

ROUNDUP

May 2006

The Technical Newsletter for CAB Members

INTRODUCTION

I am afraid that the three month publication period has eased out to four this time but I plead Interbuild, the CAB Technical Conference, TC Scotland and it's the silly season for industry meetings just now.

Actually there have been some interesting gatherings not least at the ODPM last Friday when a meeting to discuss CE marking of glass products widened into a general discussion of CE marking in our market sector. The Construction Products Directive itself is under major review as it is the oldest of such EC directives and there is a school of thought that it may not survive in its present form. Meanwhile we are faced with CE marking of products covered by harmonised EN standards and the issues that follow eg attempts by some countries to introduce additional application rules. I have not yet come across any reference to CE marking of curtain walling, mandatory across most of Europe since December 2005 – have you?

Interbuild was ultimately a positive experience for CAB with a wide range of interest being shown in us and what we have to offer. It was good to see so many members dropping by and there were positive approaches from several potential members. The trade press kept popping up and some local authority people showed considerable interest in our sustainability message. The members who took stands in our zone were also pleasantly surprised with the overall number of leads gathered.

The inaugural Technical Conference on 17 May 06 looms nearer and with approximately 150 confirmed attendees as I write promises to be close to a full house. It's still not too late if you want to come (for booking forms see: www.c-a-b.org.uk) or contact Julie Harley (julie.harley@c-a-b.org.uk) as soon as possible.

CURRENT TOPICS

Kitemarking

As you know CAB does not promote one product quality scheme over another but I thought it of interest to let you see who does what on the kitemark front. You may draw your own conclusions but I would point out the considerable interest in the new Survey & Installation scheme that has already attracted much interest. I understand that Islington Council has said only kitemarked installers will be used on their contracts.

Scheme	Licences	Applications
BS EN 1279 - 2 Insulating Glass units	292(293)	7(19)
BS EN 1279 - 3 Insulating Glass units	21(23)	1(0)
BS 6206 Safety Glass	111 (108)	4 (11)
EN 12608 PVCU systems	30(30)	3(3)
BS 7412 PVCU windows	193(188)	13(18)
BS 7950 PVCU Windows - Security	126(120)	16(30)
BS 4873 Aluminium Windows	6(6)	1(0)
BS 7950 Aluminium Windows	5(6)	1(0)
BS 644 Timber windows	10(8)	9(8)
BS 7950 Timber windows	5	3
PAS 23 and PAS 24 PVCU Doors	19	7
PAS 23 and PAS 24 PVCU systems	13	2
PAS 23 and PAS 24 Timber Doors	1	1
PAS 23 and PAS 24 Aluminium Doors	1	0
PAS 23 and PAS 24 Composite Doors	2	5
Survey & Installation	20 (7)	27(18)

FENSA

You may be aware that the Government has approved two new bodies for the self certification of replacement windows – BSI Product Services and CERTASS. The former are offering this service as an extra benefit for kitemark holders but the latter are a private company allied to the insurance industry. The FENSA Board has already expressed concern to ODPM re their motives and independence and at this stage I would counsel caution to any CAB Member considering switching to them for purely financial reasons.

Security

Still very much a hot topic with the resurrection of the European standards prENs 1627 – 1630 we shall ensure that you are kept abreast of developments as they arise. We do have Kevin Frewin of BSI testing speaking at the Technical Conference on the latest situation in Europe while your technical committee has formed an ad hoc group to liaise with Secured By Design staff on their encroachment into the commercial buildings sector. Following a positive first gathering Mike Tanner and I will be meeting Jon Cole of SBD in June. Recent concerns expressed in a daily newspaper about lock cylinder vulnerability to certain attack methods have been taken on board by the BSI security committee but the police advise that overreaction should be avoided at all costs. I would be grateful for any feedback from you on the whole matter of security.

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 – ENGLAND & WALES

ADF - Ventilation

Although we have a six month 'period of grace' to get ready for the new style air flow based regulations there is still much concern about the practicalities of applying these rules. Hopefully for replacement situations there may yet be some further relaxation. Meanwhile ODPM have indicated that windows with releasable restrictors are acceptable for purge ventilation as long as they can reach the required 30° opening angle.

