

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

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COOL COMMENTS

Issue 9

July 2004

Editorial

This year is passing much too quickly and it is hard to realise that we are now in the second half of 2004. The organisation of our Annual Conference (14/15 June 2004) took up much of the Secretariat's time during the last quarter and we were very gratified at the high attendance by delegates from a broad spectrum of the industry sectors involved in temperature-controlled construction. Their resonance with the speakers and their often pointed questions contributed to a very lively meeting.

Annual Conference - June 2004

It is worth while highlighting the presentations which took place, and some of the main points which were made. In this context we have decided to print in full in this issue the presentations by Terry Day (BRE/FRS), Graham Hill (P & M Group Ltd) and Peter Jackman (International Fire Consultants Ltd), since it is important that our members have the opportunity to assess in slow time the important views/information contained in them.

The remaining agenda items were also very important since they covered salient aspects of legislation, the insurers views on their evolved principles of construction of temperature-controlled insulated structures, and two extremely interesting presentations by Tony Wall (ISD Cold Stores) and Richard Daley (Hemsec Installations) on methods of raising construction standards in the industry - as our members will all realise, this is one of the main aims of IACSC.



We are also indebted to Alf Carr (Director General - British Frozen Food Federation) for providing the Conference with BFFF's perspective on the problems of managing temperature-controlled stores and food processing plants, and BFFF's need for us to understand and help with some of their difficulties. We reciprocate fully Mr Carr's call for closer liaison with BFFF and we look forward to joint representation on our respective technical committees and certainly BFFF input in the later stages of the revise of our IACSC Guide on Design Construction, Specifications and Fire Management of Temperature-controlled Insulated

Structures. Closer liaison will bring benefits to both our organisations, and as Alf Carr pointed out, there are some 6.5 million cubic metres of temperature-controlled insulated space in the UK, a large proportion of which will need major refurbishment in the coming years! BFFF members will undoubtedly seek the best contractors and suppliers for such refurbishments, and IACSC members will be in a good position to benefit.

Finally, we are grateful to Anna Hayes of the Fire Prevention Association for her presentation on behalf of Jonathan O'Neill (FPA), and enclosed with this issue is a copy of their very new Design Guide on the Principles of Fire Protection of Food Processing Factories. Our Technical Committee will be evaluating both of FPA's new Design Guides and will present their views in the next issue of "Cool Comments".

All in all a very successful Conference which provided much 'food for thought' for all the attendees. All of the subjects will continue to impact significantly on our industry, and IACSC needs to be pro-active in dealing with them.

Technical Matters

Our Technical Committee is in the process of reviewing, evacuating and making recommendations on a number of important issues:

1. Extended Field of Application:

This is a fairly esoteric subject dealing with builds above 3.5 metres. Up until now has received little technical attention, but it will cause problems throughout the industry if it is not correctly handled. A sub-committee has been set up to evaluate the various aspects and we shall report on their views in future issues of "Cool Comments".

2. Approved Contractors Scheme:

Richard Daley (Hemsec Installations Ltd) had focussed on LPS 1231 (the LPC Approved Contractors Scheme) at the Annual Conference. Our Executive Committee (based on a strong recommendation from the Technical Committee) believes that a parallel independent scheme should also be available and has decided that IACSC should endorse an independent Approved Contractors Scheme, which has been developed by IFC Certification Ltd. The Scheme is in final draft and we aim to have it available for implementation to IACSC members by 1 January 2005. IACSC has

had a strong input to the Scheme and we will encourage our members to take it up - a significant means of proving to end-users that our members are of the calibre to build to high standards. Literature will be available to members by November 2004.

3. Revise of Approved Document 'L':

This covers energy efficiency in buildings and we have reported on this in previous issues of "Cool Comments" based on information provided through our close liaison with the Building Efficiency Working Group of FETA (Federation of Environmental Trade Associations). FETA has kindly provided us with copies of their "Guide on Inspections of Air Conditioning Systems in Buildings" and details of a proposed "Energy Performance Certificate for Buildings". Both are important future aspects governed by the revise of AD 'L' (likely to be in force by Mid-2005) and are available to IACSC members by e-mail from the Secretariat.

