bending to allow stress redistribution before proceeding to subsequent tests.

As shown in Figure 2, the test comprises the following four steps:

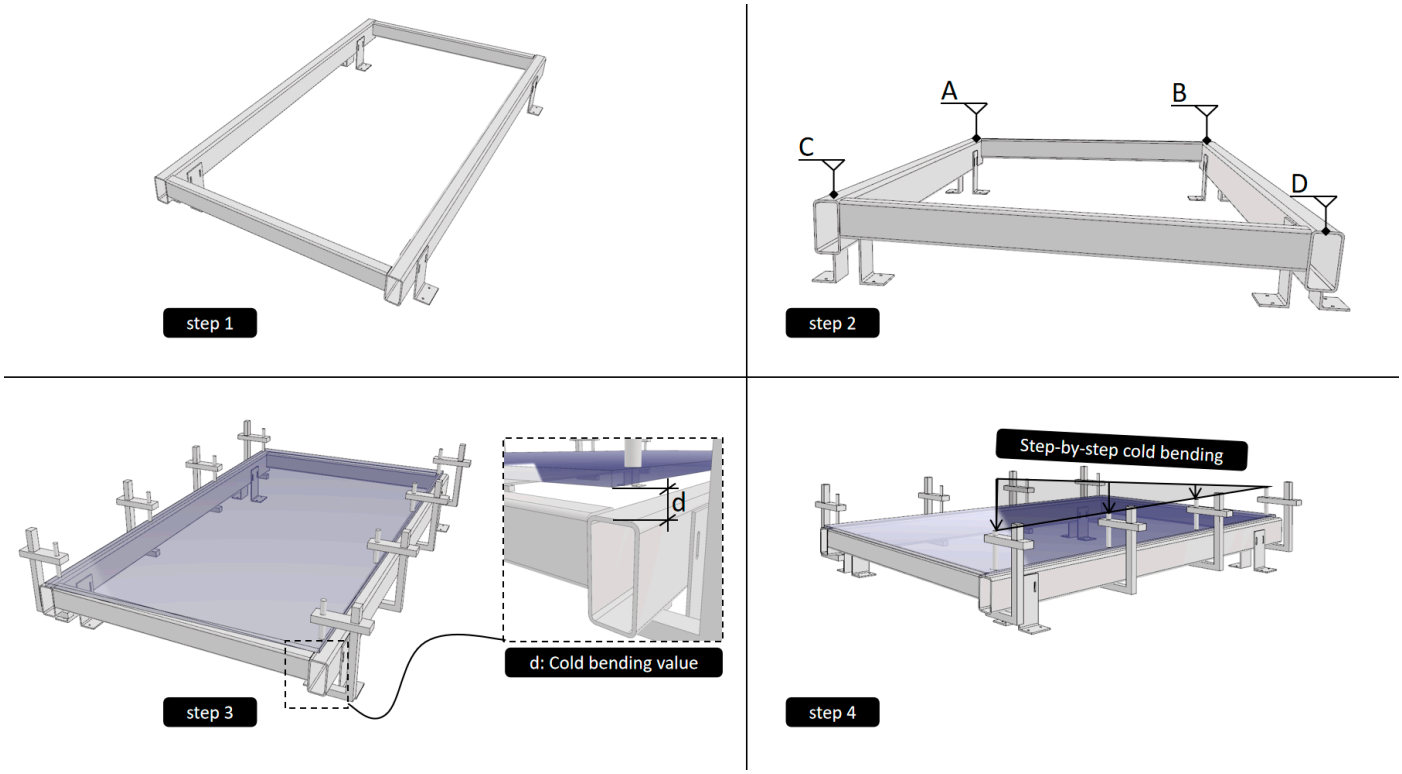


Figure 2. Cold bending test flowchart.

Step 1: Test Bench Assembly. The supporting frame members are machined and fabricated to the required shape. To ensure precise installation, a 3D, adjustable, L-shaped adapter is used, with the height adjustment provided by a vertical slotted hole (A), as shown in Figure 3, allowing the test bench to be positioned accurately.

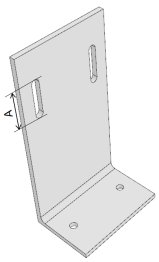


Figure 3. Connection detail drawing.

Step 2: Frame Accuracy Verification and Adjustment. A 3D scan of the assembled test frame is performed to verify critical dimensions, such as the heights at points A–D. If deviations exceed specified tolerances, adjustments are made until the required accuracy is achieved before proceeding.

