

ROUNDUP

July 2006

The Technical Newsletter for CAB Members

INTRODUCTION

The Technical Conference has come and gone and, if we are to believe comments both on the day and afterwards on the review sheets, was generally hailed 'a success'. The trick is going to be repeating this performance next year! I have already received some suggestions on possible topics but will be keeping an open mind for some months yet as we want the content to be both fresh and relevant to the members in 2007. Please do let me have your ideas for topics and speakers.

I have been out and about a bit recently and can report on two very positive meetings. First to Taylor Woodrow Technology (Taywood), who for some inexplicable reason were not listed as a Notified Body for curtain walling weather testing, to view their facilities and try to resolve the accreditation blip. Happily they tell me this is well in hand and they also plan to join CAB.

Next to NHBC (Peter Crane – Head of Standards and Graham Perrior – Technical Manager) who have recently added a section on curtain walling (6.9) to their Standards because of the increasing amount of such material now being used in domestic buildings. They also tell me that over half of the new buildings they now insure are high rise apartments. I have attached a short resumé of their activities and can confirm their willingness to talk directly to you or through this office on any technical issues you may have.

You may have seen in the trade press that BFRC is now a limited company within the GGF Group (that includes FENSA). A number of CAB Members are involved with their Simulators Group and I know others have already used their expertise. It was very apposite that just before the Press launch an aluminium window was granted an 'A' rating so I was able to emphasise to the assembled journalists that framing material really was not of significance as far as fenestration thermal performance was concerned.

Finally I have seen a leaflet released by Chiltern Trada on CE Marking of Doors and Windows. In factual terms the content is accurate, talking about compliance with the Construction Products Directive and what you need to do to get a CE mark for your products. However the tone could be considered a touch 'hard sell' so I thought I would repeat earlier points on this topic.

First, any product you place in the market must be fit for purpose etc and the best way to illustrate that is by getting it independently tested to the relevant European ie BS EN weather test standards. You must realise that if you do intend at some stage to CE mark your products then ONLY Initial Type Test (ITT) reports from a Notified Body (NB) test house will do. To see who they are go to <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando> for the latest lists. Smaller companies may be able to use the results obtained by their systems supplier under the Shared and Cascading ITT rules that are just being reviewed for inclusion in the product standard. Under all current British building regulations only thermal performance figures must be declared so for all the other criteria you could state 'no performance determined' – but this may not be the strongest commercial approach to take.

As doors and windows covered by BS EN 14351-1 ie non fire rated ones are subject to level 3 attestation the manufacturer can self certify the Factory Production Control (FPC); of course a BS EN ISO 9001:2000 accreditation would certainly help here but basic good business practices will meet the criteria. Remember any inspector will be looking for evidence of firm process control giving repeatability in product performance.

The above standard has now been published so to find out more about the details eg what are the essential criteria etc you need to buy a copy. We believe it will be officially listed in the Official Journal of the EU at the end of 2006 when CE marking can start and it will run alongside national standards for two years after which the national standards will be withdrawn.

Remember CAB can get it for you at 50% discount plus a small administrative charge.

CURRENT TOPICS

Sustainability

I noticed in a recent Building Magazine article (21 July) on sustainable spenders the following reported comment from the capital programme director of Manchester Council.

"Take windows. We're very keen to analyse the life-cycle costs of each product always with the sustainable agenda in our mind. We're going for aluminium windows made from 100% recycled material. We certainly wouldn't use PVCu. We will often be paying a premium for more sustainable products."

Now we at CAB have a clear policy of not knocking other materials, such tactics can return to haunt you. However we do continually push the 'good news' about aluminium's green credentials – **and so should you!**

Having said that we have been working with ALFED to ensure that the review of the BRE Green Guide to specification acknowledges the ever increasing importance of aluminium's recyclability and the consequent reduction in the embodied energy factor for primary smelting from bauxite ore. A recent BRE progress report listed where the various sub groups were and it now seems that they will launch the new Guide electronically in parallel with delivery of the final manuscript to their printers in January 2007 with a three month contingency. Printing will take from 6 – 10 months so it seems the website will be the initial source for us all.

