

ROUNDUP

December 2007

The Technical Newsletter for CAB Members



INTRODUCTION

I make no apology for repeating below part of the last Aluminium in Architecture editorial comment 'wot I wrote' (with apologies to Ernie Wise).

"One of the 'joys' of working in a Trade Association is persuading Members to get involved with the various committees, meetings, seminars etc that form an essential part of the core benefits package for them. I count myself lucky that the Technical activities of CAB have always been well supported and never more so than now. Not only do my 'teccy' colleagues help me develop and produce our range of booklets and guide notes for their fellow members and plan our responses to Government and other industry initiatives but they also contact me to discuss concerns, problems and future legislation and standards so they can brief their senior colleagues on issues they will need to consider in formulating their strategic plans. Planning ahead is vital if CAB is to maintain and grow its influence in today's marketplace and it was with great pleasure that, at our technical committee meeting on 22 November 2007 at RIBA HQ, we were able to confirm the appointments of a new Chairman, Vice Chairman and even Vice Chairman in Waiting thus putting in place a six year succession plan!"

As you can see the new team, your team, is in place and new TC Chairman Patrick England has already attended his first Board Meeting. Following him will be Simon Jones of Comar then Andy Stolworthy of Adams Rite.

It has been a busy year all round and Justin and Julie join me in wishing everyone a relaxing break followed by a prosperous New Year.

CURRENT TOPICS

Sustainability

This topic will remain very high on the CAB watch list of topics to monitor. And speaking of monitoring I am indebted to several members drawing my attention to a new source of concern called 'Greenspec' which purports to be the definitive green building specification guide. Sadly the said document contains several statements that are injurious to aluminium and are, in some cases, plain wrong. So I contacted and, with excellent support from the International Aluminium Institute team, met with the author at IAI HQ in London. I have to say that he, Brian Murphy, was prepared to listen and learn so I hope we shall see some significant changes to the document before too long particularly in the area of recyclability benefits.

BRE has released a set of interim window ratings for their Green Guide specifically with the Code for Sustainable Homes in mind. I have to say that I was perplexed, confused and not a little cross when I saw the table and took my concerns to the originators. We have had a thorough discussion of the issues, I have tabled some additional data on window systems and manufacturing wastage rates and we shall have to see what difference these will make, if any, to the final ratings. The problem is that this document majors on embodied energy and not energy performance so does not tell the whole story. BRE have promised to clarify this in the associated text but as we all know people tend to look at the pictures, or in this case tables, and move on without reading the supporting evidence. I will keep a close eye on this one.

There is still a worrying emphasis, by Government departments, agencies and the trade press to name a few, on recycled content rather than the recyclability of a construction product. Those who attended our event at RIBA last month will have heard our European experts debunk this myth very simply. There is a limited amount of recycled aluminium available due to its long life and because global demand for aluminium is still rising it still only represents between 35 -40% of all aluminium used. So, if Fred insists on having 100% of the available recycled metal then Bill will have to use 100% prime metal. The important thing is to ensure that when the product reaches end-of-life it is recycled but not necessarily into the same product.

Having said that here is an extract from the Olympic Delivery Authority's procurement policy document:

“Materials. To identify, source, and use environmentally and socially responsible materials. At least 20% of materials used in permanent venues and the Olympic Village will have been previously used somewhere else, or be a recycled product.

“Ethical sourcing and human rights. The ODA seeks to work with suppliers who have a good track record in human rights and use goods and materials which have been produced ‘ethically’. This includes seeking suppliers who operate within the laws of their country, who do not have discriminatory practices, and who do not use child or bonded labour.”

While it is easy to be cynical those of you who source components from overseas might like to run a check on their supply lines in this respect.

To make life easier for us all in addressing this issue CAB is producing a Sustainability Booklet next year and it is already under way. If you have any particular points that you think it should cover please let us know as soon as you can – thank you.

I read a very interesting article in the Carbon News, journal of the Carbon Trust (www.carbontrust.co.uk) about the interest free loans they make to SMEs to upgrade their equipment to more energy efficient products – could save up to 10% on your energy bills – worth a thought.

