September › October 2021

Issue 2

# ALIPRESS

The News Magazine from **AliDeck**

ALiDECK™

Aluminium Decking &
Balcony Component Systems

## AliDeck launch NEW Ultra-Wide Span board

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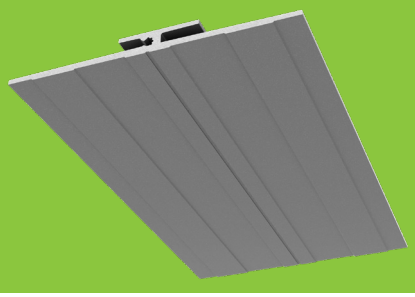
# PRODUCT FOCUS

## Introducing AliClad Non-Combustible Aluminium Balcony Soffit Cladding

AliClad is an innovative soffit cladding product from the makers of the AliDeck System of non-combustible aluminium decking.

AliClad has been designed to provide a quick-fit soffit cladding system for steel bolt-on or slide-on balconies and walkways and to deliver excellent aesthetics, safety and also water-management options.

Enabling off-the-shelf soffit drainage specification, with AliClad there is no longer a need for bespoke folded sheet-metal or custom flat panels. With the simple components that make up the AliClad system, cost-effective soffit-drainage solutions are quick and easy to factor in to steel balcony design, saving valuable time and labour in fabrication.



# A Message from our **MD**

"Welcome to the second issue of **AliPress**, the news magazine from **AliDeck**!"

Hi, I'm Richard, managing director of AliDeck.

As we head into the final third of the year, we can start to reflect on the journey we've been on through 2021.

It has been a remarkable year for AliDeck, our growth has continued at an impressive rate as we've become to be considered the de facto standard for aluminium balcony decking.

The pandemic has been a challenge for our Nation but construction is booming and we have been proud to supply this crucial sector.

Our UK-based production has ensured that we've been able to keep our customers' projects supplied and moving forward.

Our reliability has been one of the aspects of our service that has been most favourably commented on by our clients, which makes me very happy!

In the pages of AliPress this month, we look at the new British Standard for balcony design, BS8579:2020; stacked balconies and fire safety; the launch of a new ultra-large spanning decking board; and more!

We hope you enjoy reading your copy of AliPress and that you find its contents informative and enlightening!

If you have any comments or question on any item in these pages, please give us a call on **01622 235 672** or email **info@alideck.co.uk**.

**Richard Izzard**
AliDeck Managing Director

ALiDECK™
Aluminium Decking

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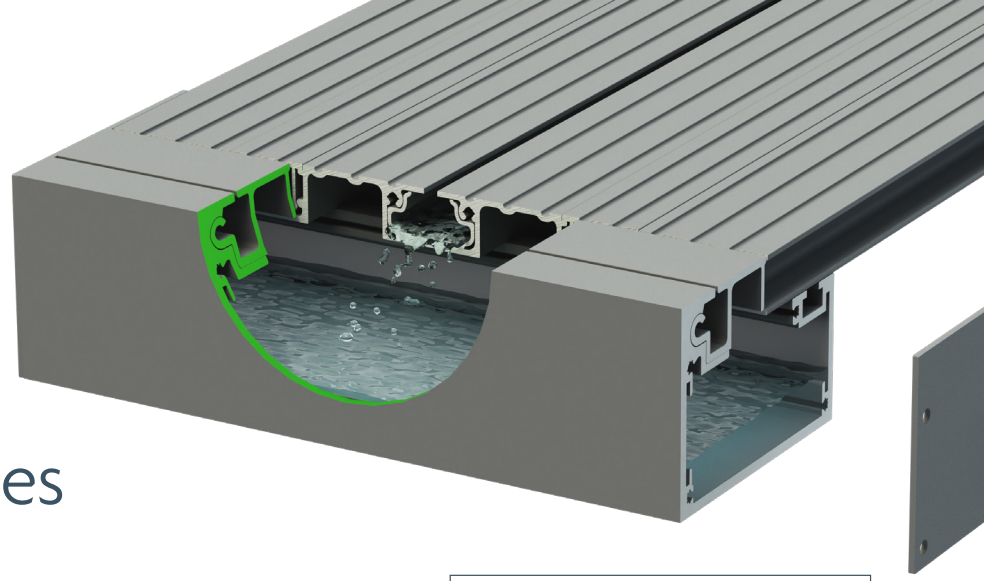
For more details on any of the articles within this newsletter call the AliDeck team on **01622 235 672** or email **info@alideck.co.uk**.

