

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COLD STORAGE CONSTRUCTION (European Division)

Inside this issue:

Page 1.

- Editorial

Page 2.

- High Court Judgement

Page 3.

- IACSC Conference
- Developments of NVQ's
- Panel Manufacturers Brochures
- New Directory

Page 4.

- FIPG
- Factory Fire
- IFC/IACSC Labelling
- Stop Press

Page 5.

- IACSC Changes
- Making the Uninsurable - Insurable

Page 6.

- Up and Coming Events



Issue 4

April 2003

Welcome to the April edition of Cool Comments. This edition sees the association undergo changes, both in the title and address of the European Division.

IACSC will now be titled **International Association for Cold Storage Construction**, which means that the scope of our membership has broadened to include all types of companies involved in temperature-controlled construction and also that all members will have equal status and rights. We agreed to this name change so that the Association could better represent all aspects of the industry sector.

With the success of the Association and consequent growth in the secretarial duties we have agreed with our technical advisors that they will provide our administrative support with effect from 1 April 2003.

The Association has been receiving specialist technical support from International Fire Consultants Ltd. (IFC) Ltd for a number of years in support of the Association's objectives, and have developed an excellent working relationship with them. The infrastructure at IFC will enable the Association to tap into this resource and drive forward our message over the coming years in support of our members. All correspondence should be directed to the Association as usual but to the address shown on page 5 of this issue. We greatly welcome our new closer liaison with IFC, and we are clear that their experience and expertise will be of great benefit to our members.

As part of the process of broadening the scope of our Association our Technical Committee has been developing a new model National Building Specification which we will launch at our Annual Conference at the Haycock Hotel WANSFORD (near Peterborough) on 18/19 June 2003. The programme is shown on page 3 and a booking letter is issued with this newsletter.

The new Model Specification is designed to harmonize and set the standard for design of temperature-controlled insulated structures and to ensure that the build recommendations contained in the IACSC Guide for Design, Construction, Specifications and Fire Management of such structures are considered and where appropriate incorporated. On a parallel basis our Committee is also developing NVQs for the industry.

Both of these initiatives are important and we hope that IACSC members will support them fully as part of our intent is to improve construction standards in our industry.

HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd and Sahib Foods Ltd. (£17m Claim/Judgement)

Greenwoods Solicitors has obtained what is the first liability judgement against negligent architects. The architects, who were selected as specialist architects, were deemed to be negligent in that they specified combustible core sandwich panels in an area of higher fire risk.

The action is likely to be of great significance to Commercial Property Insurers and Construction Professionals and their own Professional indemnity insurance.

The concern has been for some time that Combustible Insulated Panels (CIPs) had become too widely used for internal partitioning and had come to be used in applications for which they were not well suited.

CIPs are known to have excellent characteristics when used in temperature-controlled insulated structures. It is suggested in the judgment that the appropriate use of CIPs should be restricted to low fire risk situations, where there are good fire protection strategies and measures in place.

The CIP panels were installed throughout the premises of Sahib foods as part of a refurbishment carried out in 1994-1995 to their food production plant in Southall.

Key points made in the judgement were:

- The architects agreed that at the time of the specification in 1994 they knew the same about the fire performance of CIPs as they know at the present time. This was not therefore specifically a state of the art case and the actual knowledge of the architects had to be applied.
- It was not a relevant consideration that there was no breach of Building Regulations.
- There was a foreseeable risk of fire even from a fairly modest item of cooking equipment.
- The architects should have properly taken regard to alternative non-combustible core panels and should have specified these non-combustible panels in cooking areas (Note:

This had been specified by a specialist contractor).

- Where the Specialist Contractor had expressed a caution this should have been passed onto the highest authority on the 'Client side'.
- As a matter of causation there was a break between any contributory negligence on the part of Sahib Foods in first starting the fire by negligent use of the cooking equipment. The spread of fire was a causation issue, not one of contributory negligence.

The exposure of architects and others designing and specifying CIPs in cooking areas or in other situations of increased fire risk after the early 1990's without fully appropriate safeguards is made very plain indeed. The potential aggregate exposure could be enormous, and could affect anyone involved in designing, specifying or installing CIP's.

Greenwoods Solicitors stated, "This is a result which the professional indemnity insurance market in particular will be taking careful account. ...There are many years of exposure to claims still waiting to be realised. ...Architects with long records of using this material might want to look at their limits of indemnity under their PI covers however."

Past Large Sandwich Panel Losses were recorded as:

- Meat Processors - Milton Keynes, 1989, £5.9 million
- Bakery - Dronfield, 1989, £7.5 million
- Bakery – Spain, 1990, £15.8 million
- Poultry Processors - Uckfield, 1991 £5.5 million
- Poultry Processors - Cullompton, 1992 £4.9 million
- Poultry Processors - Hereford, 1993 many £ millions
- Bakery – Southall, 1994, no published figures
- Food Production Factory - Southall, 1998 £17 million

IACSC CONFERENCE 18/19 JUNE 2003

The IACSC conference is scheduled for the 18/19 June 2003 at the Haycock Hotel.