4. BRE Revise of Smoke Production/Burning

Droplets:

As a back-up to the Building Regulations Division (ODPM) revise of AD 'B', BRE has been carrying out a series of fire tests (SBI/Tube Furnace/ISO Corner Room) on a variety of panel cores (MRF/PIR/EPS/GRP) in order to evaluate the need for the inclusion of Smoke Production and Burning Droplets in the proposed revise of AD 'B'. The fire tests have all been carried out and the initial results were presented at a recent meeting at BRE. IACSC is a stakeholder in the assessment process and we shall be providing our views on the assessed findings to BRE. The findings will be published in early Autumn 2004 and we hope to include them in our next issue of "Cool Comments". The inclusion of toxic smoke and/or the affects of burning droplets would be a significant new departure for AD 'B' if the decision were to be taken by the Building Regulations Division (ODPM).

5. Registered Assessors for NVQs:

As members will be aware, we aim to have our IACSC NVQ Scheme available for implementation (training, assessment and verification) from 1 January 2005. To help with the process we will need a number of Registered Assessors (to be agreed with CITB (Awards Body)) located throughout the UK. The final detail of the NVQs is due to be agreed/approved by CITB in September 2004, and we would be grateful if members could propose experienced contractors who would be

Workplace Risk Assessments/Construction Faults In Insulated Envelope Buildings

By **Peter Jackman** Technical Director, International Fire Consultants Ltd.

Despite the legislation being four years old it is still a little recognised fact that all employers must perform a fire risk assessment of their premises to ensure the life safety of their employees. This is a legal responsibility which can carry 'criminal' charges for the premises owners if it is not undertaken. The need to carry this out exists whether the body employs 1 or 1,000 persons and whether the actual place of work is worked-in continuously, or occasionally. If there are five or less persons the risk assessment output does not need to be recorded in writing and the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire may be communicated to the employees verbally. In the case of the law, however, it would be a brave person who does not record his/her findings just in case there should be an official enquiry following a tragedy. These risk assessments are allowed to be self-generated, but in the light of the complexity of the issues that influence whether an employee survives a fire, or not, it is not surprising that they are increasingly being passed on to 'experts' to perform.

What does a workplace risk assessment consist of?

An objective of such an assessment is to ensure that the active and passive measures are sufficient to ensure the safety of the employees should a fire occur. Mistakenly most risk assessments concentrate on the provision of emergency lighting, signage and probably fire extinguishers. Better assessments will consider the detection system, but few of these would go as far as to check whether the detector leads are the correct ones for the area/application where they are being used. Some will consider whether the fire doors are being abused by being wedged open, or held open on cabin hooks, but rarely will the assessment consider whether the door is able to provide the required level of fire resistance. This will not consider whether that level of performance is commensurate with the risk, note the use of 'risk', which is not necessarily the same as that which guidance to the regulations recommends!

In the light of the fact that most deaths and injuries as a result of a fire are caused by smoke inhalation, the smoke tightness of the doors will never feature in most risk assessments.

The risk of fire spread as a result of incorrect fire penetration sealing, or even the smoke producing potential

of the sealing products, will never feature in most risk assessments, and yet, the potential for disproportionate damage and injury due to inadequate service penetration seals is massive.

What about smoke as well as fire spread?

Fire and smoke spreads through ventilation ductwork, especially warm smoke, not enough to trigger a damper, but more than capable of rendering escape routes impassable due to obscuration or impairment of breathing. Are these potential causes of injury normally dealt with as part of the risk process, the answer is **no!**

It is of concern to us all that, particularly in food factories and storage warehouses, the overall construction can meet the recommendations of the regulatory guidance in respect of building control requirements, but not be sufficient to ensure the life safety of the employees when taking into account the specifics of the buildings, or the processes.