# Compliant Drainage for BS8579:2020 (Guide to the design of balconies and terraces)



Following the Grenfell tragedy, root and branch change has been demanded across construction practices and the regulatory landscape has consequently been in a state of evolution.

**Against the backdrop of a raft of updates across legislation and building regulations, as well as multiple Advice Notes addressing fire safety in the external envelope of buildings, industry stakeholders and BSI recently published a new British Standard for balcony design; BS8579:2020.**

With the recent major changes in regulations, a need for greater clarity for constructors, designers, and manufacturers was required to harmonise approaches to safety, longevity, inclusive access, and more.

BS8579:2020 (Guide to the design of balconies and terraces) is the result and this Standard aims to set a benchmark for quality and functionality in the design of balconies and terraces and their component parts.

AliDeck has embraced this new Standard as it provides for the first time a clear baseline for manufacturing, design, and construction excellence in balconies specifically.

## A new standard for balcony drainage

A crucial aspect of any balcony is the flooring element and BS8579:2020 provides substantial guidance on achieving excellent design outcomes. Termed within the Standard as "**the pedestrian surface**", a range of issues relating to safety and functionality within this "uppermost trafficked surface" are explored and defined.

Primarily, BS8579:2020 is concerned with the safe and functional use of the balcony pedestrian surface, and it identifies several considerations for achieving this; effective drainage of the balcony pedestrian surface is highlighted as a particularly important issue to achieve compliance with the Standard.

## Compliant drainage for BS8579:2020

BS8579:2020 provides comprehensive instruction on designing effective drainage into a balcony. The Standard states that the design of a balcony should take into account the safety of persons below, and that the risk of objects, liquids, and fire brands falling beneath the balcony should be minimised.

This can be achieved by incorporating encapsulated drainage to the pedestrian surface (for example by using between board drainage channels feeding to perimeter gutters). The pedestrian surface is then effectively sealed against objects and liquids falling through, and the risk of fire spread through stacked balconies is significantly reduced. Effective drainage in the pedestrian surface also reduces standing water, reducing risk of slips and water ingress to the building.

The Standard addresses the issue of balcony drainage and outlines a requirement that free draining balconies should be avoided, for safety and comfort factors.

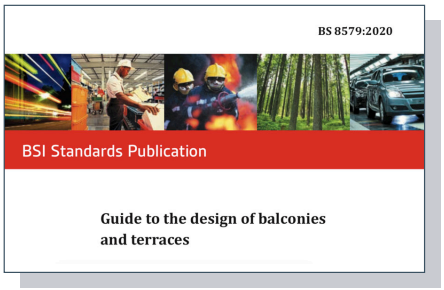
Two alternative options for compliant balcony drainage are presented;

- **Edge drainage**
- **Piped drainage** (also referred to as Positive Drainage)

The overall aim of each of these methods is to reduce nuisance, increase safety, and prevent damage to buildings.

## Edge drainage

BS8579:2020 states that drainage at the balcony edge is an acceptable solution. As the name implies, in this scenario water is collected and directed to an edge where it is thrown clear of the building.
Edge drainage achieves several key functions;




to protect balconies or people below from falling water; to avoid water ingress to the building; and to avoid water staining on the building walls.

The Standard states that balconies projecting up to 2.5m are able to be edge drained.

## Piped/positive drainage

The text of BS8579:2020 is clear that the preferred method is piped drainage. Also referred to as positive drainage, this involves the collection and direction of water via channels, gutters, or soffits to a downpipe.

Piped drainage provides a much more controlled approach to wastewater management and helps to almost entirely minimise the risk of water falling to people or balconies beneath.

The Standard requires that overflow pipes be installed to the gutter system to help prevent water ingress or staining to the building should the gutter or downpipe become blocked.

It is very helpful to finally have clear and concise instructions for correct balcony drainage design. AliDeck has designed our balcony drainage systems in-line with established best practice and NHBC guidance but this new balcony-specific drainage guidance really helps to clarify the relevant issues and concerns. The AliDeck Balcony Drainage Systems are fully compliant with BS8579:2020.