ADL - Thermal

We have achieved much of what we asked for in the published documents albeit the curtain wall situation for replacement work is not quite what we wanted. The CAB/CWCT guidance document for curtain walling has been proof read and is now in the final print stage. Similarly our Setting the Standard No 7 on Part L has been sent to Steve Irving of Faber Maunsell for his 'blessing' before going to print. I understand that a few less knowledgeable specifiers have been demanding very low U value fenestration to meet the new regulations but trust that generally people have not over reacted to the revisions. It is always worth pointing out that the ODPM has actually eased the U values for new build (previously only metal had 2.2 W/m²K limit) and that U values are not the best indicator of energy saving. For instance there is now an 'A' rated aluminium window on the BFRC web site, equalling the best that PVC and Timber can offer, and it has a U value of 1.6 not the 1.3 or 1.4 that the 'pundits' had previously said would be needed.

ADB - Fire

The confusion re what is or is not allowable for replacement windows as highlighted by FENSA rumbles on. I repeat below the guidance given on the ODPM web site:

- **If replacement windows are being fitted do they need to be escape windows?**

Where windows are to be replaced (the requirement does not apply to repair work on parts of these elements) the replacement work should not have a worse level of compliance, after the work, with other applicable Parts of Schedule 1.

For the purposes of Part B1, where a window is located such that , in a new dwelling, an escape window would be necessary and the window is of sufficient size that it could be used for the purposes of escape then:

a)

or

b) Where the original window is larger than necessary for the purposes of escape, the window opening could be reduced down to the minimum specified in approved Document B.

(The window should have an unobstructed openable area that is at least 0.33m² and at least 450mm high and 450mm wide)

I have highlighted the clause that offers the best opportunity for compromise with Building Control particularly where bay windows are concerned.

ADN - Glazing

Presently the ODPM have no plans to amend this AD to introduce the relevant European standards that have replaced the old faithful **BS 6206**. As the new standards do not have a requirement for marking of safety glass the UK has included this Health & Safety requirement in the revised **BS 6262-4:2005** para 7 which in turn cross refers to the appropriate EN. This was vigorously discussed at the ODPM meeting last week!

SCOTTISH BUILDING REGULATIONS

The TC Scotland group had a very good meeting last Thursday reviewing the proposed changes to the Access, Energy and Safety regulations and will be submitting formal CAB comments next week. If anyone has particular concerns re these changes please let me know ASAP – thank you.

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.

Glass Standards

A wide range of harmonised European standards have been published and are in the co-existence phase with national standards. The ones most relevant to CAB members are the EN 1279 series covering Glass in Buildings – Insulating Glass Units, EN 12150 and 14179 series for Toughened Glass, EN 14449 for laminate glass and EN 12600 for impact testing.

Now that the draft European standard prEN 12488 on frame design has been voted out by CEN we need to ensure that our UK version BS 6262-5 reflects our needs. Anyone with points to make or re-emphasise should let me know as soon as possible please.

prEN 14351-1 & BS 6375 – Windows & Doors (not Fire rated)

The EN is proceeding through the CEN process and still on course for publication in Quarter 4 2006 at which time these products may be CE marked. During the two year co-existence period that follows BSI will publish BS 6375 in several parts as national guidance documents; I will keep you advised of their progress.

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.

Setting the Standard Series.

Please note that the amended version of Setting the Standard 1 is with the publisher and one copy will be distributed FOC to all members soon. StS No 7, replacing StS 3/4/6, will be ready for the Technical Conference on 17 May 06.

Guide Notes – Repeat Notice

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 or a particular area of expertise that they feel should be shared please let me know as work has already been started on the first wave of 7 by the TC sub committees.

DIARY DATES

17 May 06	CAB Technical Conference	Stratford Manor Hotel
6 Jul 06	CAB AGM & Events Day	Oulton Hall, Yorkshire
21 Sep 06	CAB TC and Members	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:

Acronym List
Standards & Publications List

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