

**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
FOR COLD
STORAGE
CONSTRUCTION
(European Division)**

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COOL COMMENTS

Issue 17

August 2006

Editorial

Since the last edition of Cool Comments our Annual Conference has taken place at the Haycock Hotel at the end of June.

Although the Conference this year was not as well attended as in previous years, the quality of the speakers and the content of the papers presented were up to their usual high standard. Several of the topics have been aired before but developments in the spheres of fire testing and liability will continue to evolve as time passes and will always remain an important consideration to members of this industry. In particular, Terry Day intended that copies of his paper should have been available at the Conference and unfortunately this was not achieved. Hence, as part of this Cool Comments we include a full copy of his text concerning LPS Standard 1208 on Fire Resistance.

Some of the highlights of the other presentations are referred to a little later and we will, no doubt, come back to discuss other papers in future editions.

As indicated at the Conference, we will welcome your views and suggestions for future events, in particular we would appreciate ideas for subjects to be presented on matters which are especially relevant to your business.

Cool Comments is your way of communicating with the industry and the various committees of the organization. Please do not hesitate to contact us, either at the Secretariat, or directly to myself by e-mail david@thompsett.com

The Association depends on members' support, both in terms of participation and your annual subscriptions. Unfortunately, even after seven months into the year, some members' dues for 2006 are still outstanding and we would greatly appreciate receiving your remittance if your invoice remains unpaid. Reminders have been sent but these do necessarily involve extra work and expense which could be avoided. Also your attention to unpaid invoices for the conference would be much appreciated as The Haycock Hotel will soon be requiring payment.

David Thompsett
Executive Secretary

IACSC Conference – Some Highlights

NVQ Progress

(Specialist Installation occupations-Insulated Enclosures, for Industrial and Commercial Applications)

Richard Brittain, the Internal Verifier for the IACSC NVQ Level 2 Scheme, at the Conference gave an overview of the initial progress of the Scheme, listing eight companies with personnel signed up for NVQ Assessment. Some 27 candidates are being progressed at an overall time-scale which can range from 18 weeks in the case of experienced workers, coupled with an effective completion of the various stages from registration, assessment, verification, certification and issue of a CSCS card to a year or more for inexperienced personnel whilst they acquire the relevant experience.

Richard outlined the importance of gaining this qualification, including the requirement by Main Contractors for operatives to have a Skill Card, Insurance Companies looking for skilled work forces when auditing companies, HSE monitoring compliance of skilled worker employment and, not least, the fact that CRO cards are no longer valid. The qualification is recognition of an individual's ability and the desire of the employer to upgrade the skills of his workforce.

Richard has recently been approved as an Internal Verifier for the Scheme and the four Assessors from member companies are also expected to be approved within the next few weeks. Richard reports that the industry take-up of NVQs is rapidly expanding and he will be pleased to answer queries on 07885 462607.

Jerry Quayle of IFC Certification Ltd (contact no. 01844 275500) followed Richard and outlined the creation of IFC Certification National Assessment Centre, which is now up and running. The Centre was subject to external verification which it passed on 16 June this year.

Until recently NVQs were offered by the National Specialist Assessment Centre (NSAC) a part of CITB. With a total of 51 specialist NVQs to be

provided for, CITB has decided that they will be more effectively supplied by specialist centres related to the industries concerned. IFC Certification Ltd will therefore be the route to gain the NVQ level 2 qualification, a requirement for obtaining a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Card without which operatives will not be permitted on the sites of the Major Contractors Group.

IFC staff will be willing to guide applicants through the process. They are Jerry Quayle, Centre Co-ordinator and Internal Verifier (IV), Penny Morgan, Scheme Manager and IV, Richard Kelly, Rob Davies and Brian Mawdsley.

prEN14509 Self Supporting double skin metal faced insulating panels - Factory Made Products – Specification

This draft EN standard has received a positive vote from CEN members in May, with support from 20 members and negative votes from 4. This should mean progress towards publication in early 2007. The standard cites the Standard Burning Item (SBI) test as part of the specification procedure for sandwich panels. This is a relatively small test which some do not regard as sufficiently rigorous for these products. As a result there has been a legal challenge to the European Commission from Eurima representing the mineral wool industry. The position of Eurima is outlined in the paper listed below from the 42nd General Assembly of Panama and is available from Jake Koelman at coolpanel@skynet.be

The development was referred to by Anthony Burd, the UK Fire Regulator, in his paper to our Conference. As a result of the challenge Anthony reported that the Commission is undertaking a survey of Member States as to how their Building Regulations control the use of Sandwich Panels. The results of this survey will be considered by the Standing Committee for Construction towards the end of the year.

