

# ROUNDUP

November 2006

*The Technical Newsletter for CAB Members*



## INTRODUCTION

We have had a busy Autumn with a record number at the Technical Committee meeting at the Wales Millennium Centre (30) and then 120 members and guests attending the six Simplified Building Energy Model (SBEM) seminars given by Richard Harris of member company Sandberg in Birmingham and Wakefield. We already have a waiting list should we decide to repeat this briefing, possibly early in the New Year, so if you or your colleagues missed out and are keen to be enlightened please let me or Julie Harley know.

## CURRENT TOPICS

### Sustainability

This whole topic seems to be gathering momentum in various guises – recycling, waste (Waste & Resources Action Programme WRAP), dangerous materials disposal (REACH), Responsible Sourcing credits (BREEAM/Ecohomes), environmentally acceptable products (BRE Green Guide) all leading to a plethora of acronyms and a range of committees and projects that would make even the most hardened member of the “Institute of Meeting Engineers” shake at the knees!

We at CAB have been trying to focus on those aspects that may or will have a direct bearing on your businesses and future plans. We continue to monitor and where relevant make input to the Green Guide review which should be complete in Q1 2007. More recently it has become clear that HMG likes the concept of Responsible Sourcing – it is a development of the timber industry’s ‘wood from sustainable sources’ initiative - and you can expect to see it as part of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Whilst I am not at all sure yet how this will affect the aluminium supply chain it would seem to be good practice to consider gaining approval to BS EN ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems or at least aligning your production practices to its requirements (BS 8555 may help in this respect).

If you come across a scheme called 'Green-it' it is a European project looking at the possibility of introducing energy labels on building materials – no prizes for guessing that BRE is the UK representative! We already have Window Energy Rating (WER) labelling for replacement windows as one way of showing compliance with ADL so I am just keeping an eye on this one in case they try to go further.

## **Energy Performance of Buildings**

I thought the following extract from the European Commission's 'Energy Efficiency Action Plan' was worthy of repeating for those who take on renovation contracts.

“The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, to be transposed by Member States by January 2006 (*we have not quite done that yet in UK*) can play a key role in realising the savings potential in the buildings sector, which is estimated at 28%, and which in turn can reduce the total EU final energy consumption by around 11%. However to reap the full potential in the buildings sector the Commission will propose expanding the scope of the Directive to include the large stock of smaller buildings, including by lowering significantly the current threshold from 1000m<sup>2</sup> for minimum performance requirements for major renovations to include a majority of existing buildings.

In 2009 it will also propose EU minimum performance requirements for new and renovated buildings (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) and for components such as windows”.

All of which suggests that, as we feared, the 2010 review of the UK ADL Building Regulations may well be a tough one.

Having said that there is a move afoot, initiated by the Glazing Strategy Group of the Energy Savings Trust, to persuade the Treasury to reduce the VAT on energy efficient replacement windows (WER Band C or better ie Energy Saving Recommended ones) to 5% in line with other such reductions on energy saving products. I will keep you posted on its progress – or lack of it.

## **HMG Bulk Purchasing Schemes**

The Construction Products Association has warned us of a potential change in the approach that the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is taking on bulk purchase groupings. Currently operating through such organisations as 'Buying Solutions' in Liverpool and 'OGC Efficiency' in London their aim seems to be fiscal efficiency even at the expense of quality. Apparently the 'supply & fit' schemes have not met their requirements so now they are tending towards 'supply only' – hardly the route to good quality products and responsible suppliers. The CPA has vigorously expressed its concern at this 'dumbing down' of the Government procurement process.

## **Frame Structural Strength**

CAB was made aware of the lack of definitive rules for calculating the structural strength of thermally broken sections and, when I asked the European Aluminium Association (EAA) building Technical Committee (I am the lone Brit on this group) for their comments they said 'good point – please would you draft a proposal for consideration as a European standard'. Under the chairmanship of Tim Cooke of Wintech we have formed an ad hoc group to do just that .

## Security and SBD

I have kept you aware of our discussions with Secured By Design, the police sponsored company that briefs your local police (Architectural Liaison Officers) on acceptable products for deterring the opportunist burglar. SBD has asked us to work with them to produce a 'commercial property' version and we have a group set up to do that who will meet SBD this month.

More about Security in 'Standards' below.

## BSI Standards Commercial Review

As we all know BS standards are expensive thus detracting from their purchase. BSI tell us that any standard that sells 100+ is a high runner and that they are losing much money in their publishing operation. Given that they HAVE to publish ALL ENs whether or not they see a commercial market for them there could be some truth in their position. They have initiated a comprehensive review and enlisted some of us to advise on the industry views. Options such as 'bundling' or grouping standards are in the pot as is the possibility of arranging standards into process rather than product groupings. NOTHING will be decided for some time yet but I am in there fighting for the best deal we can get!

## REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

### ***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**.*

### ***STOP PRESS!!***

***All England & Wales Building Regulation Approved Documents and supporting information has been moved from the DCLG (was ODPM) web site to the Planning Portal at [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)***

- 3. Similarly the Scottish Regulations are freely available on the Scottish Building Standards Agency website [www.sbsa.gov.uk](http://www.sbsa.gov.uk) and the Northern Ireland ones at [www.dfpni.gov.uk](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk).*

- 4. The latest Standards & Regulations list is attached*

# **BUILDING REGULATIONS**

## **ENGLAND & WALES**

### **ADB – Fire**

‘Further to the guidance I gave last time it now seems, following a meeting at the DCLG where the GGF represented the industry concerns about ADs B, F and L, that the Ministry will further clarify the replacement window situation vis a vis fire escape – we await developments.’

This was my July report and we still await clarification – but now from LABC who are responsible for the implementation of the Regulations as the DCLG says it only compiles and publishes them!

### **ADF - Ventilation**

Here we have a possible easing of the published statement that all replacement windows should be fitted with a trickle vent (para 3.3) with the following statement from DCLG:-

“.....where the original windows had trickle ventilators the replacement windows should as well, but if the original windows did not have them the replacements need not have them either, although we would advise fitting them as good practice.”

Two guidance documents – one for surveyors/specifiers and one for householders – have been drafted by the GGF on behalf of the industry and we are now reviewing them.

### **ADL - Thermal**

As already noted we have held several training sessions on SBEM which, although more robust than it was, still leaves some questions unanswered and, of equal concern, uses only domestic frame and glazing default values in its libraries. Richard Harris is writing to BRE on these matters and will advise us of their responses.

### **ADN - Glazing**

I have previously reported on the concern at the high rate of FENSA inspection failures due to incorrect glass being fitted.

The DCLG has stated that it will not revise ADN to include the European standards that have superseded BS 6206 as they are carrying out a wide ranging review on the whole system of Building Regulations. Given that the EN that covers marking of toughened safety glass (BS EN 12150) does not cover human impact testing (BS EN 12600), so you can have marked glass on the market that has not been impact tested, this seems a very short sighted attitude where safety is concerned – this view has been firmly expressed to them!

If you are sourcing glazing do check on this point.

## NORTHERN IRELAND BUILDING REGULATIONS

Published at the end of August the revised Parts F – Energy (equivalent to ADL) and R – Access to Buildings etc (equivalent to ADM) come into force on 30 November 2006. For full details see [www.dfpni.gov.uk](http://www.dfpni.gov.uk).

### STANDARDS

BS EN 14351-1 – Windows & Doors – we still await its notification in the EU Official Journal so are still not sure when the 2 year concurrent (with National standards) period will begin.

prENs 1627 – 30 - Burglar Resistance of Doors, Windows, Shutters, Grilles and Facades. Sadly it seems that these standards may now be published next year and thus will become BSs as well. The UK has throughout voiced its concern at the lack of consistency possible between testers and test houses across the EU. We have the Geoff Capes vs Kylie Minogue size and strength issue and the Albert Einstein vs Homer Simpson intellectual aspect ie the ability of testers to learn from previous tests. We understand that the members of the CEN committee accept these are genuine concerns – but they are happy to live with them!

So, what of BS 7950 and PAS 24? We believe that they may well have to cease as BSI standards BUT we could adopt them as Industry standards – after all we wrote them! – or perhaps use them as the lowest rung on the enhanced security ladder. Industry has asked the relevant test houses who have already passed products to the UK levels to retest similar samples to the prENs so we can form a better judgement on the equivalence to the two methodologies and classifications. Note that the prENs are fully manual testing above Class 1 including attacks on the glazing infills.

SBD do not like the lack of repeatability nor the extended time it can take to amend/add tests in response to changes in attackers' MOs.

A good example of this is the recent addition of a cylinder snapping test to PAS 24 introduced within 12 months.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **TOO LATE!**

As promised in May's Roundup we have scrapped off the obsolete AWA, AAA and PGCA booklets and removed them from the CAB web site.

### **!! CAB Guidance Notes (CGN)**

The first two CGNs have been placed in the Technical section of the Members area on the new web site – more to come soon.

Suggestions for new subjects always welcome.

**CAB/CWCT** 'The thermal assessment of window assemblies, curtain walling and non-traditional building envelopes' is available only from CWCT at £30 to CAB Members.

The CD spreadsheet that accompanies this book has now been completed and copies sent to all purchasers of the manual.

## *DIARY DATES*

30 Nov 06	CAB TC Scotland and Members	Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld & Stirling Castle
22 Mar 07	CAB Members & Aluminium in Renovation Awards	EMCC, Nottingham
16 May 07	Technical Conference	Stratford Manor Hotel
29 Jun 07	CAB AGM & Dinner	Oulton Hall, Leeds
Autumn 07	Regional Meeting	tba
28 Oct – 1 Nov 07	Interbuild – Aluminium Zone	NEC

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

*Attachments:*

*Acronym List*

*Standards & Publications List*

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