Insulated envelope buildings do not behave in a similar manner to 'average' buildings, and, as a consequence the building regulatory guidance is going to need to be enhanced if life safety is to be assured under all fire scenarios. A fire in an insulated envelope building will be different from that in a conventional industrial building in the following ways:

- potential for ignition greater (mainly in food factories)
- more rapid fire growth due to insulated nature of perimeter (possibly excluding cold stores)
- potential smoke production higher than normal due to contents and in many cases nature of the construction
- rapid smoke spread due to large undivided spaces
- risk of rapid collapse due to delamination

For these reasons it is important that the fire doors, penetration and linear gap fire sealing systems, glazed openings and constructional methods exceed the minimum standard enshrined in, for example, Approved Document 'B' or the Scottish Building Standards if a positive assessment can be granted against The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (Amended 1999).

The presentation will identify many of the measures needed to ensure that the doors, the glazing, the sealing etc, are able to meet the more onerous requirements needed to ensure the life safety of the company's employers in the

buildings within the IACSC's remit. It must be recognised that the Workplace Regulations have primacy over all other legislative instruments in the fire field because of its European origin. It also needs to be recognised that, as stated earlier, a failure to carry out the Workplace Risk Assessment is a 'criminal' act with possible imprisonment, and on this basis an inadequate assessment, especially one that results in subsequent injury and/or death, will be treated severely, if not by the law enforcers, certainly by the civil courts should subsequent damages be solicited.

A salutary tale concerns a legal case where a large shopping centre had obtained regulatory approval and had been trading for 2½ years when a Workplace Risk Assessment condemned the fire protection as being inadequate. The main contractor was sued by the developed who counter sued the sub-contractors (the fire protection applicators) for **six million pounds**. The case was settled out of court for an undisclosed sum, but the legal defence cost each of the sub-contractors around £1 million. Be professional and avoid such problems in the future.

Conclusion

The implications of the Workplace Directive are therefore far reaching.

- As an operator of a facility; a food factory, a warehouse, an office, or a retail unit, you are required to carry out a risk assessment of the building because it is a place of work.
- As a contractor you have a responsibility to build and handover to the client a building that is built to standards that not only satisfy the Building Regulations, but which will meet the Workplace Risk Assessment that will have to take place, both after handover and then on an ongoing basis.
- As a contracting company it will inevitably have its own place of work; offices, storage buildings, yard etc, all of which have to be risk assessed for the fire safety of the employees otherwise the directors themselves will be open to prosecution.

As a consequence, it can be seen that whilst the Workplace Directive was not highly publicised when it became mandatory in all buildings (1999), every sector needs to comply with it in the ways outlined above.

INTERNATIONAL
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UPdate

New Members

We are very pleased to announce the following new members to IACSC (European Division).

Insulated Projects Ltd

Suite 28, Harbour House

Cold Harbour Lane

Rainham

Essex RM13 9YB

Tel: 01708 551 446

Fax: 01708 551 469

E-mail: ocn@btopenworld.com

Contact: Mr Richard Brittain (Director)

Heritage Hygienic Environment

106 Wallasey Road

Wallasey, Wirral

Merseyside CH44 2AE

Tel: 0151 639 0772

Fax: 0151 637 1550

E-mail: installations@heritagesecurity.uk.com

Contact: Mr Greg Howell (Managing Director)

Stancold plc

Portview Road

Avonmouth

Bristol BS11 9LQ

Tel: 0117 316 7000

Fax: 0117 316 7001

E-mail: rwhite@stancold.co.uk

Contact: Mr Paul Mills (Senior Contract Manager)

These new members reflect two new companies and one well-established contractor within our industry and we look forward to their contributions and support for our IACSC aims. We encourage our IACSC members to welcome them to the ranks of our Association.

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UPdate

Buyers Guide for Sandwich Panels

The Passive Fire Protection Alliance of Australia has recently published the "Buyers Guide for Sandwich Panels".

This Buyer's Guide (First Edition) has been prepared by the Alliance for Fire & Smoke Containment (pfpa) to try and both provide a basic overview on some of the relevant terminology and issues and most importantly a starting point for those of you who are trying to find manufacturers and suppliers of sandwich panels and associated products.

