

ROUNDUP

April 2008

The Technical Newsletter for CAB Members



INTRODUCTION

The New Year is ageing rapidly and we already have one Members and Technical Committee meeting under our belts. Mr Palmer has told us that the commercial aluminium fenestration market will slow somewhat over the next three years – for details you will need to buy the full report – but some product sectors will maintain growth. One thing is certain, you will have to be aware of and familiar with the new ‘market forces’ such as responsible sourcing and sustainability that are becoming the ‘bible’ for public procurement agencies. On top of all this we have the joys of the next Part L review now in progress so 2008 promises to be a busy year.

Our third annual Technical Conference on 14 May is rapidly approaching and bookings are coming in steadily. At £85 a head for Members including lunch it is as always an excellent deal. This year we are covering Part L again, environmental issues, specialised glazing products, fixings and fasteners and finally product finishing, all with expert speakers. For more information go to http://www.c-a-b.org.uk/news.php?event_id=11.

And finally the hunt is on for an extra staff member, a Technical Support Officer, to help me expand and develop the provision of technical guidance and advice to members and others who contact this office. Whilst it is gratifying that industry bodies and agencies, both UK and European, seem to want to have us on board it does mean I cannot always be on hand to respond to members queries.

Sustainability

Our Sustainability booklet is well advanced and hopefully will provide you and your contacts, customers, suppliers etc with one easy-to-read summary of the aluminium position from material extraction to remanufacture via smelting, refining, extruding, fabricating and use to recycling.

Responsible sourcing has gained momentum because our 'favourite' organisation has published its own draft Responsible Sourcing standard. At a recent CPA arranged workshop the assembled industry representatives almost unanimously rejected this BRE monopoly approach in favour of a BSI backed standard, albeit the latter may well closely resemble the former! The aim is to encourage product stewardship through the entire life-cycle of the products, to give appropriate guidance to the supply chain and finally to give the construction professionals (specifiers) confidence that they are selecting responsibly sourced goods. It will come as no surprise to learn that there will be a clear need for companies to prove their credentials, for example with BS EN ISO 9001 and 14001 compliance, appropriate Health & Safety credentials and third party audit proof of a responsible supply chain including social, employment, economic and infrastructure criteria.

This is not just a UK issue, although HMG does appear to be taking the lead, and our friends in the International Aluminium Institute have asked us to join them in developing a generic sector scheme for aluminium in construction. CAB is thus playing an active part in the development of what we hope will be a pragmatic scheme but one does wonder just how it will be applied to or by the smaller supply side companies.

The BRE Green Guide continues to cause concern as it still has not been finally published for window materials nor do I know how they are going to resolve the conflict between their wanting to differentiate between window applications ie domestic and commercial yet both can and often are made from identical sections. Rumours abound so I will advise all Members just as soon as I can.

It seems that recyclability versus recycled content continues to confuse people. Recycled content may well be a valid requirement for aggregates and the like as it reduces landfill waste, however it is not so for aluminium simply because there is too little recycled material available to meet global requirements. Indeed the developing nations, China and India being predominant, are scooping up any and all available sources to feed their internal markets so although the percentage of recycled material in global terms is rising slowly it will be many decades before supply outstrips demand. So please be cautious when responding to demands and specifications for high recycled content and promote the use of aluminium because of its long life due to its total recyclability and low associated energy consumption.

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals)

I thought it worth reminding you all that you, as downstream users, should check that any and all relevant chemicals that you and your upstream suppliers use will be pre-registered between June and November this year. I attach a short and simple summary of this scheme for your guidance.

Security and SBD

After a period of quiet concern that SBD had not responded to our revised scheme Jon Cole of ACPO CPI reappeared from an unplanned detachment and after a brief discussion I feel we are close to achieving a scheme that can be taken forward to potential third party inspection and test bodies. Also following the publication of the 'final' drafts of prENs 1627 to 1630 we hear that they **failed** the formal vote as France joined us in voting against them. Quite what happens next remains to be seen because several Member States and their test authorities have embraced the provisional standards.

