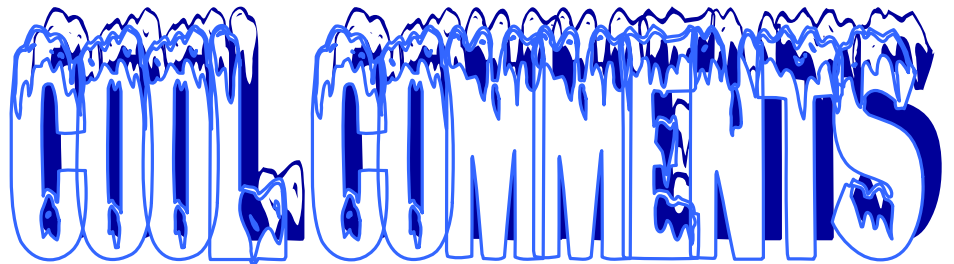


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLD STORAGE CONTRACTORS (European Division)



Issue 2

July/August 2002

Welcome to the July/August version of Cool Comments. Normally the thought of cool rooms, or even cold stores should be very attractive to the residents of the UK in mid-summer, but with the exception of a couple of odd weeks, confined mainly to the South, this year has been heat-wave free! Indeed, it has been a very changeable year with more than the normal monthly rainfall, often being delivered in a day or two and with some unseasonably suppressed temperatures being experienced in many regions. It has indeed been a very mixed bag so far!

This unsettled weather just about mirrors the economy, both at home and worldwide. It has been a difficult year for trading, mainly because all industries like settled conditions. Large fluctuations in the stock market (mainly downward) a rush of financial misdemeanours, large swings in consumer confidence, great variations in company earnings, all suppress the potential for investment.

This lack of confidence is matched by the difficulty most companies have had in obtaining affordable property insurance, especially if they are unfortunate enough to operate from insulated buildings. It is inevitable that millions of pounds worth of building projects are sitting there simmering on the back-burner. They will stay there until there is hope that market conditions will stabilise and when that day dawns the IACSC must ensure that the financial confusion is not replaced by technical confusion as the market seeks guidance as to how it can best build the insulated structure that the client wants.

It is not sufficient to publish a Guide, as the IACSC did three years ago, analysing the issues and giving options, however sound. This period of relative inactivity must be used by the industry to produce the industry standards for the construction and installation of insulated buildings backed by recognised Conformity Certification in all spheres; fire, energy, environmental friendliness, etc, etc, in support of a revised Guide.

Regulators want the industry to provide the rules and take responsibility for the buildings built in conformance with them.

This is a challenging time for the IACSC and our members have a unique opportunity of shaping the industry into the type of profitable industry that it wants, providing its clients with buildings that they can afford to buy and run, which the insurers can endorse without fear, and which do not frighten the Fire Service out of their boots. With effort this can be achieved.

Inside this issue:

Page 1.

- Editorial

Page 2.

- RIAS Seminar

Page 3.

- Future of Regulations

Page 4.

- IACSC Guide
- Making the Uninsurable – Insurable

Page 5.

- Parliamentary Questions

Page 6.

- The Guide Works
- Update on European Quality Mark
- Panel Manufacturers
- Panel Marking
- IACSC/IFC Labelling Scheme

Page 7.

- Legionella Outbreak
- EU Funding

Page 8.

- Diary

RIAS SEMINAR – 18TH JUNE 2002

by Peter Jackman

Composite panels were again the subject of a seminar, this time organised by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, which took place at The Lighthouse in Glasgow. The Seminar was entitled Fire Safety Design and Composite Panels and with that title in mind it was hoped that his seminar might have concentrated on building design, rather than panel cores.

Unfortunately, with the mix of speakers that had been assembled the day inevitably descended into the normal ‘mines’ better than his level of debate which really failed to move the world on, despite a high quality audience of practicing architects and engineers.

The chairman, Dr Eric Marchant, a much respected fire engineer tried to steer the seminar in the right direction by quoting from the IACSC Guide in his opening address ‘.....*there are no good panel cores, nor bad panel cores, only badly selected cores and just poorly designed panels.....*’. As one would expect Eric drew heavily on how Fire Safety Engineering should be used to ensure that any building design that is non-conventional in its size or in the form of construction, behaves in a safe and predictable manner should it unfortunately be involved in a fire.

