

# LOOK OUT!



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

[www.pvcaware.org](http://www.pvcaware.org) [www.bpfwindowsgroup.com](http://www.bpfwindowsgroup.com) [www.pauljervis.net](http://www.pauljervis.net)

Typing this at - 8 °C with another 10 days of similar weather ahead suggests this is a good start to the year for global warming doubters. I read in The Times (so it must be true) that although 2009 was reported to be the hottest on record, December temperatures, which were low, were excluded. Does that mean that 2010 will start from February onwards? (Glad to see my cynicism has survived the festive period). Add this to the "adjustments" of the University of East Anglia's data used widely as the justification for global warming and it leaves me more confused than ever.

This week sees the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my involvement in the PVC-U window industry and 20 years of my present rôle with the BPF. The original contract with the BPF Windows Group was for a fixed term of 3 years to coincide with the implementation date of the Construction Products Directive at the end of 1992 when it was thought that the harmonization process and the introduction of European Standards would be completed. Hah! EN 14351-1 takes final effect next month when the period of co-existence with national standards comes to an end. So the target was only missed by slightly more than 17 years and an amendment is already on its way through the process. Realistically, standardization is a continuous process as techniques and knowledge develop. Very few standards remain static

for long periods, so my rôle is likely to remain necessary for a long time yet.

One standard that is also being revised is EN 12608 (PVC-U profiles for windows and doors). Proposals have been made for amendments to the Charpy impact tests based on wall thickness (members have been circulated with the proposals) for reasons that have not been made clear. Unfortunately, Terry Roberts of Ineos is, for personal reasons, unable to continue representing us in CEN TC33/WG1/TG5 for some time. We therefore need an alternative. We need someone with detailed material knowledge and experience of laboratory testing (which is not me, sadly) to be the UK Lead Delegate to TG5. Is that you? If so, please let me know as soon as possible as the next meeting of TG5 is on 20<sup>th</sup> January. There is some financial support available via BSI.

On a related topic, the revision to BS 7722 (surface covered profiles) has been approved to go for the Public Comment procedure and we should see it very soon.

**F**or those of you interested in the EU Construction Product Regulation, there is a report which has been published by the outgoing Swedish Chair of the Council Working Group on the Construction Products Regulation, summarising the state of play in the Council at the end of their Presidency. You can get the report from [here](#). The Council negotiations will continue in the new year, and the incoming Spanish Presidency have said that they will continue to treat this as a priority dossier.

**D**id you see the nonsense continuing with the BBC trying to pin the responsibility for the Lakanal House fire on PVC even though they have been told repeatedly that the windows are aluminium? Having reluctantly given the BPF a single sentence of rebuttal, they are now saying the cladding on the building was PVC. Do a Google Image search for Lakanal House and you see some very clear shots that show the building does not have cladding. What it does have are solid panels in the bottom elements of the windows. From the images, it is not possible to determine what the construction of the panels is. If window industry experts cannot tell, how can a BBC journalist with no industry

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knowledge do so? The journalist then came across a BRE report that he claimed showed PVC failed long before timber in fire tests. But the evidence claimed was mis-used to the extent that the BRE issued a statement putting the facts straight. You can read the press release on BRE's web site [here](#). The sooner we can get the official Fire Service report into the causes of the fire and so reassure tenants that PVC-U windows are safe the better for everybody (except the journalist).

**R**ecovinyl have kindly produced a case study on the use of recycled PVC-U material by Dekura in a project in Manchester. You can download the study [here](#).

That's it for this month and all that is left is for me to wish you a very Happy and Prosperous 2010.

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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