All stakeholders; manufacturers, architects, developers, and occupiers alike, will benefit from the improved approach to drainage integration on balconies, with increased safety and protection for the building truly baked into building design.

# **AliDeck launch CPD** learning on compliant balcony design for **BS8579:2020**

We are delighted to announce that AliDeck has developed a CPD that examines how to design balconies and terraces that are compliant with BS8579:2020.

BS8579:2020 is the new British Standard for the design of balconies and terraces and is the result of BSI and key stakeholders coming together to define clear guidance for safe and effective balcony design.

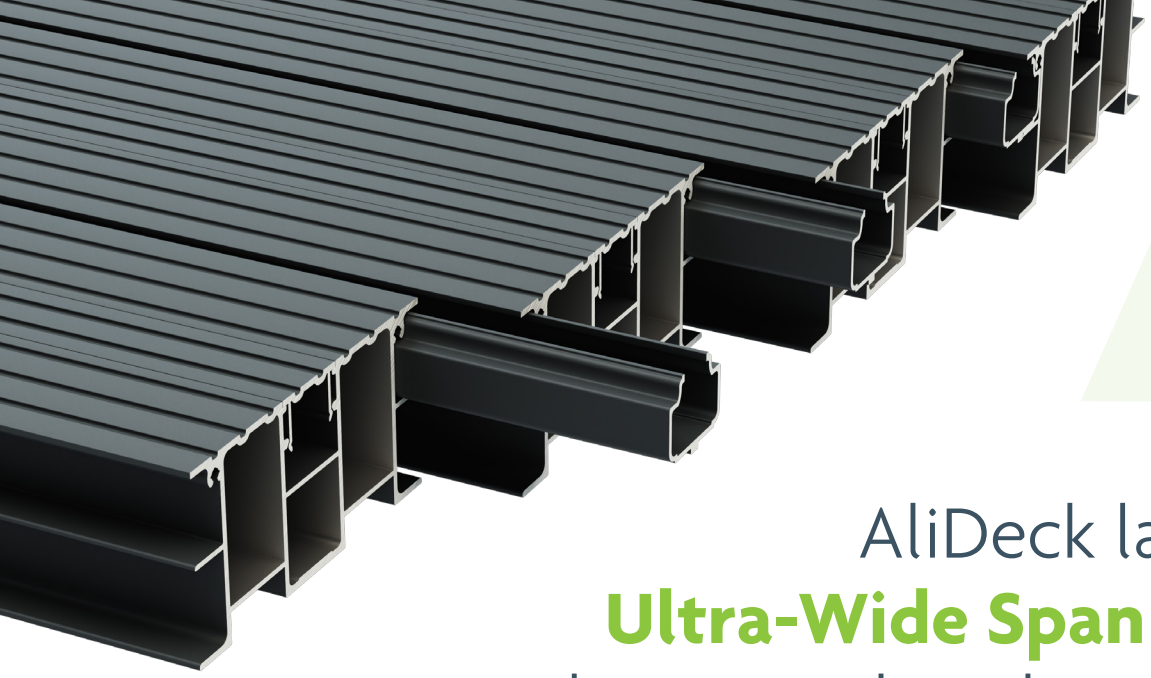
Richard Izzard, AliDeck managing director, said "AliDeck is committed to doing all that we can to ensure the safe and compliant use of our range of balcony component systems."

"Accordingly, we have developed a suite of tailored, relevant CPD Learning that can help architects, specifiers, and others not only understand the specific issues surrounding BS8579:2020 and the design of balconies, terraces, and walkways, but also how and why AliDeck products meet and resolve these challenges."

The CPD learning covers; the background behind the new Standard; the "pedestrian surface" of a balcony or terrace; fire safety; drainage design; and more. The CPD is currently delivered via Zoom or Teams and as many attendees as required can be catered for.

To book the CPD for your organisation, call the AliDeck team on **01622 235 672** or email **info@alideck.co.uk**.