Step 3: Installation of the Flat Glass Panel. Install a flat glass panel sized to match the test bench. The cold bending deflection is then measured at specified locations to verify

compliance with the test requirements. Finally, G-clamps are installed around the perimeter to secure the panel, addressing both fixation and bending requirements.

Step 4: Cold Bending Load Application. After installation, the glass sample is secured to the frame with perimeter G-clamps and then bent to the target shape.

2.2. Cyclic Immersion Test Procedure

Following cold bending, the test first considers the durability performance of insulating laminated glass under simulated environmental service conditions. Water leakage at glazing joints due to sealant failure or poor workmanship is a common issue, allowing moisture ingress that compromises the system's watertight integrity. To validate product quality under such conditions while maintaining the cold-bent state, the test employs a custom water tank large enough to fully submerge the entire test setup (rig and panel). The protocol consists of six cycles, each with a 1-day immersion phase followed by a 7-day drying phase. This wet–dry cyclic design ensures sufficient moisture impact and better simulates real-world service conditions. The test cycle for water seal durability follows the Chinese Standard GB 11944-2012 [26], "Insulating Glass," with its duration aligning with the specified requirements.

As shown in Figure 4, the test comprises the following two steps:

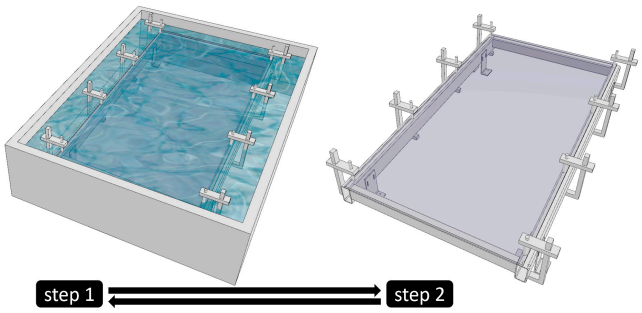


Figure 4. Cyclic immersion test.

Step 1: Immersion State. Submerge the cold-bent glass test bench and panel entirely in water, ensuring the liquid level remains above the test specimen 10 cm to facilitate complete contact between the liquid and the sealing material on the glass sides. The immersion period shall be one day.

Step 2: Drying Phase. After immersion, the specimen is placed in a dry, well-ventilated environment to rest for 7 days.

Step 3: Test Cycles. A single cycle consists of Steps 1 and 2. The test comprises a total of six such cycles.

2.3. High- and Low -Temperature Cycling Test Procedure

In addition to the assessment under humid conditions, the effect of temperature on the product performance is also critical. This test employs a custom heating chamber and industrial refrigeration unit to conduct thermal cycling, following a three-stage protocol comprising high, ambient, and low temperatures.

The test comprises three stages, as follows:

Step 1: High-Temperature Loading. A custom-designed support frame with uniformly distributed photothermal sources ensures uniform thermal loading. The frame is scalable to the sample size, with a heat source spacing of 600 mm in both directions (Figure 5). The test was conducted at the product's maximum operating temperature ± 3 °C.