This Guide will allow you to visit the relevant manufacturer and supplier web sites and/or contact them to receive more information and discuss your own exacting requirements

By far one of the most topical issues in recent times relating to the field of Passive Fire & Smoke Containment is that of the fire resistance properties and/or the reaction to fire properties of buildings constructed from or incorporating significant quantities of insulating (sandwich) panels.

Recently in Australia and New Zealand, some changes have been seen in the use of sandwich panels by both the insurance companies and also by Regulators through changing requirements in the Building Codes of both countries, particularly relating to the reaction to fire requirements relating to wall and ceiling lining materials.

It would be fair to say that there is a great deal of confusion and miscommunication in the wider industry, as those of us involved in the building industry, be it as architects, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, installers, building approval officers, insurance underwriters or surveyors, risk management consultants, or building owners and operators for that matter, would have observed.



The Buyer's Guide is split into three sections:

Part 1 provides general information on sandwich panels, various core materials, fire testing and fire test data, Australian National Regulatory (Building Control) requirements and the evolving Insurance Industries own requirements.

Part 2 is a guide to using the buyers guides tables and provides an overview of the relevant international and local test standards.

Part 3 contains the Buyer's Guide which include listings of the Sandwich Panel System or associated component supplier, the nominated product category and a summary of available fire test data.

The Buyer's Guide Tables are arranged to be user friendly and should be reasonably self-explanatory, even to those readers who are relatively ill informed in the area of fire and the applicability or otherwise of different proprietary sandwich panel constructions.

This publication will provide a useful reference document to architects, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, installers, building approval officers, insurance underwriters or surveyors, risk management consultants, or building owners and operators.

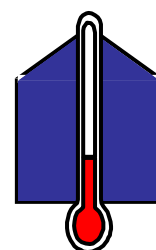
To download a free copy of this go to the Buyers Guide pages at their website

<http://www.pfpa.com.au>



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, Penny Morgan,

Paul McGahey, Joanna Jackson, Graham Wiles or Peter Jackman on:

Phone: +44 (0) 1844 275500

Fax: +44 (0) 1844 274002

Email: ifc@intfire.com

Web: http://www.iacsc.org/iacsc/european_division/labelling_scheme.asp

LPCB Schemes LPS 1181/1208 for Sandwich Panels

By Terry Day, Associate director, BRE Certification and FRS

The method of panel and material testing by Building Research Establishment and the procedure of certification of LPCB -an overview of the LPS 1181 schemes.

Introduction

Before I explain the purpose of the LPS 1181 test, I must go on record in stating that requirements for restricting the combustibility of construction products represents only one part of the overall assessment of necessary risk improvements required by insurers for existing and proposed new buildings.

This should be clearly illustrated by reading a published document from the Association of British Insurers, Technical Briefing, Fire Performance of Sandwich Panels Systems. This was prepared by FRS for the ABI and tends to give a balanced view on the whole subject of sandwich panels and should go some way in overcoming the myths of sandwich panels and insurers! This can be down loaded direct from the FRS web-site as a pdf file.

In addition, the recent publication by FPA of “Essential Principles”, can leave no doubt regarding the intent of insurers requirements. This is equivalent to the functional requirements of building regulations and should not be ignored by building owners or designers. Principle one is of particular relevance to this paper:

“With the exception of joinery products, the building shall be constructed from building materials/products that will not make a significant contribution to the early stages of a fire or contribute to the spread of fire”.

- Compliance with this will be deemed to have been satisfied if the materials/products used are non-combustible, Euro-class A1 or A2 or are approved by LPCB to the requirements of the appropriate part of LPS 1181. (see clause 2.2 of the LPC Design Guide for the Fire Protection of Buildings)
- Compliance with this will also be deemed to have been satisfied if no more than 10% of the construction products used in the construction of the building are combustible.

History

Insurers throughout the world have always been nervous of combustible materials. They have tended to assume that if the quantity of combustible materials used in the construction of a building is significant, then if a fire starts, the fabric of the building will make a significant contribution to a fire. Clearly, with the increased emphasis from governments to save energy, and improve thermal efficiency of the external fabric, there has been a tendency to specify materials that give the best insulation

performance, thickness for thickness which have tended to favour combustible rigid polyurethane.

