

LOOK OUT!



A review of the challenges and opportunities affecting the British Plastics Federation Windows Group

www.pvcaware.org www.bpfwindowsgroup.com www.pauljervis.net

Remember the furore caused when we saw what we felt were the misleading advertisements comparing wood windows to PVC-U windows using just one impact category out of the 13 used in the revised Green Guide? Well, it's taken some time but finally we have a statement released by BRE and CPA. The full statement can be downloaded from

<http://www.pauljervis.net/filemgmt/viewcat.php?cid=26>

but a useful quote from it

Specifying materials or products solely on one criterion, such as embodied carbon or recycled content, can lead to sub optimal overall sustainability choices. Specifiers must understand that the embodied environmental impacts, as measured in the Green Guide, are only a part of (and not the same as) the overall sustainability of a building as measured in BREEAM and CSH. Materials or products not getting A or A+ ratings in the Green Guide can still be, and already are, part of buildings achieving high levels in CSH or BREEAM. The total amount of credit available, based on the Green Guide, within CSH for "Mat 1: Environmental Impact of Materials" is 4.5% and for BREEAM Offices 2008 it is 4.16%.

You may be aware that the Code for Sustainable Homes is being revised. This is because the thermal performance at the lower levels will not be permitted by the revised Building Regulations when they are expected to come into force in 2010. In addition, Lifetime Homes is mandatory at level 4 from 2010. CLG are currently consulting, via Faber Maunsell, various groups before producing a consultation package by the end of this month. The wider consultation process will begin early next year with the results analysed in May ready for BRE to produce the revised technical guidelines by the end of 2009 to be published in 2010 at the same time as the revised Building Regulations.

Concern has been expressed, though, at what may be coming out of Europe. For instance we had the EU Green Public Procurement paper via Defra (the worst consultation paper I have ever seen and the comments we sent in ran to 5 pages of very negative stuff back in August, since when nothing has been heard) which, remarkably, CLG and BRE knew nothing about until it landed on our desks.

Some additional concern was expressed at the basis for the revision as there seems to be very limited experience available, particularly from those living in a CSH rated home. Racing ahead towards zero carbon in 2016 means that feedback will always fall behind CSH changes. Housebuilders claim that they can build to Code levels 3 and 4 without too much problem but that levels 5 and 6 are a different matter. It even be that levels 4.5 and 5.5 may be introduced to ease the incremental changes.

Mind you, given the state of the housing market, are builders going to be able to sell any homes they build regardless of what code level they are built at? In my local area, which I guess is no different than a million others, streets where houses were sold as soon as they came on the market, because they are in the catchment area of the local excellent school for example, are not selling at all.

One change we have proposed is that Window Energy Ratings be considered for inclusion within the Code. Even though U and g values are included within SAP, specifiers and designers focus on U value alone ignoring the beneficial aspects of solar gain. By including WERs they would be forced to consider the whole energy performance of a

window. The submission can be downloaded from
<http://www.pauljervis.net/filemgmt/viewcat.php?cid=26>

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, LOCOG, have published their First Edition of a Sustainable Sourcing Code. As well as all the expected references to usual suspects such as ISO 14001 and EMAS, recycled content, etc., they call for the use of Energy Saving Recommended (ESR) products where available and Green Guide 2008 ratings of A or B (and presumably A+ although they don't actually mention this, so maybe they haven't read it).

However, before you get too excited about this, Appendix A on Restricted Substances and Materials includes this

Group name	Examples	Properties	Applications	Typical uses
Plastics/resins	PVC	EDC (PVC often plasticised with phthalates. Dioxins also produced when incinerated)	Plastic type	Numerous applications, such as packaging, flooring, tubing, electrical cabling, etc

So, get your Green Guide A rating and your ESR certificate and LOCOG will ignore it and introduce its own restrictions based on ... well, based on what I wonder.