Clearly, the interactions of legal moves, the Commission and the publication date of this standard are complex and we will keep members updated as soon as we have any further news.

Panama International News Information No. 198

Copies of this bulletin are available from the Secretariat and this newsletter deals, in some detail, with various European activities to evaluate the internal market for construction products, a review of the New Approach Directives, CE marking and the Revision of the CPD. Additionally, it lists papers given at the 42nd General Assembly in Prague.

42nd General Assembly in Prague

Please note that copies of the following papers presented in Prague are now available for distribution. Readers who would like to have a copy should request them by e-mail from Jake Koelman (coolpanel@skynet.be)

Mr Alain Herssens – Eurima

“EURIMA Position on Reaction to Fire test for Sandwich Panels”.

Mr Björn Sundström – SP-Borås, Sweden

“Fire Performance of Sandwich Panels”

Mr Dennis Jones – BOC and FSI – three papers
a. Plastics Technology Polyurethanes update on Blowing Agents

b. Ecomate

c. presentation given to RAPRA Munich, May 2006

“Revolutionary, yet Economical, new Blowing Agent”

Mr Dick Karlsson – Paroc Panel System

“EPAQ Quality, Philosophy, Work, Requirements”

Mr Harri Kemppainen – Saint-Gobain ISOVER, Finland

“ISOVER plants & market, Sandwich suppliers and partners, Sandwich Cores specifications”

Mr Peter Jones - Business Development Consultant, UK

“Walkability and safety of Sandwich panel Ceilings is not a Core issue”

Dr Silvio Messa - L.S.F. Italy: “Revision of SBI test”

IACSC (European Division) Standards (NVQ) Setting Body

The Committee, which meets about four times a year, and has been preoccupied with the NVQ procedures, has discussed the title, shown above, which, as you can see, is quite a mouthful.

It has been suggested that the title appears quite restrictive and, in future, in order to more accurately reflect the scope, a new title of “Education and Training” has been proposed.

This is seen as more appropriate to the wider scope of issues which may be discussed and it is hoped will stimulate a wider participation from members of the IACSC who have a responsibility for training within their companies.

Should anyone be interested in joining the work of the committee the Executive Secretary would be pleased to hear from them.

Panama International News Information No. 199

Copies of this bulletin received as this edition of Cool Comments is about to be published, are available from the Secretariat.

This information, 199, has notes of the Expert Group on Fire discussions held on 14 June 2006 written by Dr Christine Lukas who attends on behalf of CEPMC the European voice of the construction products industry.

The discussion about the need for a large scale fire test for sandwich panels is reported and the expected survey of Member States approach to this issue is awaited as reported by Anthony Burd at our Conference.

One other item of particular note is that the Commission is conducting another survey, this one asking Member States how the deal with Market Surveillance of Construction Products.

The Regulatory Reform Order – What's the big deal?

There are currently over anywhere between 80 - 120 different pieces of legislation relating to fire safety, making it difficult to understand which legislation applies. There is also duplication where the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (amended 1999) apply at the same time. Numerous pieces of legislation (primary and secondary) are about to be repealed or amended on the 1 October 2006 by a new piece of legislation the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO). The aim of this order is to amalgamate all fire safety legislation in existing buildings into one document, whilst removing the prescriptive approach to fire safety.

It is generally acknowledged that there is a lack of awareness that the Order will completely revoke the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (amended 1999). The RRO also repeals the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and revokes the Special Premises Regulations resulting in the end of 'fire certification' of buildings.



To comply with this order a 'responsible person' must be identified. The order sets out various definitions as to who the responsible person is, in essence, it is the employer or person who has control of the building.

The responsible person must make a 'suitable and sufficient' fire risk assessment that identifies the fire precautions necessary to protect all 'relevant persons' including, consideration of any

dangerous substances and young persons in the workplace. Additionally, the fire risk assessment must be reviewed if it is suspected that it is no longer valid, or if significant changes have taken place. The Order also specifies that provisions must be made for fire prevention, however, best practice has always been to include fire prevention measures in the fire risk assessment.