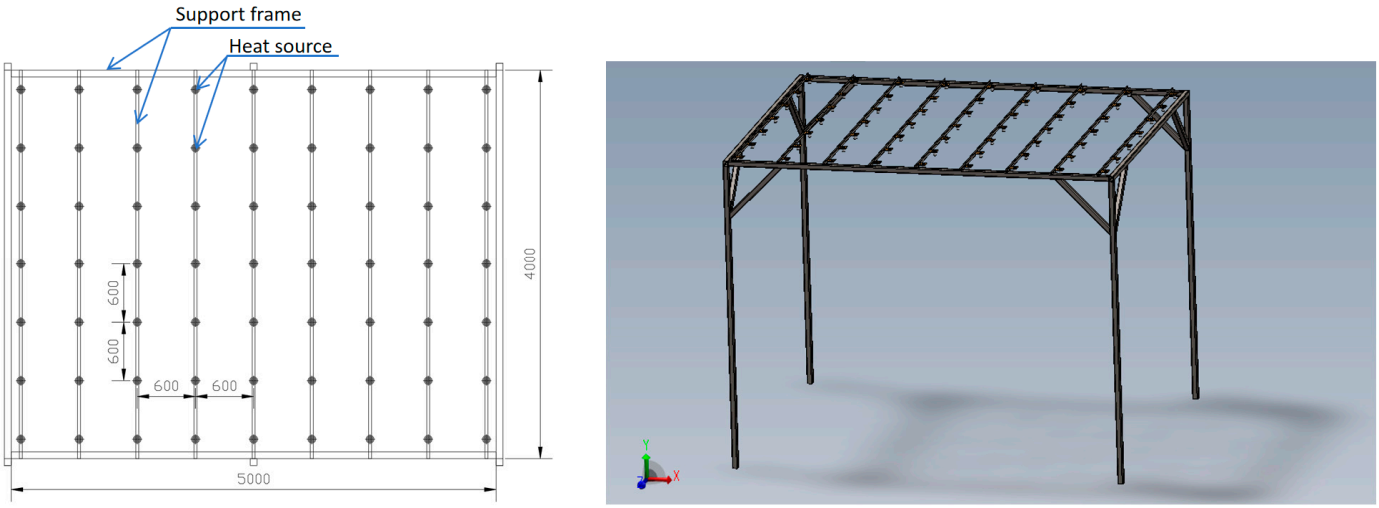


Figure 5. Custom-designed support frame.

Step 2: Equilibration at Ambient Temperature. Following the high-temperature phase, the specimen is held at room temperature for 24 h.

Step 3: Low-Temperature Loading. An industrial refrigeration system is used to maintain the temperature at the product's minimum operating temperature ±3 °C for 12 h.

3. Durability Testing for the Cold-Bent Glass in the OPPO Headquarters Building

3.1. Project Overview

The testing procedure presented in this study has been implemented in the OPPO headquarters project (Figure 6). Designed by Zaha Hadid Architects (London, UK), the building's facade features pronounced double-curvature elements. The curved glass curtain wall employs two construction methods: thermally bent glass, shaped in a factory by heating above 550 °C, is used for areas with large curvatures, while cold-bent glass, formed on-site, is applied to zones with smaller curvatures [2]. Ensuring the reliability, durability, and suitability of cold-bent products in engineering applications necessitates a thorough durability assessment.

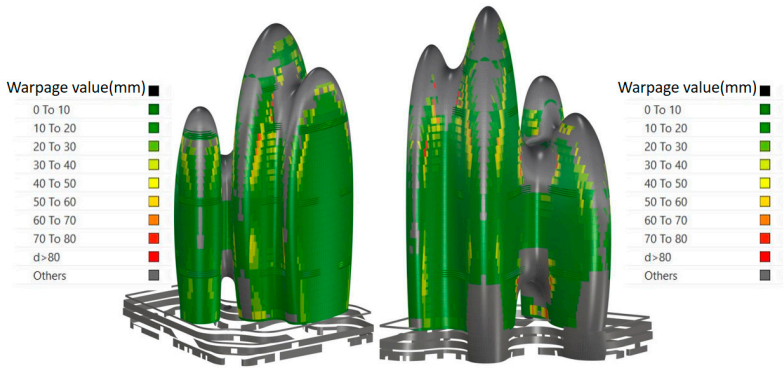


Figure 6. Analysis of cold-bent glass curvature in the OPPO headquarters building.

3.2. Test Samples

In total, 24 glass samples with representative properties were selected and categorized into three common cold bending configurations: corner bending, long-edge bending, and cylindrical bending. The maximum bending deflection for each configuration, as determined by the model, was set as the experimental target (Figure 6). Following the experimental design, four samples of each glass type were prepared: three for the test group

and one as a control. This approach minimizes experimental error and allows for comparison with non-bent glass data, thereby controlling for variable-induced perturbations.

The experimental glass configuration adopts two distinct glass types, based on the actual cold bending specifications used in the OPPO headquarters building project.

Configuration 1:

Hs10 + 2.28PvB + Hs10 + 16Ar + Hs10 + 2.28PvB + Hs10 mm (manufacturer: Luoyang North Glass Technology Co., Ltd., Luoyang, China)

Configuration 2:

Hs8 + 2.82PvB + Hs8 + 16Ar + FT8 (manufacturer: Luoyang North Glass Technology Co., Ltd., Luoyang, China)

The experimental design included three test groups and one control group, comprising 24 specimens in total (Table 2). The test and control groups contained 18 and 6 glass specimens, respectively, with a maximum cold bending warpage of 41 mm.

Table 2. Glass Sample Basic Information Form.

Cold Bending Type	Glass Type	Glass Dimensions/mm	Quantity	Maximum Warpage/mm	Cold-Bend-to-Short-Side Ratio	Cold-Bend-to-Long-Side Ratio	Glass Number
Corner bending	Configuration 1	1700 × 3243	3 + 1	41	0.0241	0.0126	QMB-4780-v-1~4
	Configuration 2	1712 × 1280	3 + 1	16	0.0125	0.0093	QMB-4780-s-1~4
Long-edge bending	Configuration 1	1451 × 3244	3 + 1	33	0.0227	0.0102	QMB-4764-v-1~4
	Configuration 2	1158 × 1282	3 + 1	15	0.0130	0.0117	QMB-0629-s-1~4
Cylindrical bending	Configuration 1	1773 × 4441	3 + 1	35	0.0197	0.0079	QMB-6611-1~4
	Configuration 2	1308 × 1778	3 + 1	14.5	0.0111	0.0082	QMB-5697-s-1~4

3.3. Test Procedure

3.3.1. Cold Bending Load Application

The cold bending process involves deforming the glass against a target framework of beams and columns shaped to the desired curvature. The glass is clamped into the framework to complete the loading, as detailed in Figure 7.

