

ROUNDUP

January 2006

The Technical Newsletter for CAB Members



INTRODUCTION

Made it! Welcome to 2006 and may it be a profitable one for us all. CAB has grown by 50% this past year and we have plans afoot to increase and enhance the service and opportunities we offer you from improved web site to technical seminars and individual visits to new guide notes and of course more opportunities to network with colleagues and acquaintances alike at our regional members events.

With so many new members it has become increasingly difficult for me to keep track of who already has links with or membership of other trade bodies both National and International. *It is vital that CAB maximises such opportunities to present the aluminium point of view so I would be grateful if all members reading this plea for information could let me know if they or any of their colleagues do have such links - thank you.*

Our technical sub committees, formed last year to focus effort on those issues important to members, have taken off with gusto under the guidance of their volunteer co-ordinators Patrick England, Keith Parry and Ray Fraser. Thus it is with regret that I must report that Ray has decided that with his impending retirement he wishes to relinquish the chair of the Roof and Slope Glazing group this year. As this team now covers all aspects of such products, not just Patent Glazing (PG), I felt I should open the opportunity for someone to take on this role to all members and not just the small number currently actively involved with the group. All applications will have to be considered and voted on by the full Technical Committee (TC) in due course (March meeting if possible) and the successful person will be co-opted onto the TC for the duration on their two year appointment if not already a member. Would anyone interested in finding out more about this important and rewarding role please contact me.

On behalf of CAB my grateful thanks to Ray for his many years of support and chairing of the PG group.

Window & Door Product Standard prEN 14351-1

At last this draft standard has passed the Formal Vote stage in CEN with a 100% acceptance by EC members. We now move into the final editorial and publication phase which should lead to formal listing in the Official Journal (OJ) towards this autumn followed by a two year co-existence period with current national (and conflicting) standards. In our case this means we shall have to revise the aluminium, plastic, wood and steel standards to remove any clauses that clash with the EN and we are already drafting national guidance standards in the BS 6375 series to ensure that those product criteria not covered by the EN will still be so nationally eg surface finish.

This EN will be a harmonised standard which means that products classified to the mandated performance criteria ie with test certificates issued by an approved test house (Notified Body - NB) and having an appropriate declaration by the manufacturer that he has in place a satisfactory factory production control (FPC) system can be CE marked – joy of joys! In reality many of you already have both the performance certificates and a suitable FPC but do remember that the former must be issued by an NB (not necessarily a UK one) so do check the ones you hold.

FENSA

Some of you may not realise that I represent CAB on the FENSA Board and with the timber, steel and PVCU representatives am there to ensure it truly acts in the interest of the whole domestic replacement industry; to this end I attach a copy of the householders' information letter that FENSA has drafted. One matter of significant concern which has continued to worry FENSA, ODPM and the Trade Associations is the significant number of inspection failures due to non safety glass being fitted where required ie failure to comply with ADN. In the last measured quarter this failure reached 45% of all recorded non compliances by the FENSA inspectors and when you note that only 1-2% of all installations (over 1.2 million a year) are inspected it is frightening to see just how much unsafe glass is still being installed in our homes. Now I appreciate that many members do not trade in this sector but you all live in houses..... so beware!

Security

We lost the vote 15 – 1 on whether the dreaded prENs 1627 to 1630 should be given a further lease of life and thus effectively eventually become ENs. However UK are on the working party that will take them forward so we can only hope that as the reality of the problems that manual attack testing will bring dawn on our European colleagues some sensible and repeatable mechanical testing will be included. Within the UK it may be that the best way forward is to consider a mix of BS type testing (BS 7950 and PAS 24) for domestic and some light commercial properties with the more macho manual attack procedures for potentially vulnerable commercial premises where a combination of security measures is the norm eg grilles and shutters, cctv etc.