The opening address reminded all delegates about the new insurance crisis that was overshadowing the whole of the construction industry and how designers now had to bear this in mind when designing a building. The final remarks of this opening address are worth repeating, especially as they come from a practicing designer:

- All composite panels have a good performance characteristic(s)
- Maybe there is a lack of understanding of the likely fire behaviour in the buildings where composite panels are used.
- There is a general neglect of fire risk appraisal and the installation of appropriate fire safety systems.

Paul Stollard of the Scottish Office gave the first of the formal papers, identifying those points of the new revised Scottish Building Standards that affect the designers of insulated buildings where composite panels form the majority of the construction.

Of major importance is the concept introduced in the latest version of the Building Standards for Scotland having 3 basic levels of fire resisting structure, ‘short, medium and long’. This was controversial when it was launched as a consultative document and attracted a great deal of comment, but obviously none of it was persuasive, and hence, the latest standards incorporate the new grading. The latest Building Standards have tried to demonstrate how ‘European’ Scotland is by introducing the new ‘reaction to fire’ gradings. These use a similar approach to that used for fire resistance, but grade the risk low, medium, high and assign BS ratings and euro clauses to these risks. This may turn out to be premature, but it could spell problems for some steel cladding systems, which have been used safely for years, but which might now face a problem under the gradings. However, these new requirements are not yet replacing the existing BS gradings and there will be a period of transition, but there will probably need to be changes in the product or the regulatory requirement at some time in the future.

Of direct interest to the IACSC members is the restriction of combustible cored panels in residential purpose groups, in the prescriptive guidance, and where combustible panels are to be used in the other non-residential purpose groups, they shall be correctly installed. Reference to D.7.4 states that ‘.....*panels shall be deemed to have been suitably designed and installed when it is in accord with Chapter 8 of the IACSC Guide*’. Recognition at this level means that the Guide must be improved and upgraded and has prompted work in your Technical Committee.

Paul Stollard, unfortunately had to rush away from the panel seminar to attend an ‘official’ workshop on ‘improving communications in the construction industry’ which people had failed to inform him of until that day!

For my part, I went through the advice given in the IACSC Guide whilst presenting my paper on ‘Designing Insulated Buildings with Fire in Mind’. The paper concentrated on the concept of using ‘Fire Stable Construction’ and I explained to the audience the development of the IACSC Conformity Certification Scheme, which is a natural adjunct to the labelling scheme, first introduced into the Guide proper. The Guide seeks to educate and instruct on the design and management of insulated buildings. Insulated buildings should, if designed correctly in accordance with the Guide, demonstrate an enhanced

stability which is, as a consequence, more fire fighter friendly and which have an improved ability to contain the fire, regardless of the panel core, and not exhibit disproportionate levels of fire damage in the event of being involved in a fire.

One of the most hard-hitting papers of the day was given by Jim Kellas, Operations Director of MacPhie of Glenbervie Ltd. Jim recounted the problems that the company had experienced trying to obtain insurance cover during 2001. Despite running an obviously low risk process they were told that because of the insulated sandwich panel construction they would either have to sprinkler their premises throughout, or replace all of the existing panels with insurance approved panels. With a continuous running factory the latter was totally impractical and so MacPhie's opted for the sprinkler option. The cost of this was close to a quarter of million pounds with virtually half of that sum being for the civil works in connection with the provision of a 500m³ storage tank to feed the sprinklers with. Even with these measures in place the insurances premium still rose by 66% and there is little confidence that the insurers will not be looking for even more measures next year.

Jim called it a 'tale of woe' and it certainly was in as much that it is likely that the measures put in place will never be called into action because the only fire load that could trigger them is contained within the panel cores, on the other side of a virtually continuous metal sheet. Ce'st la vie?