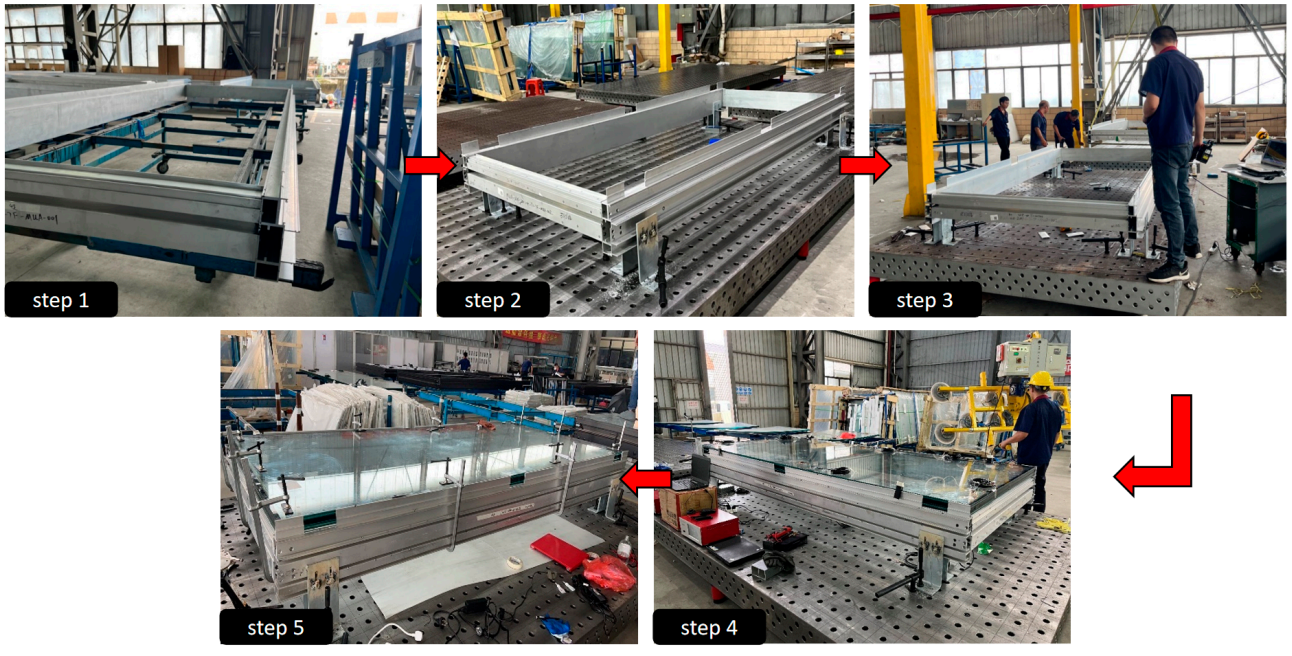


Figure 7. Glass cold bending test procedure.

Step 1: frame assembly; Step 2: frame fixation; Step 3: frame scanning; Step 4: cold bending load; and Step 5: clamp fixation.

This step secured the four corners of the frame to the required precision using mechanical bolts and slotted holes (Figure 8). The procedures are described in detail in the methodology section.

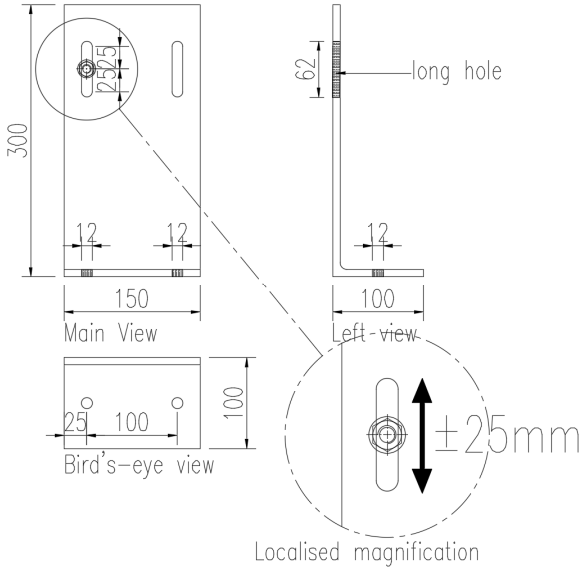


Figure 8. Steel fitting drawing.