The planned presentations are as follows;

- New Government Legislation
Mr A Burd / Mr G Bowles (ODPM)
- Fire Performance of Insulating Sandwich Panels
Ms Janet Milne (ABI)
- IACSC National Building Specification & Guidance Notes
Mr P Withers/Mr P Jackman (HPBW/IFC)
- Application of Insulating Sandwich Panels & IACSC NVQs
Mr R Daly (Hemsec)
- A view on the Insurance Industry
Mr T Day (BRE/LPC)
- Fire Services View on Temperature-controlled Insulated Structures
Mr I Gough (Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue)
- Open Forum

Fees: Day delegate fees will be £130 (+ VAT) and 24-hour delegate fees would be £260(+ VAT). A copy of the new National Building Specification and associated Protocols will be issued free to delegates.

DEVELOPMENT OF IACSC NVQs

At our technical committee meeting on the 20 March 2003; Mr D Smith (CITB) presented a paper on the CITB possibilities in helping industry sectors to develop appropriate NVQs:

CITB is the national training organisation and awards body for many industry sectors, including construction. The CITB Sector Skills Council (of which Mr Smith is a member) assists in the process.

Two standard bodies (QCA for England and Wales; SQA for Scotland) are responsible for overseeing the development of the appropriate NVQs and ensuring

that full consultation is carried out across the industry sector.

A Product Standards Accreditation Group (PSAG) would verify the standards and an Award Body (to be decided by IACSC) would be responsible for the final awards.

IACSC as a sector has too few operatives (at levels 1,2,3) to merit its own NVQs. Mr Smith recommended the development of an over-arching qualification "Specialist Systems Occupation" which would include cold storage construction NVQs. A CITB consultant, Mr Robert Spur, has been appointed to help IACSC to develop the requisite qualifications. Exemption has been granted to IACSC sector for 18 months, by which time the NVQs should have been developed.

During the meeting on the 20 March 2003, it was agreed that a meeting should be set up in April 2003 between the IACSC Skills Management Council and Mr Robert Spur to establish the planning and liaison process and set up the Validation Committee for this sector.

PANEL MANUFACTURERS' BROCHURES

A review of information on Fire Tests contained in the various Panel Manufacturers brochures had been compiled, and is being reviewed by the Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee also recommended that an overview of panel construction methods should also be developed for the schematic recommendations to be developed/published by the Committee.

Mr Barr (Hemsec), Mr Day (BRE/LPC), Mr Piggott (Cold Build) and Mr Price (Eurobond) have agreed to forward their comments on the detail to be contained in the Schematic Brochure so that a framework can be prepared. This data will be co-ordinated by Mr G Hill (ISD Cold Stores Ltd) and published in the next issue of Cool Comments.

NEW IACSC DIRECTORY

The annual IACSC Directory 2003 will shortly be published and distributed by IACSC (USA). Each member will receive a copy.

FIPG (FOOD INDUSTRY PANELS GROUP) FIRE RISK MINIMISATION GUIDANCE

The Food Industry Panels Group (FIPG), a parallel organisation to the IACSC, was established in autumn 2001 by CFA together with CSDF, ICF (Ice Cream Federation) and UKAFFP to take forward a programme of work with the primary aim of identifying what harmonised risk minimisation measures would satisfy insurers in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

FIPG's membership comprises CFA, CSDF, ICF, UKAFFP members, brokers, selected design engineer consultancies, and panel manufacturers.

FIPG has developed practical Fire Risk Minimisation Guidance for the food industry.

Details of this organisation can be found at <http://www.infoatfigp.com>

FIREFIGHTERS TACKLE HUGE FOOD FACTORY FIRE

December saw a severe factory fire in Leeds tackled by more than 100 fire fighters.

Crews were first called to the incident at the Roberts Group factory on Midland Road, Hunslet, shortly after midnight on 18th December 2002.

Twenty-five fire engines and special appliances were sent to try to prevent the fire from spreading to surrounding buildings.

Police were forced to close access to Midland Road from the Pepper Road end because of an ammonia leak.

One hundred and thirty fire fighters tackled the fire at its fiercest stage, but the operation was then scaled back to just twenty-five.

Incident commander Mick Smith told the BBC the "severe" fire had caused them a great deal of difficulty.

"It was extremely hazardous due to the nature of the contents of the refrigeration unit at the side of the building," he said.

A spokesman from Hunslet fire station could not comment on the cause of the fire, but confirmed there would be an investigation.

The 160 metre-long building was reduced to a shell.

The Roberts Group is a temperature-controlled food distribution company based in Hunslet.

STOP PRESS – IACSC USA

The IACSC USA has also moved. Bill Hudson the President and Director of the IACSC USA and his team have moved to a new address.

IACSC USA
1500 King Street
Suite 201
Alexandria
Virginia
22314
USA

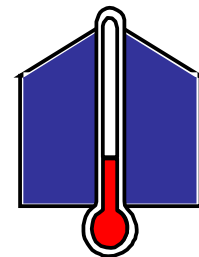
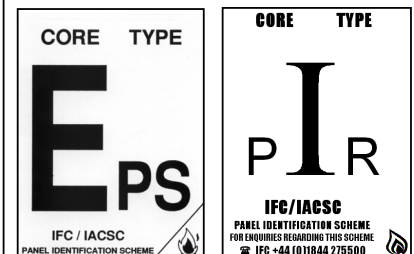
Phone: 001 703 373 4300

Fax: 001 703 373 4301

Email: sshores@iarw.org

IACSC/IFC LABELLING SCHEME

The scheme has been carried out and labelling of premises such as Safeway, Noon Foods and Excel Logistics depots.