Three papers were given by Mark Harris of Kingspan, Peter Trew of EPIC and Bill Parlor of Rockwool explaining the benefits of the various cores. Peter Trew's paper did introduce the new EPIC Guide on the '*Fire performance and installation of insulated panels for use as roofs and walls*'. This is a paper with substantial quality material content and Paul Stollard praised the industry for providing a Guide for use by the industry, albeit they cannot reference all such guides in legislation.

Bill Parlor's paper was overrunning when the fire alarm went off and all speakers and delegates had to evacuate for a lengthy period whilst the Fire Brigade searched the building.

The false alarm did unfortunately mean that the remainder of the programme was under pressure.

Terry Day gave one of his first class presentations on the insurance view.

As at the Peterborough IACSC Conference, whilst much of the content was predictable he did highlight

the growing evidence that MANAGEMENT is more of a problem than the building structure and he was very critical of management levels in the food industry.

Hopefully the situation is changing rapidly and this is certainly echoed by the fall in fire incidents. Terry showed the risk matrix that BRE/LPC are developing for the insurers/panel problems.

Alan Clyde of the Hurd Roland Partnership finished off the seminar on a practical note by taking the delegates through a really innovative project involving composite panels. I hope all of the speakers were listening as closely as the delegates because Alan's paper made us realise that there are many factors that have to feature in the panel selection process and that combustibility and/or poor fire response is only one of them!

The seminar was unfortunately brought to an abrupt halt, due in the main to the delays caused by a fire evacuation and hence the summing-up and question time were much too truncated to draw up action points which, with an audience of the calibre attending, was a real shame.

THE FUTURE OF REGULATIONS

Jimmy Bittles and a few other members of the executive, have been aware of the proposed regulatory reforms and have been keeping a watching brief on behalf of the industry waiting for some form to be put to the proposals. There are currently hundreds of regulators controlling various aspects of business and ultimately the consumer's health, safety and welfare. Some of these regulations are in conflict with each other, but perhaps, of more concern is that there are serious levels of duplication and overlap causing unnecessary red tape.

The objective of regulatory reform is to remove a substantial amount of the regulatory requirements written in a bespoke form for separate occupancies and risks. The target of the reform is to cast regulations in a more functional form from which specific industries can extract the legislation applicable to them and their risks. Policing the requirements will become easier.

Why should this come up in this Newsletter? The main reason is that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (previously the DTLR) has, on 30 July 2002, published the consultation White Paper on

'the reform of fire safety regulations', a large tome that can be downloaded from the web (<http://www.safety.odpm.gov.uk/fire/consult/legislate/index.htm>). For those requiring a copy - Get A Life!!

However, it will affect all of us, both in respect of the businesses that we run, but more importantly on your clients business and the buildings that they intend to put up and in the way that they run them. You can therefore wade through the plethora of proposals and make comment to HM Government. You could ignore it and go with the flow when it all comes out, or you can make certain that the Secretariat of the IACSC is adequately resourced to comment on your behalf.

This means pushing to get the Association's Guide(s) even better recognised in the new system and generally to fight for your interests. We think that the latter is the sensible option and it is for that reason that industry joins and supports trade associations. You can get on with running your businesses whilst the Association ensures that you have a business to run.

What does the White Paper say? Unfortunately its publication is too recent for a sensible analysis to be included in this edition of 'Cool Comments', but watch this space in the next edition!

REVISION OF THE IACSC GUIDE

The important role that the IACSC Guide (Fire Stable Building Certification Scheme) has achieved in regulations means that it is vital that it is kept up to date. A major revision is currently planned and a sub-committee has been set up to get the process underway. This initial review of the various sections is being undertaken as follows:

The Technical Committee are meeting in early August '02 to define what is needed. This is convenient because in September '02 the Industry has to make its application for research funding by the Partners in Industry (PII) fund and your executive believe that the revision of the Guide is an ideal subject for such funding. The PII only finance half of the costs, however, and it is important that a consortium come together to produce the seed corn finance. This does not have to be purely in monetary terms as the efforts put in by industry in drafting, drawing, steering and testing etc all have a value in the overall costings.

The Guide and the associated product conformity, labelling and installation/construction accreditation has an important role in your company's future health and

our executive will be soliciting your support for this project in the very near future.