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 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

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

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

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.”

ADL - Thermal

I make no apologies for repeating some notes from the CPA that I sent to the CAB TC earlier this month. It highlights the need for the Ministry/BRE to sort out the SBEM software and supports the moves we are making to arrange SBEM familiarisation training for our members – more on that soon.

“Part L

Ted King has confirmed to me that the appearance of the Accredited Construction Details on the DCLG website is imminent – it was imminent a couple of weeks ago but this is down to DCLG’s IT department. Ted and I have discussed the need for detailed documentation of how SBEM works to be publicly available as well as a proper ‘primer’ to guide users through typical buildings. The result is that BRE are being asked to include this in their work for this year. No doubt more resources will be needed.

A letter is about to be sent from us to Angela E Smith, the Minister at DCLG who looks after Building Regulations and the Code, which states that buildings are being delayed and industry guidance cannot be completed because of the problems with SBEM. We ask that the necessary extra resources be made available to the SBEM team so that all the issues can be resolved by end of September. In addition, we are working on getting the story into the national press. I presume that those involved will be happy for me to give their names to the journalists – if anyone is not, please let me know.”

It is my perception, and I am sure you will correct me if I have got it wrong, that after an initial flurry of specifiers’ demands for ultra low U value windows, the hiatus has begun to die down and a degree of understanding of whole building carbon emissions performance has emerged. It is still very early days, think of how many such people did not understand the 2002 version of ADL for many years, but maybe the message is beginning to get through.

I have just received the final version of ‘*BR443 Conventions for U-value calculations*’ which we helped to finance so get a free version for our membership – copy attached.

ADN - Glazing

The main concern with glass is the on-going situation found and highlighted by FENSA inspectors of the lack of such glass in dwellings where ADN clearly states it must be used. From Apr 05 – May 06 49% (2235) of all recorded inspection failures were for ADN non-compliance ie just over 6% of ALL inspections done.

This is an abysmal record that reflects badly on all engaged in the supply and fitting of glazing in dwellings.

SCOTTISH BUILDING REGULATIONS

Not only has the TC Scotland committee submitted comments to the SBSA on the proposed changes to Sections 1, 4 and 6 of the Regulations but I have also sent comments to the Scottish Parliament European & External Relations department on their paper ‘An Inquiry into Energy Efficiency in Scotland’. These included a copy of the Delft report and stressed the sustainable nature of aluminium fenestration products.

STANDARDS

Remember 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.

BS EN 14351-1:2006

As mentioned earlier this Windows and Doors product classification standard has been published by BSI and is available at £78 inc P&P through CAB (List £136). This is one standard that every company should hold.

The BSI committee dealing with window and door standards is currently writing National guidance standards for the application of this standard and is amending the existing materials standards to a common template to remove requirements that clash with the European standard and keep those requirements not covered by the EN.

BS EN 1279

This group of six standards for insulating glass units was completed this January with the publication of part 5 – evaluation of conformity. They have effectively replaced BS 5713 and lead to the CE marking of IGUs.

Infill Panels

The BPF has had an infill panel document for many years and we adopted it for the aluminium annex in PAS 23 for doors. They are updating it and have invited the other materials bodies to join in the process. I have circulated it to the TC and specific panel manufacturing members for comment.

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. New Guide Notes eg use of Sealants, Acoustics etc. are in final preparation for inclusion on the new CAB web site

Setting the Standard (StS) Series.

StS 1 has been updated and StS 7 written to replace StS 3, 4 and 6.

All Member companies have been sent an FOC copy of each and more are available at £10-50 each from this office – order form attached.

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.

DIARY DATES

21 Sep 06	CAB TC and Members BOOKING NOW!	Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
30 Nov 06	CAB TC Scotland and Members	Stirling Castle & Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld

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

Attachments:

NHBC Briefing Note

BR443 Conventions for U value Calculations 2006

Acronym List

Standards & Publications List

CAB Publications Order Form

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