

Three steps to take to compliance heaven

David Frost, managing director, CEN Solutions, outlines step 1, the factory production control system (FPC)

With the EN 1279 timebomb slowly ticking away and the formal voting procedure for the final part due to end on February 23 2005, this is a 'timely' look at what steps unit manufacturers need to take in order to comply with the new legislation. Initially we deal with the factory production control system (FPC). Many learned commentators will tell you that this is relatively easy to devise and, with



'free' assistance available (although we question whether anything in life is really free), can be implemented quite painlessly by the majority who put their mind to it. What they never take into consideration of course is the master that we all end up serving sooner or later – time. The biggest single issue delaying implementation is having the time to put it all in place.

So, perhaps using a tried and tested system from people who have been there, done that, got the tee shirt is not such a big deal after all. Because, let's face it, you still have your primary concern; manufacturing insulating glass units and getting them to the customer on time. Funny how that word keeps cropping up. Having someone capable of taking control becomes more and more appealing. Look around, speak to people who know what they're doing and go for the system that suits you. The information is out there. Be wary of those from outside the industry looking to make a fast buck, there are plenty around and they could end up costing you dear. ■

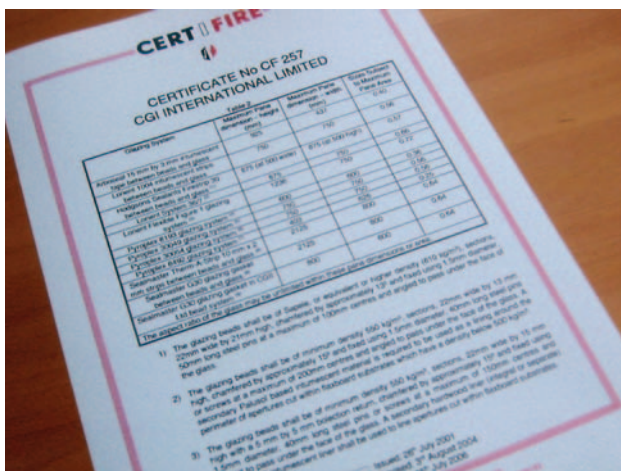
Next month we look at the EN 1279 Part 2 test and what you need to do to pass first time, on time. You can book a test slot with the notified body test houses up to six months in advance. As there may not be enough to satisfy demand, acting now could be beneficial.

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Using CGI's Pyroguard unwired fire glass has been made even easier for glaziers, door manufacturers and joiners now that it has a substantially extended listing shown on its revised Certifire documentation.

A huge increase in the number of completed tests by Pyroguard's manufacturer, CGI International, has led to a much larger list of compatible glazing systems.

The Certifire Certificate of Approval is run by the Warrington Fire Research Centre, where testing is carried out. ■



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Top test results

In a recent government funded project, jointly commissioned by the GGF and the DTI, a range of typical UK window systems were measured to establish the improvement in thermal performance derived from different spacer bar systems in insulated glazing units. The hot box measurements were carried out at the National Physical Laboratory, while the simulations were done at the Centre for Window and Cladding Technology at Bath University. Tests were carried out on three and five chambered PVC-U windows, soft wood windows, 5mm thermally broken aluminium and 23mm thermally broken aluminium windows. Windows were tested with hard and with soft coat low E glass, and with and without argon gas filling. Edgetech's Super Spacer didn't just do a little better than the rest, it did a lot better – it was approximately 23% better than the next best. It was up against four other warm edge spacer bars and standard aluminium bar, with a typical overall window u-value saving with Super Spacer of approximately 0.2w/m²k.

The GGF also tested windows according to the new BFRC rating. This system rates windows from A-G and once launched will be a recognised certification for specifiers and consumers to use to compare different suppliers' windows. Edgetech's Super Spacer bar in both 3 and 5 chamber PVC frames, timber frames incorporating filled argon gas and Low E achieved an A rating, while windows fitted with sealed units manufactured with conventional aluminium spacer air filled with Low E achieved only a C rating. ■

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