MAKING THE UNINSURABLE - INSURABLE

The last edition of 'Cool Comments' mentioned the launch of IFC's Gold Standard. Accompanying this edition is a brochure describing the IFC Gold Standard in greater detail. The whole objective of Gold Standard is to lower the potential for fire to as near zero as possible, to reduce that impact of fire on the ability of the company to continue trading, and to reduce the incidents of disproportionate damage in the event of a fire. Whilst being designed for all building types, the IFC Gold Standard is particularly suitable for use in structures where sandwich panels predominate. In these buildings the implementation of many of the recommendations given in the IACSC Guide will form a major part of the strategy. Preventing the delamination of panels, regardless of their core type, forms a major objective in the control of disproportionate damage. Management of personnel and details of the construction are considered in-depth in order to reduce the vulnerability of such businesses to arson.

It is International Fire Consultants Ltds understanding that the objectives and approach incorporated in the Gold Standard are welcomed by most leading insurers.



Should the brochure not be attached to the copy of Cool Comments that you are reading or you feel this is a useful service that your clients would appreciate details of, then please phone +44 (0)1844 275500 and request further copies from either Graham Wiles or Paul McGahey. Any leads or suggestions in this regard would be most appreciated.

EXTRACTS FROM PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

To demonstrate how concerns over fire safety continue to dominate the concerns that overhang the construction industry 'Cool Comments' reproduces two notable parliamentary questions, both asked by Lord Howie of Troon, and the response that they received.

Lord Howie of Troon asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will place a limit on the compartment size for single storey warehouse, distribution or storage premises within the Building Regulations and Approved Document 'B' in the interests of the Fire Service and firefighters [HL4393]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton replied:

There are currently no plans to change either Part B of the Building Regulations or the approved documents that support this part so as to limit the compartment size in single storey warehouse, distribution and storage premises.

However, we are continuing to keep this issue under review. As with any new guidance within a approved document, any decision in the future with regard to single storey premises of this type would need to take account of a range of views, expert advice and of course a full regulatory impact assessment.

Lord Howie of Troon asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the guidance on the use of sandwich panels contained in the 2000 edition of Approved Document 'B' is mandatory, and what powers are provided to building control authorities and approved inspectors to control the selection and use of such panels [HL4394]

Lord Falconer of Thoroton replied:

None of the guidance contained within Approved Document 'B' is mandatory. There is no obligation to adopt any particular solution contained in an approved document if the person carrying out the work prefers to

meet the relevant requirement in some other way. Approved documents are intended to provide guidance on ways of meeting the requirements of the Building Regulations for some of the more common building situations. It is for the Building Control Body, on a case-by-case basis, to satisfy itself that the requirements of the Building Regulations have been met.

In relation to sandwich panels, its considerations in such matters can be assisted by referring to the relevant guidance contained within Appendix F of Approved Document 'B', along with any other suitable sources of information. The powers of enforcement of the Building Regulations are set out in various sections of the Building act 1984, Section 35 and 36 provide the main powers for enforcement by a local authority and paragraph 52(1)(c) stipulates the course of action to be taken by an approved inspector who is of the opinion that there is a contravention of a provision of the Building Regulations.

The non-committal answers are both comforting and disappointing. Comforting that at this stage no serious changes are contemplated but disappointing in as much that the IACSC Guide is not so well recognised in England & Wales as it is by the Scottish Office. In the light of the editorial feature, however, the answer to the sandwich panel question confirms that Building Control is able to take into account any suitable sources of information. Evidence once more of the industry being given the invitation to produce the rules for the future.

CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIOS FOR THE UK

The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) has produced a report, which presents a set of four alternative scenarios of how climate change may affect the UK over the next hundred years.

Commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the report focuses on four scenarios of future global emissions of greenhouse gases.