If you have clients that may benefit from this scheme please contact, Joanna (Jo) Jackson, Penny Morgan, Paul McGahey, Graham Wiles or Peter Jackman on:

Phone: +44 (0) 1844 275500

Fax: +44 (0) 1844 274002

Email: ifc@intfire.com

IMPORTANT IACSC CHANGES

As mentioned earlier the Association has undergone a name change and is now referred to as the **International Association For Cold Storage Construction (European Division)**. This has been followed by the new address for the Association secretariat (Please update your records!!). The new address for IACSC European Division is:

IACSC (European Division)
20 Park Street,
Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire
HP27 9AH
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1844 275500
Fax: +44 (0)1844 274002
Email: IACSC@intfire.com

The UK Registered Office has also moved to:

29/30 Romsey Industrial Estate,
Great Bridge Road,
Romsey
SO51 0HR
United Kingdom

Should you wish to update your details on our database or suggest a colleague, customer or contact who may wish to receive our newsletters we kindly ask for you to complete the simple fax back form below to +44 (0)1844 274002 or email details to: IACSC@intfire.com.

IACSC (European Division) Faxback Form

Name:.....

Position:.....

Organisation:.....

Address:.....

Post Code:.....

Tel:.....

Fax:.....

Email:.....

AUTUMN 2003 WORKSHOP

We are planning to set up a workshop late September/early October for IACSC members only. **Please send in any of your ideas for presentations by mid May 2003**, which will be followed by an open forum where all aspects of the industry will be discussed.

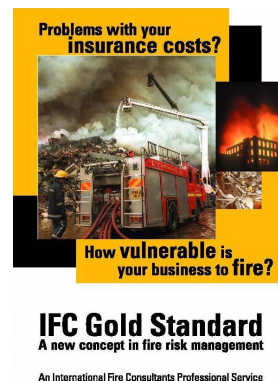
MAKING THE UNINSURABLE - INSURABLE

The last few editions of 'Cool Comments' have mentioned the launch of IFC's Gold Standard and IACSC members have queried what it is designed to do.

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 the Gold Standard in order to reduce the vulnerability of such businesses to arson.

International Fire Consultants Ltd understand that the principles, objectives and approach incorporated in the IFC 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 Joanna (Jo) Jackson or Paul McGahey. Any leads or suggestions in this regard would be most appreciated.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

April

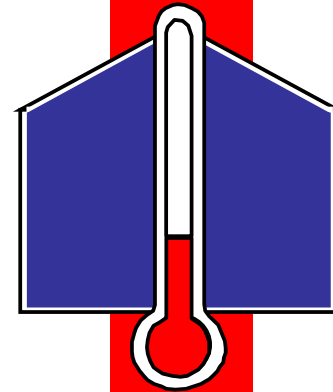
- 8-11 April ANUGA Food Tec 2003
Ice Cream & Fast Food Exhibition
Koln, Germany
Phone: +49 221 8212360
www.anuga@foodtec.de
- 9-10 April 'Part B' Designing and Checking for Compliance
Two Day Workshop, Northampton
Phone: +44 (0)1604 404 121
E-mail: cpd@abe.org.uk
- 10 April RICS Annual Dinner
Edinburgh
- 22-25 April ICCR'2003 3rd Intnt.l Conference,
Cryogenics/Refrigeration
Hangzhou, China
Web: www.cmee.zju.ed.cn/ICCR3.htm
- 24 April IACSC Technical Committee
The Haycock Hotel
Wansford (Nr Peterborough)

May

- 14-16 May International Food, Drink and
Hospitality Exhibition (IFE)
Poland, Warsaw Int Exhibition Centre.
Contact: David Ashdown
Phone: +44 (0)207 886 3000
Fax: +44 (0)207 886 3101
Email: international@montex.co.uk
- 19-22 May Safety & Health Expo 2003
NEC Birmingham, UK
Halls 10,11 & 12
Phone: +44 (0)870 429 4328
Web: www.safety-health-expo.co.uk
- 19-22 May International Fire Expo 2003
NEC Birmingham, UK
Hall 9
Phone: +44 (0)870 429 4326
Web: www.safety-health-expo.co.uk

June

- 3-6 June RICS Building Control Forum Annual
Conference
Edinburgh International Conference
Centre, Edinburgh
- 5 June RICS Plant & Machinery Annual
Conference
The Magna Science Museum,
Rotherham
- 11 June Fire Safety Risk Assessment and the
European Influence (ABE)
Hilton, Northampton
Phone: 0845 1773411
E-mail: cpd@abe.org.uk
- 18-19 June IACSC Annual Conference
The Haycock Hotel
Wansford (Nr Peterborough)



CONTACT US:

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

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