DON'T FORGET:

1. *As members you can order British Standards through CAB at Members rates ie 50% discount (plus a small admin charge – contact Julie Harley for details.*
2. *You can view and download the Approved Documents (AD) to the Building Regulations for **FREE**– see www.odpm.gov.uk then 'Building Regulations', 'the Building Act 1984 and building regulations', 'Approved Documents'.*
3. *Similarly the Scottish Regulations are freely available on the Scottish Building Standards Agency website www.sbsa.gov.uk and the Northern Ireland ones at www.dfpni.gov.uk .*

BUILDING REGULATIONS

ADF

Some very pithy comments about the impracticability of applying the new 'flow rate' approach especially for replacement windows have been addressed to the ODPM by FENSA and others. The hope is that they may reconsider the timescale for implementation and at least leave replacement windows alone for the time being – more when I have it. See also ADL below.

ADL

It is getting closer and we have, on your behalf, been pursuing your interests right to the last minute. Hopefully curtain walls will be treated, from the component U value aspect, in the same way as windows to avoid the nonsense of a 'window wall' and a 'curtain wall' specified for the same job being subject to different rules. The CAB/CWCT guide on how to calculate the energy performance of curtain walling and associated topics is close to fruition together with the spreadsheet CD that will accompany it. I do not have the publication date yet as it is dependent on completion of the CD and on ODPM confirming in writing exactly what the ADs will say before CWCT, who are the formal publishers of the jointly branded document, quite rightly will commit to print. Derek Hodgson and I attended a meeting at Sandbergs shortly before Christmas at which the major consultant members of CWCT (and CAB) accepted the final draft with agreed amendments.

You will see more and more seminars, articles etc hitting the news as the 6 April 06 start date approaches. Whilst some will be founded in fact and offer good value I do urge caution about believing everything you read in the Press. If you have any specific concerns about any aspects of the ADs please give me a call and I will try to allay them.

In the domestic market there will be many and vociferous claims of product compliance not least with the Window Energy Rating option for replacement windows. Yes a PVC window with triple glazing comprising 2 x low iron and one hardcoat low 'e' pane with argon and warm edge spacers did achieve a Class A rating. I am reliably informed that this is equally achievable with an aluminium frame BUT please do not get sucked into the 'mine is bigger/better/lower/smaller than yours' bun fight. Compliance can be achieved with a Band E product or Band D for windows in extensions whilst to be awarded the Energy Saving Recommended (ESR) classification

you must meet Band C. The Energy Saving Trust (EST) and BRE have recently circulated a document on the future for best practice in glazing which includes a projected 'Gold' standard window with a 0.8 U value; needless to say we have challenged this tunnel vision approach to the future.

Next the current robust details requirements for dwellings, designed originally for ADE acoustic compliance and now aimed at ensuring building air permeability compliance, will be supplemented by Accredited Construction Details (ACD) that will relate to thermal bridging issues and industry has been asked to help develop these. The main area of concern is the opening details around windows and doors – also subject to review of the current ADB Fire regulations – so expect more on this in coming months.

Trickle vents feature in two ways. First they should be ignored when doing the thermal calculations (BRE Digest 443 2006 version). When new buildings are pressure tested trickle vents must be shut BUT NOT TAPED unlike for weather testing (revised ATTMA Air Permeability Measurement test procedure Technical Standard 1 para 3.4 – see www.attma.org)

Finally the ODPM, having agreed to remove the 'model building' examples from the ADs to avoid confusion, has tasked industry with developing such guideline solutions. We have made it clear through the SC25 Joint Trades committee on thermal matters while we accept this approach for dwellings it is not suitable for the infinitely variable commercial building sector. It is possible that the web site used for model designs could also hold data on ACDs – again more on this as matters develop and ideas crystallise. I do have a powerpoint presentation by Bob Lowe of Leeds Metropolitan University on this topic so please let me know if you would like it.

ADM

Your Accessories sub committee is working on a Guide Note which explains how doors are affected by ADM and the DDA. It will include guidance on the rather confusing issue of light reflectance values (LRV) thanks to help from Akzo Nobel. I have to say that the queries received on this AD have dropped away significantly and I wonder if this is your experience too.

SBSA

At the November TC in Scotland we had a very enlightening talk by a senior staff member of the Scottish Building Standards Agency. He confirmed that they plan to start reviews of a number of their regulations this year and that we shall certainly be included in the consultation process. Those of you trading north of the border should not be afraid of approaching the SBSA should you want advice on any aspect of their regulations as they have clearly stated that their mission is to be open with and to listen to their 'clients'. The relevant desk officers' details can be found at www.sbsa.gov.uk/cont.htm . I will of course be happy to assist in any way I can.