Application of the Order

The order applies to all 'premises' and includes, in particular:

'any workplace; any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or hovercraft; any installation on land (including the foreshore and other land intermittently covered by water), and any other installation (whether floating, or resting on the seabed or the subsoil thereof, or resting on other land covered with water or the subsoil thereof); and any tent or movable structure'.

Although domestic premises are not covered by this legislation, the enforcing authority has the power to serve a prohibition notice to multiple occupancy dwellings. However, the RRO is aiming to be all encompassing



and in practice there will be very few occupied premises to which to order will not apply, making enforcement even easier.

The enforcing authorities may appoint inspectors to facilitate enforcement of the order and they may enter and inspect premises, make enquiries to check on compliance, take samples to ascertain fire resistance or flammability or even have an article dismantled and subjected to test if there is a suspected danger to relevant persons.



Sources of Information

To aid responsible persons in compliance with the new order there are a series of eleven guidance documents being published, covering various different occupancy types.

Conclusion

The Order removes the prescriptive approach to fire safety and introduces a risk-assessed approach, placing the emphasis on the responsible person to ensure compliance.

While the fire and rescue service is preparing to enforce the legislation, it is only once cases go to court that lessons will be learned and information will be disseminated – hopefully to a degree where responsible persons will be more inclined to ensure the order is complied with, therefore increasing standards of fire safety.

The big deal here is not so much the content of the Order but rather that, when it comes into force on the 1 October 2006, it appears few will be prepared or have the requisite skills in place and time is of the essence. Many equipment or maintenance providers are currently training their staff to carry out fire risk assessments; some have very little knowledge of fire risk assessment, even after the training. Caveat emptor seems very appropriate with the RRO.

For further information please contact:

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Web: www.intfire.com

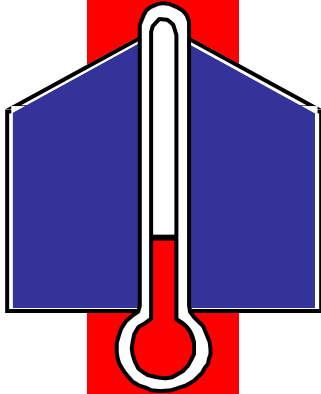
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Up and Coming Events

INTERNATIONAL
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UPdate



September 2006

10th - 13th September 2006

PLASA06

PLASA06 is rapidly becoming a key point of reference for architecture professionals, offering a comprehensive insight into products and ideas designed to meet their creative and technical needs.

Earls Court, London, SW5

Contact: 020 7370 8208

www.plasashow.com

19 September 2006

Delivering Healthcare Construction

Get the latest updates on investment and procurement, and discover how changes in NHS policy impact on healthcare estates. Find out the future potential for PFI, ProCure 21 and LIFT, and discover the opportunities in construction for primary care.

27 Sussex Place, London NW1

Tel: 0845 056 8069

Email: constructconferences@emap.com

www.healthcareconstruction06.co.uk

21st September 2006

The Games Briefing: putting plans into action

Understanding project opportunities, procurement strategies and how to get involved.

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1

Tel: 0845 056 8069

Email: constructconferences@emap.com

Web: www.gamesbriefing.co.uk

28 - 29th September 2006

RRP Interactive Planning Session with Tesco. Institute of Grocery Distribution

IGD, Letchmore Heath, Watford

www.igd.com/conferences

October 2006

4 October 2006

Structural Safety Across the Lifespan of Buildings

Investing in structural safety may be perceived as expensive, but it's not nearly as costly as putting matters right when things go wrong. Research has shown that inappropriate design and construction can significantly increase the necessary spend on a building across its lifespan.

Fax: 020 7233 1743

Email: conferences@ice.org.uk

November 2006

5 - 8 November 2006

The First Annual International Fire Safety Conference - Recent Advances on Flame Retardancy & Harmonisation of FR Standards

Beijing, China

<http://fire-safety.net>

6th November to 8th November 2006

Food and Drink Manufacturing Fire Summit

The Fire Service College

Morton in Marsh

Gloucestershire

Fees: £1,275.00

Contact: Mr R Timpson - 07951 190 576

21-22 November 2006

ECTP – European Construction Technology Platform

Versailles, France

www.ectp.org

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