CE Marking

CAB has recently joined the FAECF, one of the member organisations of EuroWindow that lobbies on behalf of metal Window and Curtain Walling manufacturers trade associations. Attached is a EuroWindow paper about CE marking compliance which I find clear and useful as it is in FAQ format. The only point to watch is that in common with all such documents originating in mainland Europe they say compliance is mandatory from 1 February 2009 – in the UK, Sweden, Finland and Ireland it is not BUT compliance with the Construction Products Directive is and that is achieved by your products meeting the requirements of the harmonised BS EN 14351-1 (Windows and Doorsets) and BS EN 13830 (Curtain Walling). Alright, I know I harp on about this topic but the reality is that you have less than a year to ensure your products are compliant with the CPD. As they used to say when I wore a light blue uniform 'Don't assume – check'.

Building Regulations Review

You may have seen reports in the trade press that the CLG have published a document with their proposals for streamlining and simplifying the process. John Tebbit has written a good one page summary – attached – and we can only hope that reason may prevail.

EAA

Finally on a more personal note I can record the moving on of Josef Luthiger from the European Aluminium Association to Hydro Building Systems. Josef has been a superb source of technical information and advice to me and my colleagues on the EAA Building Technical Group and I wish him well.

REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

DON'T FORGET:

- 1. As members you can order British Standards through CAB at a discounted rate (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** 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 .*
- 4. The latest Standards & Regulations list is attached*

BUILDING REGULATIONS

ENGLAND & WALES

ADL Conservation of fuel & power

The consultation process has begun and CAB has representation on the non dwellings Advisory Group and hopefully on the External Façade Working Party. We have revived the CAB Curtain Walling Thermal group which will work with CWCT to ensure fair treatment of façade products.

SCOTLAND

We have a CAB TC Scotland meeting soon at which we have the SBSA as lunchtime speakers.

The Scottish Executive has decided to streamline their operations viz:

“The First Minister has announced a series of measures designed to simplify the delivery of public services within Scotland and streamline the number of Agencies, Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) and public bodies. Included within these measures will be the re-integration of the Scottish Building Standards Agency into the Scottish Government core. This will be as part of a new Directorate for the Built Environment, which will also include planning and architectural policy.

They also plan to disband their version of the Buildings Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC) and confer directly with industry in future consultations – these seem to be eminently sensible moves!

STANDARDS

Not too much to report this time .

prENs 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630

As reported above these have very recently failed a vote at the CEN Internal Enquiry so will be sent back yet again to the Test House Group for further deliberation. The UK is still resolutely against the concept of manual attack as the principal test method because of the potential lack of repeatability within and between EU test houses – we shall see.

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

Environment Standards

For those of you who want to dig deeper into the whole subject and perhaps are thinking of moving towards **BS EN ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems** accreditation BSI have a brochure listing all the relevant documents at:
www.bsi-global.com/environmentstandards .

I am delighted to report that several Member companies have achieved compliance with this standard not least because it will figure in any standard developed for responsible sourcing – see above.

Sustainability

For those needing a short summary of the sustainability credentials of aluminium please see the article on our web site that we recently wrote for Construction News. Also do not forget that there are several useful publications and articles in the Information section of our web site.

DIARY DATES

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 17 Apr 08 | Power of Aluminium Awards | Warwick University |
| 24 Apr 08 | CAB CPD Training Seminar | Oak Tree Conf. Centre, Coventry |
| 29 Apr 08 | CAB TC Scotland | Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport |
| 14 May 08 | Technical Conference | Stratford Manor Hotel, Warks |
| 10 Jul 08 | AGM & Activities Day | Forest of Arden Hotel, Warks |
| 25 Sep 08 | Regional Meeting & TC | Belfast |
| 26 – 30 Oct 08 | Interbuild | NEC, Birmingham |

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

See also www.aluminiumarchitecture.com

Attachments:

Acronym List

Standards & Publications List

Reach summary

EuroWindow CE marking summary

CPA Building Regulations review summary

The contents of this publication are the personal views and interpretations of the Editor. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the Council for Aluminium in Building.