STOP PRESS !!

ODPM have decided it would be better to include Security in the new Code for Sustainable Homes rather than write a new Approved Document.

STANDARDS

I make no apologies for reminding you that British Standards can be bought at advantageous rates through the CAB office if you are not a BSI member company. E-mail us with the details and quantities required, we will invoice you and on receipt of payment buy and send you the standards you want. I have again attached the list of useful Regulations & Standards which I update as new or revised ones come to my notice so I suggest you scrap previous issues.

Security Standards

BS 7950. This has now been amended to include top swing reversible and vertical sliding windows and has been republished with amendments 1 and 2 included.

PAS 24-1. Two amendments have been released covering double doors, cutting of infill panels and attacks on security devices/cylinders.

BS 6262-5 Glazing for Buildings – Code of Practice - Frame design considerations. Still in draft format because of the recent rejection of the European equivalent prEN 12488. Hopefully now the national version will be free of the unacceptable elements of the prEN.

BS 6375-1:2004. This old favourite was updated in 2004 to cross reference the European rather than UK weather test standards, and at the same time introduced the requirement for both positive and negative air permeability tests (para 6.2) with the resultant average of both at each pressure step being the accepted way of classifying the product. This was new for the UK and still seems to cause some concern in the industry. Whilst some specifiers may accept the positive pressure only test results as we move to the European product standard (see Current Topics above) the average of +/- figures will be the only acceptable method of classifying air permeability. It is intended that the standard will be amended to clarify this issue.

BS EN 13830. There is some concern at the apparent clash between CWCT, FAECF (European Aluminium Window & CW Manufacturers group) and BS EN configurations for curtain wall test samples and I have tried to resolve these. The attached note from CWCT explains how they see the situation and what they recommend. This still leaves the possibility that a systems design company might have to consider testing to both the CWCT and FAECF designs so I recommend that BEFORE you commission such tests you discuss the configuration implications fully with CWCT and/or any other test house eg Wintech that you choose.

PUBLICATIONS

It is our intention to scrap off the obsolete AWA, AAA and PGCA booklets currently listed on the CAB web site and supersede most of them by new Guide Notes eg use of Sealants, Acoustics etc. We have varying stocks of these and if any member would like copies FOC before we scrap them please contact Julie Harley *by the end of January 2006*.

Also StSs 3,4 and 6 will be scrapped at the end of March and replaced by a new 2006 Thermal Properties and Performance StS now well under way

Code of Practice for the Survey and Installation of Windows and Doorsets

All member companies have been sent an amendment sheet electronically for this booklet; please let me know if it has 'gone astray'.

Setting the Standard Series.. Please note that the amended version of Setting the Standard 1 is close to publication and that STSs 3,4 & 6 are being revised into one updated StS explaining the 2006 ADL; it will be published before the AD goes live. I plan to update StS 2 on Windows this year.

Guide Notes – the TC has decided to produce a series of easy to read explanatory leaflets targeted at specifiers on a range of topics such as selected Building Regulations, confusing standards, selection of the right products etc. Anyone who believes they have a topic for consideration please let me know as work has already been started on the first wave by the TC sub committees.

DIARY DATES

24 Jan 06	CAB Marketing Committee	Stonehouse
5 – 8 Mar 06	Glassex	NEC B'ham
14 Mar 06	CAB Technical Committee	Gateshead
14 Mar 06	CAB Members	Gateshead
22 – 25 Mar 06	Fensterbau	Nuremburg
23 – 27 Apr 06	Interbuild (CAB/ALFED Joint Stand)	NEC B'ham
4 May 06	CAB TC Scotland	tba
w/c 15 May 06	CAB Technical Conference	tba
6 Jul 06 (tbc)	CAB AGM & Golf Day	Oulton Hall, Yorkshire
Sep 06	CAB TC and Members	Belfast
Nov 06	CAB TC and Members	Scotland

For further information on any of the above contact: enquiries@c-a-b.org.uk or 01453 828851

Attachments:

Acronym List
Standards & Publications List
FENSA letter to Householders
CWCT note on CW test samples

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