3.3.2. Cyclic Immersion Test

The cold bending process subjects the glass panel, interlayer, and sealed cavity to permanent loads. The sealant ensures the cavity's gas retention and moisture resistance [23], while the interlayer requires edge protection with a sealant. The test protocol comprised six immersion cycles. Each cycle consisted of 24 h of full submersion (Figure 9a) followed by 7 days of ambient air exposure (Figure 9b). The performance of the insulating laminated glass was evaluated after each cycle.

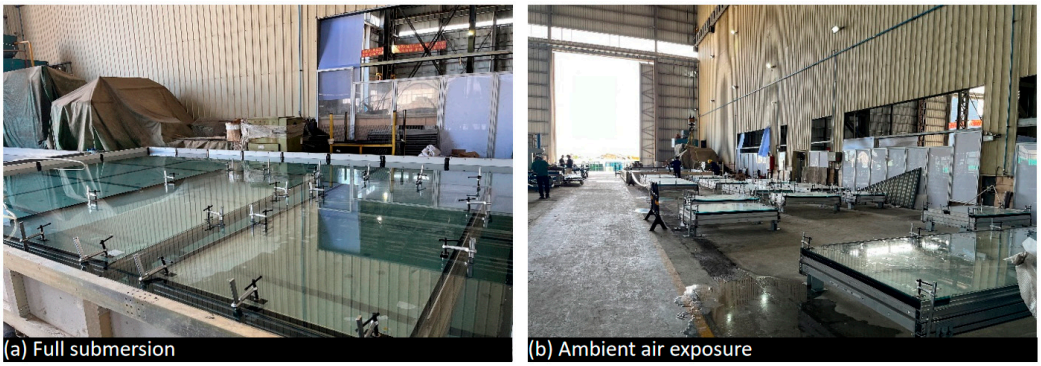


Figure 9. Cyclic immersion test.

3.3.3. High- and Low-Temperature Cycling Test

The high-temperature test used a custom enclosure (Figure 10a) measuring 5 m (width) × 4 m (depth) × 4 m (height), with 1 m long diagonal braces. Sixty-three lamps (275 W each, totaling 17.5 kW) were mounted on nine purlins (seven lamps per purlin) at 600 mm horizontal and vertical intervals (Figure 10b). The lamps heated the glass surface to the target high temperature of 50 °C ± 3 °C (Figure 10c). A refrigerated truck (Figure 11)

served as the low-temperature chamber, achieving the target of 0 °C ± 3 °C. The insulating glass units were evaluated after the thermal cycling.

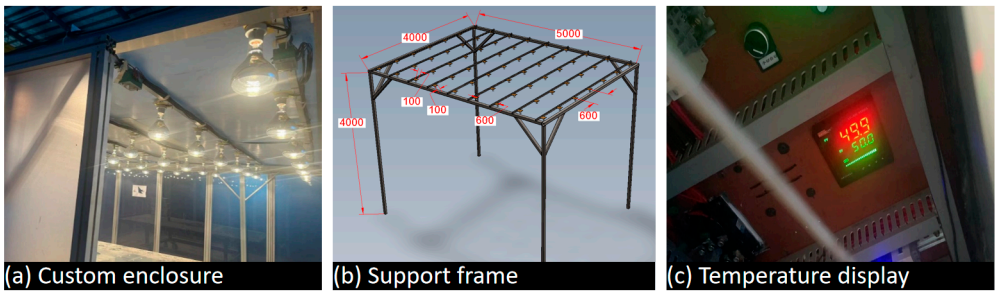


Figure 10. High-temperature test.

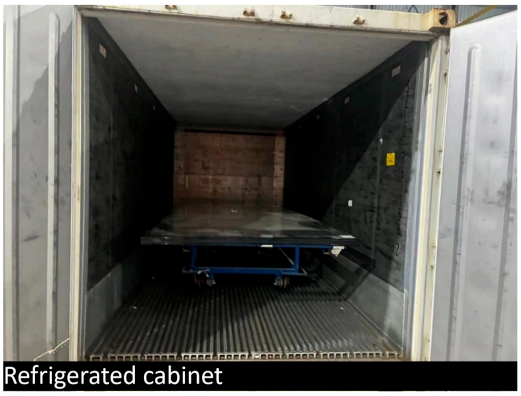


Figure 11. Low-temperature test.