I had not appreciated that the Olympic Delivery Authority, ODA, who had specifically stated that they will not be banning PVC, have a different sustainability strategy to LOCOG. I don't know where the dividing line on purchasing is between the two bodies, or even why there are two, or why they should policies that are different. Or do they have the same policies and things have changed since we had the reassurance that PVC would not be banned? You can download the 23 page document from

<http://www.pauljervis.net/filemgmt/viewcat.php?cid=15>

As previously reported, Responsible Sourcing of Materials is the next big thing with the publication of BRE's BES 6001 : Issue 1.0 and BSI working on their equivalent via their SDS/1/6 committee. In an attempt to provide a scheme for the PVC window fabrication industry, I had a stab at producing a scheme document based on BES 6001. It is either so bad that people have binned it in despair, or it is so good that no comments are necessary as I have received not a single one. Any

member that would like to see a copy, please let me know. Just remember it is a bit of a shot in the dark.

Not strictly related to windows but a draft European Standard may be of interest to many Windows Group members involved in the manufacture of PVC-UE profiles. It is

prEN 13245-3 - Plastics - Unplasticized poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U) profiles for building applications - Part 3: Designation of PVC-UE profiles

The title is somewhat misleading, however, as the draft includes methods of test as well. The scope states :

This part of EN 13245 establishes a system of designation for the designation of profiles made of cellular unplasticized poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-UE) intended to be used for building applications.

This part is applicable to light coloured and coloured mono-extruded PVC-UE profiles, co-extruded profiles consisting of a core made of PVC-UE and a skin layer of non-cellular unplasticized poly(vinyl chloride) (PVCU), and PVC-UE profiles with laminated foil or lacquered-coating.

It specifies test methods and test parameters.

This method of designation is intended to be used in product specification when the application is specified.

NOTE It is recommended to use this method for the designation of PVC-UE profiles for information related to technical literature of the manufacturer, not for the marking of the products.

Profiles for the management of electrical power cables, communication cables and power track systems used for the distribution of electrical power and profiles for windows or doors are not covered by this European Standard.

BSI's default position, in the absence of any comments, is to abstain. If the draft wins sufficient support in CEN, then it will be agreed as an EN and be published as a BS EN with any conflicting British Standards withdrawn, so your comments are important. Deadline for your comments is 28th February 2009. The draft can be downloaded from the protected files area of my website. I assume it will also be uploaded to the BSI drafts review web site (<http://drafts.bsigroup.com/>) but it is not there yet.

Finally, it's the time of year for my traditional Christmas message.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS TO
YOU ALL!**

Reference	BPF Windows Group Publications	Price ea.
SEL/3	Selecting the standard	£5
323/1	COP for the reinforcement of high impact modified PVC-U windows and doors	£10
332/1	Guidelines for the welding of PVC-U profiles for windows and doors	£10
333/1	Guidelines for welding : Laminated shopfloor checklist, A4 size	£3
334/1	Guidelines for welding : Laminated shopfloor checklist, A3 size	£4
336/1	Guidelines for the measurement of PVC-U colour and gloss	£10
337/2	Guidelines for the design and installation of PVC-U conservatories	£25
340/1	Conservatories - Laminated planning permission flow chart, A3 size, 1993	£4
342/1	Conservatories - Laminated building regulations flow chart, A3 size, 1993	£4
345/2	Materials for gaskets and weatherstrips for windows doors, conservatories and curtain walling - Specification and performance requirements	£10
351/1	Guidelines for the use of PVC-U windows and frames in commercial/light industrial applications	£10
355/1	Infill panels for doors and windows	£10
356/2	COP for the installation of PVC-U windows and doorsets in new domestic dwellings	£20
357/1	Replacement windows and planning law	£1.50
358/1	Guidelines to Good Business Practice	£3
359/1	Specification for Composite Doors	£10
360/1	Specification for sliding patio doors made from PVC-U extruded hollow profiles	£15
W363/1	Guidelines for the selection and application of fasteners for the manufacture of plastics windows and doorsets	£20
	Guide to Building Regulations, Building Control and FENSA (CD or booklet)	£5ea
W365/1	A brief history of Windows - Guide to Sympathetic Replacement Design	£5
	A British Plastics Federation Windows Group Guide	(pdf only)
W366/1	PVC-U Windows and Doorsets - Standards, Sustainability, Specification	pdf £20
		hard copy £40

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