Security and SBD

We continue to move this project forward albeit at a steady rather than frenetic pace. SBD now have our second draft following a very free and frank exchange of views, concerns and suggestions at an SBD Ad Hoc group meeting. SBD also had some concerns so we hope to have addressed both sets of worries. Meanwhile the latest versions of the prENs 1627 to 1630 have been returned to CEN for voting upon in the near future.

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*

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS REGULATION 1991

A recent article in several trade magazines suggested that CE marking would be mandatory for windows and doorsets from 1 Feb 09, the date at which any National product standards conflicting with the CEN harmonised standard BS EN 14351-1 will be withdrawn.

For the UK and three other Member States this is not the case as their National Regulations do not require mandatory CE marking.....BUT they do require mandatory compliance with the Construction Products Directive from that date.

I again make no apologies for recommending that CAB members seriously consider CE marking their products since much of the necessary work and expense has already been incurred, particularly where testing is concerned. In simple terms provided you have a documented (it does not have to be complex) and auditable Factory Production Control system (BS EN ISO 9001 is the ideal) and your products have been tested to the relevant standards by an approved ie Notified Body test house (this is the Initial Type Testing that may be cascaded down from systems houses to manufacturers) – please note that UKAS approval does not automatically lead to NB status – then you can CE mark your products.

I have attached an ODP (now DCLG) guidance paper that explains all this rather well.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

ENGLAND & WALES

ADL Conservation of fuel & power

We hear that the consultation period for the next update to ADL on Energy Saving will start in 2008 aiming for publication in 2010. In July this year HMG confirmed their intention to have all new homes carbon neutral by 2016 together with a progressive tightening of these regulations ie by 25% in 2010 and 44% in 2013. Alongside this they 'suggested' that local authorities should use the Code for Sustainable Homes to set higher environmental standards and all publically supported developments and registered social landlords must target CSH level 3 from April 2008.

ADN Glazing – safety in relation to impact, opening & cleaning

Last time I emphasised the concern that FENSA has about the continued failure of fabricators/installers to use safety glass where the law requires it. It is still by far the largest cause of inspection failures. To help homeowners and the trade they have produced an A5 leaflet on the subject – copy attached for your use and dissemination as widely as you like.

SCOTLAND & NI

Nothing new to report this time.

STANDARDS

As well as the usual Standards & Regulations List I have attached a much shorter one giving the latest amendment status of the most commonly used or specified standards.

Standards that have recently been confirmed include:

BS 6399 Loading for Buildings - Parts 1(1996), 2(1997) & 3(1988)

BS 8118:1991 Structural Use of Aluminium - Parts 1 & 2

Please also note that the Eurocodes for structural use of construction materials have now been published. **BS EN 1999** series (otherwise known as Eurocode 9) deals with Aluminium and they will, once the National Annexes have been published, partially (BS 8118-1) or wholly (BS 8118-2) supersede our UK standards. I understand this is a little way off but I will keep you informed.

DD 171:1987 Guide to specifying performance requirements for hinged and pivoted doors.

BS 8213-4:2007 which deals with the survey and installation of windows, doorsets and rooflights, is being increasingly being called for in the domestic sector and a number of installers have achieved kitemark status. Just be aware that your friendly local authority might well cite it in a tender document.

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 .

Sustainability – IAI Reports

I have loaded two recent sustainability documents from the International Aluminium Institute into Technical Information on our web site.

CAB Guidance Notes (CGN)

Four CGNs have been placed in the Technical section of the Members area on the web site – more to come very soon.

Suggestions for new subjects are always welcome.

Current ones are:

CGN1 – Security Testing of Windows and Doors

CGN2 – Panic/Emergency exit device standards

CGN3 – Approved Document M – Access to and Use of Buildings

CGN5 – Smoke & Heat control systems – BS EN 12101-2

DIARY DATES

27 Feb 08	Regional Meeting & TC	The Lowry Centre, Manchester
17 Apr 08	Power of Aluminium Awards	Warwick University
14 May 08	Technical Conference	Stratford Manor Hotel, Warks
10 Jul 08	AGM & Activities Day	Forest of Arden Hotel, Warks
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

ODPM Guidance Paper on CE marking

FENSA glazing leaflet

Standards Status List

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.

© Council for Aluminium in Building
All Rights Reserved

13.12.07