The high-temperature test utilized a self-developed environmental chamber. The heat sources were arranged according to the overall thermal control requirements, with careful attention paid to radiation uniformity for precise temperature management.

3.4. Test Results

3.4.1. Visual Quality of Cold-Bent Glass

The statistical analysis of the test results indicates that, following the completion of all test procedures, none of the sample groups exhibited any apparent quality defects such as sealant flow, the distortion of spacer materials, bubbles within the laminated layer, or the delamination of the laminated layer.

However, localized defects were observed in some samples, including minor glass chipping (Figure 12a) and scratches (Figure 12b). Analysis confirmed these defects were not induced by the cold bending process.

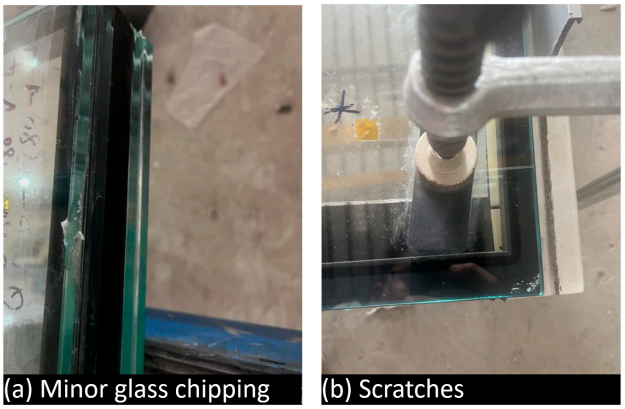


Figure 12. Localized defects.

In addition to the visual appearance, the misalignment data of the composite insulating glass units were recorded before and after testing. Considering the actual deformation state of the glass, twelve measurement points were designated around each pane (Figure 13).

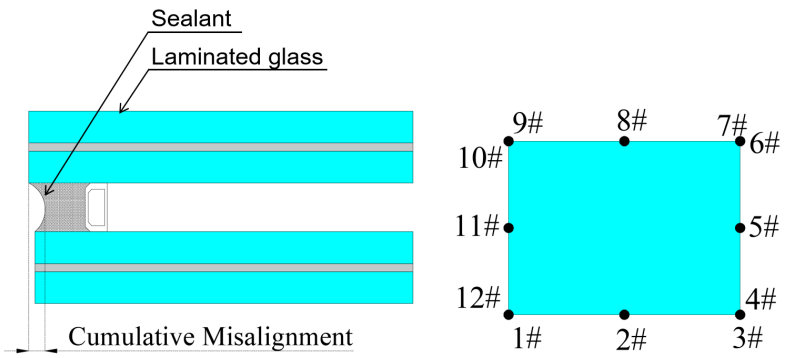


Figure 13. Distribution of measurement points for cumulative misalignment in insulating glass units.

The average of the experimental group's data was compared with that of the control group to assess the trend in misalignment change before and after testing (Table 3).

Table 3. Cumulative misalignment.

Sample Number	Maximum Cumulative Misalignment Variation During Testing (mm)	
	Test Group: Mean Value	Control Group
QMB-4780-v	1.01	0.20
QMB-4764-v	0.60	0.44
QMB-6611	0.47	0.31
QMB-4780-s	0.56	0.22
QMB-0629-s	0.39	0.34
QMB-5697-s	0.83	0.12

Compared to the control group, the experimental group exhibited consistently greater changes in misalignment (Figure 14).

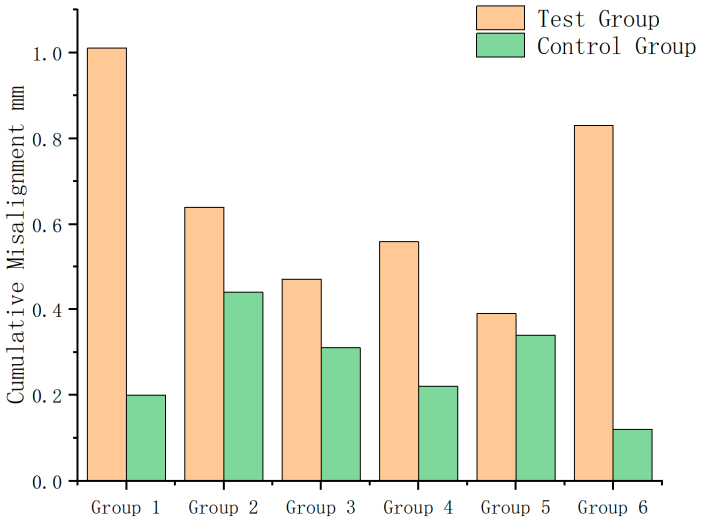


Figure 14. Cumulative misalignment comparison.

