

Putting it to the test

There are three steps to compliance heaven. In part two of our mini series David Frost, managing director, CEN Solutions, outlines step 2, the test itself

Once the FPC is written, it is time to manufacture and submit the insulating glass units for the EN 1279 Part 2 type test. Units have to be submitted to a notified body test house for this test and if you haven't already booked a test slot, we advise you to do so without further delay, slots can be booked up to six months in advance. Ask around for costings, you may be able to save some money at present, but don't expect any deals to last long after the final part of EN 1279 has been published.

For the test, it's not quite as simple as just manufacturing 15 units of a certain size and cavity width. Ideally, your day to day testing to EN 1279 Part 6 should already be underway, if not, ensure that records for the components used on the day are taken and recorded. If these can be included on the System Description, all the better. The System Description is a very important document that records what components have been used in the test units and what parameters they are used under. Also recorded should be a file reference number unique to your company that can be used to identify units made in the future.

Take care when manufacturing the units, it makes sense to use a new box of



desiccant rather than what's been in the hopper over the weekend. If using hot melt, ensure the gunning blocks are not worn and that all corners are thoroughly padded. Make sure your gunner does not seal 'cack-handed' a term used to describe which way round the gunning operation takes place. If you're not sure – ask someone who knows, it could mean the difference between passing and failing. This is the costliest part of the process (or should be) and you don't want to fail and have to re-test. ■

Next month we'll talk about the self declaration and on-going requirements to remain compliant.

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Colour on a plate

Across Europe coloured laminated glass is transforming interiors. Laminated glass using Vanceva coloured interlayers, is at the heart of the change.

A stunning example of this is found in Italy in a fast food restaurant and music outlet. Stefano Cecchi Records has contributed to Turin's architectural revival by hiring UdA – Ufficio di Architettura –



to turn fast food into an exciting sensory experience.

Orange tinted Vanceva interlayers are bonded into the laminated glass innovatively used in Posto 1 and Posto 2, embryos of a new restaurant chain which will be opening in cities in Italy and the rest of Europe. The eye is drawn to the technical facilities, kitchens and service areas by the laminated glass walls made with laminated glass using interlayers by Vanceva which give the glass a deep orange hue. ■

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Glass links

A stunning new heated glass link-way has been constructed at the £20.4m Northern Rock Bank's head office extension in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, using a range of innovative glass products from Pilkington Architectural.

Aimed at centralising the bank's administration in the North East, this eye-catching structure links four three-storey blocks around a central core creating a unified circulation zone. Designed by Redbox Architects, the link-way's 750m sq glazed barrel roof required a material that could perform structurally by meeting the stringent loading criteria, and perform environmentally by offering effective insulating properties.



Redbox specified the use of the Pilkington Planar structural glass system, the world market leader for bolted glass systems. Pilkington Planar structural glass systems can provide a complete glass envelope for building structures without the need for conventional frames or mullions.

Engineered by Pendant Aluminium in conjunction with Pilkington Architectural, the outer pane of the double glazed units used 12mm Pilkington Optifloat T Plus with a white screen-printed surface. This is allowed a passage of white diffused light to flood into the structure. ■

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