Further information is available from Dr Simon Torok at the UEA, Norwich. E-mail: tyndall@uea.ac.uk

EVIDENCE THAT THE IACSC'S GUIDE WORKS

International Fire Consultants Ltd (IFC) are frequently advising process plant operators on ways of making their plants less vulnerable to fire both in respect of avoiding the event and reducing the disproportionate damage. In making their recommendations, IFC implement many of the concepts contained within the Guide. Whilst not being able to be named for confidentiality reasons IFC have recently learnt that one of its designs was put to the test in the first half of this year when a potentially disastrous fire occurred at the critical point in a food process line. Instead of facing a major re-build the company was back in production after 2 hours. For those with a technical interest IFC, and the Guide, have always favoured localised, selective and targeted suppression systems over the global use of sprinklers. This was part of IFC's successful strategy in this case, demonstrating that overkill is not needed to succeed.

UPDATE ON PANAMA INTERNATIONAL PROPOSALS FOR A EUROPEAN QUALITY MARK

Panama is attempting to develop a European-wide Quality Mark for insulating sandwich panels. The Working Group is assessing the requirements to establish the quality control of panel manufacture in specific areas such as tensile strength. (Note: the CEN standards accept the lowest possible denominator in

this respect whilst the proposed Quality Control Mark would require 75KPA tensile strength). The mark will NOT cover fire issues since the major insurers are still at loggerheads in this respect. (Note: ABI/LPC will not accept the SBI test, and Factory Mutual will not accept the 1181 Fire Test) even though the fire issues dominate all other aspects of a control mark!

The Working Group is due to report by the end of this year and produce a draft Quality Control Mark to be discussed by Panama members and other interested organisations.

IACSC URGES PANEL MANUFACTURERS TO IMPROVE THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THEIR BROCHURES

Following the last Technical Committee meeting on 9th July 2002, the executive committee are urging panel manufacturers to ensure accurate and clear descriptions of their products in their marketing brochures. Such clear information will assist end users, designers and architects in the correct selection of panels and panel systems.

LPC/BRE REVISION OF LPS 1181

Work is still continuing on the revision of 1181. Concern is being expressed that the revision was becoming too complex and would be difficult to achieve successfully. IACSC emphasise the need to provide a reasonable and

achievable fire test. The danger in providing an unworkable fire test was that it might be largely ignored by panel manufacturers. It is in our own interests and that of the end users we serve to have panel manufacturers build to criteria, which satisfies LPS 1181, and for contractors to recommend the best panels for end-user applications.

PANEL MARKING – TRACEABILITY

A recent presentation by Kingspan highlighted the inbuilt traceability features, which their panels were fitted. These are UV markings and manufacturer data in the joints.

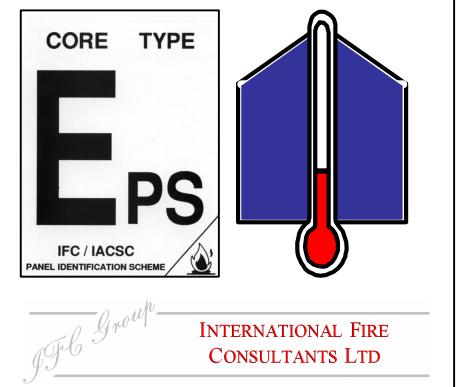
IACSC/IFC LABELLING SCHEME

The scheme has already been carried out the labelling of both Safeway's and Exel Logistics depots.

If you have clients that may benefit from this scheme please contact, Graham Wiles or Paul McGahey on:

Phone: +44 (0) 1844 275500

Fax: +44 (0) 1844 274002



AIR CONDITIONING SUSPECTED IN FATAL LEGIONELLA OUTBREAK

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the Barrow-in-Furness area has claimed its first victim, with 47 further confirmed cases and up to 15 other people thought to be suffering with similar symptoms. The outbreak is believed to have originated from the Forum 28 complex, which has been closed since the first case of the disease was diagnosed. Local council officials are continuing to check other buildings in the town.

The first anecdotal evidence suggested that poor maintenance of the air conditioning system in the complex is to blame for the spread of the bacteria, which causes Legionnaires' disease. The council employee in charge of maintenance has been temporarily suspended following checks, which confirmed the presence of the Legionella bacteria in the steam pumped from the air conditioning unit into a public passageway outside.