3.4.2. Cold-Bent Glass Dew Point

The evaluation criteria for the cold-bent glass dew point test are referenced to Clause 7.3 of the Chinese Standard GB 11944-2012 [26], "Insulating Glass," as shown in Figure 15.

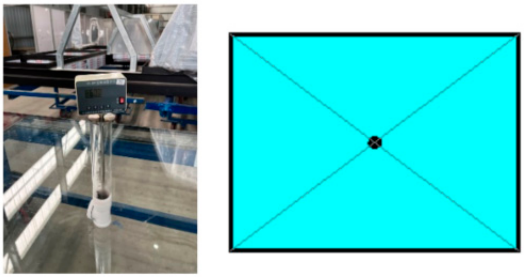


Figure 15. Insulating glass: dew point test and measurement points.

Dew point testing is a key metric for evaluating product sealing and thermal insulation. The cold bending process imposes deformation on the glass, which is assembled with sealants and spacers. Excessive deformation risks breaking the edge seal. Therefore, dew point testing is essential for the following reasons: (1) To validate the seal integrity and ensure the product's lifespan. Insulating glass performance relies on the sealed air space; its failure allows air ingress, causing condensation, fogging, or icing. (2) To assess thermal impact. Ingressed moisture increases thermal conductivity, degrading insulation and increasing building energy use. (3) To identify failure risks. Leaking units are prone to condensation, frost, and mold, impairing visibility and posing a safety hazard.

All the insulating glass samples in the project showed no significant change in the dew point after cold bending, water immersion, and high- and low-temperature cycling, with all temperatures reaching −60 °C. As the specification requires a dew point below −40 °C, the results confirm that the cold bending process has no adverse effect on the glass's dew point performance.

3.4.3. Cold-Bent Glass: Argon Content

The argon content test for cold-bent glass is performed according to Clause 7.6 of the Chinese Standard GB 11944-2012, "Insulating Glass," as shown in Figure 16.

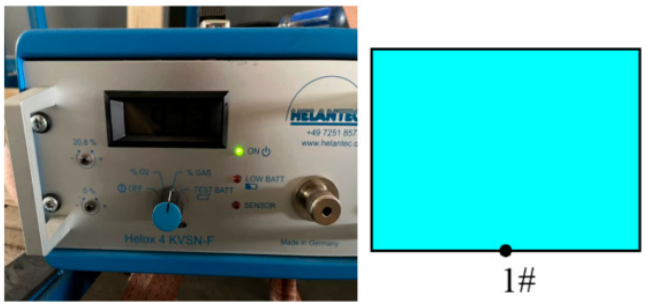


Figure 16. Insulating glass: argon content and measurement points.

During its service life, cold-bent glass must endure both permanent internal stresses and the combined challenge of environmental loads coupled with these internal forces. The response of sealants to such combined loading is not yet fully understood [27]. To ensure sealing system integrity, a thermosetting elastic warm-edge spacer system was adopted for the insulating the glass cavity in this project. This specific design better prevents the risk of air leakage induced by cold bending deformation [28].

The integrity of the argon gas fill is essential for the thermal insulation, acoustic performance, and durability of the product. First, as an inert gas, argon lowers the overall thermal transmittance (U-value) of the glass, thereby improving its insulation. Second, its higher density compared to air provides better sound insulation, contributing to occupant comfort. Finally, gas leakage would significantly reduce the product's service life and in-

crease the building's energy consumption. Whether the cold bending process compromises this airtightness remains a critical industry concern.

The argon content test results for the glass samples are shown in Table 4. All samples maintained an argon content above 85% before and after testing, meeting the leakage requirements of GB 11944-2012, "Insulating Glass". A slight decrease in argon content was observed in some samples after cold bending, water immersion, and thermal cycling, with a maximum reduction of 4.6% (control sample QMB-5697-s-3). Overall, compared to the control group, the cold-bent samples did not exhibit significant argon leakage.

Table 4. Argon content in insulating glass.