"A huge thank you for **a brilliant CPD session**. Lots of very interesting and appropriate information in the presentation and very well presented."
- Robert, Architect at Major International Architectural Practice



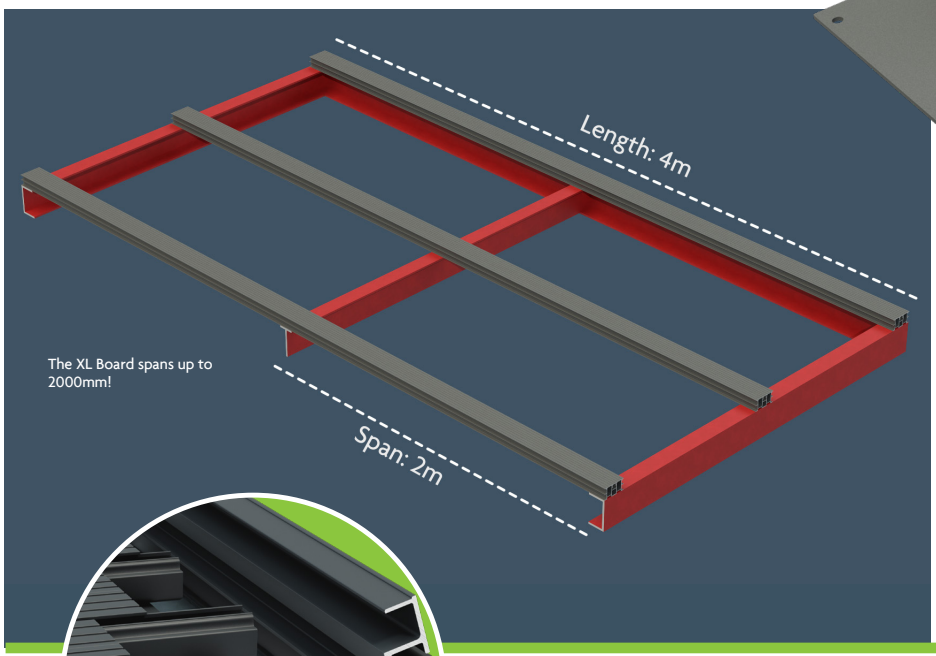
LEFT: The AliDeck XL Board with Drainage Channels installed

# AliDeck launch **NEW Ultra-Wide Span** Aluminium Decking Board, with **2 metre span** ideal for steel fabricators

With our large range of AliDeck products, dwarfing the offerings that our competitors provide for balcony component systems, you might think that we'd rest on our laurels and take it easy for a while. Well, you'd be wrong!

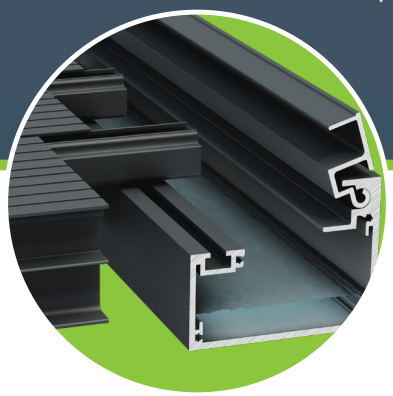
The whole team at AliDeck is proud to announce the launch of our latest aluminium decking board solution; the AliDeck XL Board.

Designed to provide an ultra-wide maximum span of 2 metres, the 60mm AliDeck XL Board is a revolutionary product for the balcony decking market. Far outstripping the span performance of any other aluminium decking board, the XL Board has been engineered with steel fabricators in mind.




The 2-metre span allows fabricators to streamline the steel required in their balcony frameworks, saving money in material, labour, galvanisation, transport and much more. Making these kinds of savings, particularly considering the recent volatility in steel prices, creates a cost-effective, solution-based proposition for all those involved in balcony design and construction. It's a win-win for the whole sector.

The XL Board is available to order immediately and our early conversations with our key customers suggest that this will be an incredibly popular and highly practical product, and perhaps even destined to become the industry standard.



To find out more about the XL Board, call the AliDeck team on **01622 235 672** or email **info@alideck.co.uk**.

# AliDeck Aluminium Decking **Material Supply and Delivery** Lead Time can be as short as **Two Weeks** from Order Placement

AliDeck is proud to service the UK construction sector and to supply major developments the length and breadth of the country with aluminium decking and balcony component systems.

With the current shortage of construction materials, it is imperative that manufacturers and suppliers do all they can to overcome these challenges and to help keep construction moving forward for the benefit of our Nation as we recover from the pandemic.