The Health and Safety Executive has produced a simple guide for employers. This can be freely downloaded from:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/iacl27.pdf>

The Health and Safety Executive can also be contacted if you have any further concerns.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 6 – EU FUNDING

European Research, and more specifically the creation of a European Research Area, are now high on the policy agenda in Europe. A series of initiatives aimed at making the European Research Area become a reality have already been launched - including the proposal for a new "framework programme for Research and Technological Development 2002-2006".

Recently the UK National Contact Point for Industrial Technologies in Framework Six, in collaboration with Beta Technology and MANIST held information events in Birmingham and London to equip prospective proposers with the latest information on the new European Framework Programme and to help UK organisations benefit from the opportunities for research funding.

ERA is a vision for the future of research in Europe. Economic growth increasingly depends on research,

and many of the present and foreseeable challenges for industry and society can no longer be solved at national level alone.

This would interest any organisation that wishes to build its competitiveness and technological edge through European partnerships. This included industrial companies, service providers, research organisations, end users and other stakeholders.

As the launch of (FP6) approaches, now is the time to start forging contacts with potential partners, formulating research ideas, and positioning your organisations in order to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

For more information visit:

- Commission proposals and other documents relating to FP6:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/documents_en.html

- Description of Instruments:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/networks-ip.html>

- Other sources of information on FP6:

<http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/>

HVCA LAUNCHES UPDATED VENTILATION HYGIENE GUIDE

The HVCA has just published a second edition of its 'Guide to Good Practice: Cleanliness of Ventilation Systems'.

Originally launched in May 1998 – since when it has sold over 2,000 copies – the publication established for the first time in the UK a level of particulate cleanliness verification for both new and existing ventilation systems. It has since become widely regarded as the authoritative guide to system hygiene.

Of particular note in the new edition is a much-enlarged section dealing with kitchen extract systems, which has been prepared in consultation with the insurance industry, following a number of high-profile fires in restaurant kitchens.

- Copies are available from the HVCA Publications Unit.

Tel: 01768 860405

E-mail: hvcapublications@welplan.co.uk

UP AND COMING EVENTS

August

12 August

Firefighting foam and the environment
Fax: +44(0)161 608 4019
E-mail: foam@manchesterfire.gov.uk

September

3-5 September

Fire 2002
Contact: DMG World Wide Media
(UK) Ltd, Queensway House, 2
Queensway Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QS
Phone: +44 (0)1737 855451
Fax: +44 (0)1737 855470

12-19 September

IAA Commercial Vehicle Exhibition,
Hannover Fairground
Phone: +49 (0) 69 75 700
Fax: +49 (0) 75 70 261

23-24 September

International Coldchain Conference,
Dalmahoy Hotel, Edinburgh
Phone: 01344 869533
Fax: 01344 869577

October

6-9 October

Intercool – Frozen Foods, Ice Cream
Refrigeration – Messe Dusseldorf
Phone: +49 211 4560980

6-10 October

Hogatec 2002, International Trade Fair
Hotels, Gastronomy and Catering,
Dusseldorf Trade Fair Center
Phone: +49 (0)211/4560-997/-999
Fax: +49 (0)211/4560-8548

8-9 October

Foodtech, NEC, Birmingham
Contact: William Reed Publishing
Phone: 01293 613400

15-16 October

Organex 2002, Earls Court 2
Contact: Gillian Pattison
Phone: 0208 846 2700

22-24 October

Energy Efficiency Expo, Olympia,
London
Details: www.energy-expo.org

29-31 October

Food2Go Exhibition, Wembley
Exhibition Centre, London
Contact: Ice Cream Alliance
Phone: 0115 985 8505

December

10-12 December

Intermodal Transport & Logistics,
Ahoy, Rotterdam
Contact: Michelle Frisk
Phone: 0207 553 1439
Fax: 0207 553 1820
E-Mail: michelle.frisk@informa.com

March

23-26 March

IFE 2003, Ex-cel, London
Contact: Fresh RM
Phone: 0207 886 3096

CONTACT US:

If you have any items or comments please feel free to contribute by faxing, e-mailing or simply telephoning the editor.

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