Sample Number	Prior to Testing		Post Test		Change During Testing		Maximum Warpage/mm
	Test Group	Control Group	Test Group	Control Group	Test Group	Control Group	
QMB-4780-v	99.7% 99.3% 95.9%	98.4%	97.2% 99.7% 95.8%	98.6%	−2.5% 0.4% −0.1%	0.2%	41
QMB-4764-v	99.6% 98.1% 99.7%	93.5%	97.5% 96.4% 99.4%	90.5%	−2.1% −1.7% −0.3%	−3.0%	33
QMB-6611	96.2% 95.6% 97.4%	95.2%	93.7% 91.2% 94.1%	95.2%	−2.5% −4.4% −3.3%	0.0%	35
QMB-4780-s	95.1% 91.4% 94.5%	93.1%	94.8% 90.1% 90.5%	95.0%	−0.3% −1.3% −3.0%	1.9%	16
QMB-0629-s	96.2% 94.1% 94.8%	95.9%	93.7% 89.3% 91.8%	95.2%	−2.5% −4.8% −3.0%	−0.7%	15
QMB-5697-s	98.6% 99.6% 99.8%	99.4%	94.5% 95.3% 95.3%	94.8%	−4.1% −4.3% −4.5%	−4.6%	14.5
Mean value	96.98%	95.92%	94.46%	94.88%	−2.46%	−1.03%	\
standard deviation	2.40%	1.35%	2.94%	1.36%	1.60%	1.24%	\

The reliability of the sealing system was first assessed by comparing the mean and standard deviation of the nitrogen content before and after testing. The data variability in the control group remained stable, while that in the experimental group showed only minor changes, confirming the overall robustness of the system.

Regarding argon content, a comparison before and after cold bending revealed a consistent decrease. This reduction is likely attributed to the formation of microscopic gaps in the structural sealant due to deformation during bending, leading to gas leakage.

To evaluate the significance of this observation, the measurement uncertainty must be considered. The paramagnetic oxygen analyzer used for argon measurement has an accuracy of ±1%. The average argon content in the cold-bent samples decreased by 2.46%. Since this change exceeds the instrument's stated accuracy, it supports the conclusion that cold bending induces a measurable reduction in argon content within the glass units.

4. Conclusions

This study utilized six glass dimensions, two configurations, and three cold bending methods to conduct durability tests on 24 samples. Eighteen samples were subjected to cold bending, and six served as the non-bent control group. The experimental sequence was as follows: cold bending, followed by six immersion cycles, and then thermal cycling. Key data were measured at each stage. Based on the test procedures and data, the following conclusions were drawn:

(1) This study investigates the durability of cold-bent glass using an innovative methodology. It thereby provides a foundation for future research, addresses gaps in existing product standards and knowledge, and supplies critical data and a reference for drafting subsequent codes and specifications.

(2) The results show that the product's appearance showed no significant change after being subjected to cold bending, water immersion, and thermal cycling. Furthermore, the dew point met the standard requirements. Notably, cold bending led to a discernible trend of increased misalignment and decreased argon content.

(3) Practical application in real-world projects has demonstrated the method's feasibility, meeting the verification requirements for product testing. In contrast to methods that use small-scale panels to simulate edge seal stress conditions, the present full-scale approach not only avoids the error accumulation inherent in scaling but is also more practical [24]. Small-scale simulations, conversely, involve many variables, making it difficult to disentangle the effects of geometric nonlinearities arising from dimensions, volume, and loading processes on the data. Our method, employing full-scale panels, effectively controls these variables.

(4) In the absence of industry standards governing the durability of cold-bent glass, this method provides essential data and experience to inform future standard development.

5. Future Work

(1) This method enables the effective durability verification of full-scale glass panels, providing relevant quantitative data. Owing to its application in a single project to date, the sample size is limited and non-standardized. Consequently, a statistically significant correlation between durability degradation and the warpage threshold cannot be established. This limitation will be addressed in future research.

(2) Some data deviations were attributed to human factors and experimental variables, which influenced the final conclusions. Therefore, future work must emphasize sample protection to enhance data precision.

(3) Furthermore, the primary aim of this study was to simulate the environmental durability of glass under real-world cold bending conditions, with the assessment focusing on changes in functional performance indicators. Two important aspects, however, were beyond its scope: (1) the long-term evolution of mechanical properties under sustained bending, and (2) a systematic analysis of the relationship with interlayer relaxation. Investigating these aspects should be a priority for future work.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, D.L. and Z.W. (Zhengdi Wu); methodology, Z.W. (Ze Wang) and X.F.; investigation, X.Z. and Z.W. (Ze Wang); writing—original draft preparation, X.T. and Z.W. (Ze Wang); and writing—review and editing, X.F. and Z.W. (Zhengdi Wu). All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by National Key R&D Program of China (No. 2024YFC3810405).

Data Availability Statement: Data is contained within the article.

Conflicts of Interest: Authors Donghai Lin and Xin Tang were employed by the company Far East Facade (Hong Kong) Limited. Authors Xichen Zhang and Xiangqiu Fu were employed by the company Jianke EET Co., Ltd. Author Zhengdi Wu was employed by the company Far East Netfortune Facade (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. The remaining author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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