AliDeck has always extruded and manufactured our full range of products wholly within the UK. We believe that buying British is best and our home production helps us to not only tightly monitor and control all aspects of our supply chain but also allows us to provide extremely fast turnaround of orders.

Our lead time for delivery of materials in standard colours and stock lengths is as short as a lightning fast two weeks from order.

We hold thousands of tonnes of stock at locations around the UK and are able to quickly arrange for stock to be picked, powder-coated, packed and despatched to our customers. In fact, our processes are so honed and well laid out that we are often able to really pull out the stops and beat even our already dazzling two week lead time!

Many of our competitors in the aluminium decking marketplace are importing their products from the Far East, putting most of their production out of reach and often adding months to lead times (particularly so if a boat happens to get stuck in the Suez Canal...).

Indeed, we hear from our new customers all the time that they were being quoted lead times in the order of 8, 12, or even as high as 16 weeks for delivery of standard materials from our competitors! Clearly, this is an unacceptable delay for the UK's fast-paced and crucial construction sector.

If you require aluminium decking for your project and you need it delivered to site on a sensible time scale, then AliDeck's two week lead time for standard colours in stock 4m or 6m lengths is the answer to your prayers.

We are also able to offer bespoke cutting or custom extrusion if required at impressively fast turnaround due to our UK network of extruders.

Call the AliDeck team today to discuss your requirements on **01622 235 672** or email **info@alideck.co.uk**.

# Stacked Balconies & BS8579:2020, a **NEW approach** for **increased fire safety** in buildings of any height

The new British Standard for balcony and terrace design, **BS8579:2020**, has made a huge impact on our industry since its launch late last year. AliDeck has embraced this new Standard as it provides a clear baseline for manufacturing, design, and construction excellence in balconies specifically for the first time. The guidance within it is clear, concise, and very much the answer to achieving safe balcony design.

Fire safety is the key issue of our times. Following the Grenfell tragedy, there has been vast change in construction practice and materials specification and these necessary changes have done much to move us to a fire safe future.

BS8579:2020 reiterates the requirement of all materials used in balconies on buildings above 11 metres to be non-combustible but also further states that these requirements apply to buildings of any height that have stacked balconies.

Specifiers should take urgent note of this requirement regarding stacked balconies, as the language in the Standard clearly instructs that even a two-storey building that has stacked balconies must be designed with non-combustible materials, from section 12.2, Materials and components for balconies in respect to fire (bold emphasis ours);

> Components of balconies (including the supporting structure in a free-standing balcony) on all buildings with an occupied floor over 11m above the lowest ground level and all buildings with stacked balconies, regardless of level of highest occupied floor, should be constructed from materials achieving class A1 or A2-s1, d0, in accordance with BS EN 13501-1:2018.

The Standard reiterates throughout its content that fire safety is essential and that balconies should be designed so as to prevent the spread of fire across and into the building, so requiring stacked balconies to be fully non-combustible is clearly a key factor in achieving this goal. The risk of using flammable timber or composite decking in stacked balconies is demonstrated in the following video;

All specifiers should purchase BS8579:2020 as soon as possible as its rich detail on these issues and many more provides the blueprint for safe and functional balcony design. This new requirement for stacked balconies at any height is a relatively radical departure from prior regulations but, when viewed in the context of evolving fire-safety, is a logical and sensible instruction.

The NHBC Risk Guide: Balconies (revised May 2020) document also includes stacked balconies as an element that warrants consideration by Building Control, and the MHCLG Consolidated Advice Note (January 2020) similarly required fire safety to be considered on multi-occupancy buildings of any height. The direction of travel away from limiting fire-safety to buildings above certain heights, then, is clear and BS8579:2020 merely formalises these sensible precautions.

The entire range of AliDeck aluminium balcony component systems is A-Rated and non-combustible so is a guaranteed route to compliance with BS8579:2020. It's very helpful to finally have clear and concise instructions for best practice balcony design and this new balcony-specific British Standard clarifies the relevant issues and concerns for all stakeholders.

To find out more about how our range of aluminium decking can help you achieve BS8579:2020 compliant stacked balconies, call the AliDeck team on **01622 235 672** or email **info@alideck.co.uk**.

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