The basic problem with the insurers approach in isolating the type of material is that it fails to recognise that fire growth performance of construction products can be directly influenced by:

- The manner in which combustible materials are used
- Whether the combustible material will be directly exposed to the fire, either directly or by conduction and/or radiation
- For combustible materials used in sandwich panels, the ability of the panel joints to reduce the escape of volatile gases
- The manner in which such panels are supported
- Ability to contain fire spread to the area of the fire origin.

This situation was not helped by the relatively small scale reaction fire tests specified by regulators such as the surface spread of flame (BS 476: Part 7) and fire propagation test (BS 476: Part 6) which test the basic material and do not evaluate such influences such as joints and support conditions.

In the late 1970's, the then FOC (Fire Offices Committee) were persuaded that the insurers reluctance to accept combustible materials was not justified if it could be shown by a large scale test that a construction product using combustible cores/linings performed satisfactory compared to a non-combustible product. The Fire Insurers Research and Testing Organisation (ultimately to become part of LPC) developed a large-scale test for the FOC, with some input from FRS who shared the same site at Borehamwood. This test was known as the wall and ceiling lining test, and measured 10m long by 4.5m wide by 3m high.

Food factory fires which have been very significant over the last ten years has tended to show not only the inadequacy of the sandwich panels being used internally, particularly in cooking areas and similar, but also poor standard of fire safety management in many of the factories experiencing a bad fire.

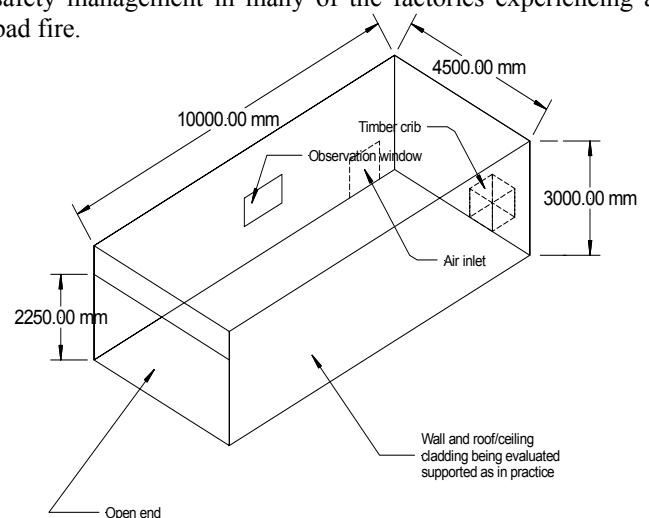


Figure 1 Basic arrangement of wall and ceiling lining test (internal dimensions shown)

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This test was first used for the purpose of obtaining listing in the FOC Rules for Construction. However, once the Loss Prevention Council was set up by insurers in 1985, the LPCB took over responsibility for approval and the wall and ceiling lining test became LPS 1181. LPC/LPCB are now part of BRE.

What is LPS 1181

LPS 1181 is a test to evaluate the performance of sandwich panel systems to assess their contribution to fire growth. Panels satisfying the requirements of LPS 1181 will not make a significant contribution to fire growth when used in wall/roof panel combinations as tested..

Fire growth is explained in clause 2.2 of the LPC Design Guide for the Fire Protection of Buildings. This represents the earlier stage of a fire before the room or compartment is fully involved in the fire. Sandwich panels that have passed this test are currently given the grade B designation in the LPCB List of Approved Fire and Security Products and Services (grade B designation is explained below).

The test comprises building an open-ended enclosure (approximately the size of a large domestic garage) from the sandwich panels with a timber crib located in one corner. It tests not only the panels, but also the jointing methods and supporting system as well. This gives a more precise evaluation of true fire performance than the small-scale reaction to fire tests used by regulators, such as the surface spread of flame and fire propagation tests.

Recent developments have led to the standard being split into two parts. Part 1 deals with external claddings. Part 2 with internal enclosures and linings used typically in the food or cold store industry. BRE research has confirmed that if panels are supported from outside the enclosure (as has been the standard practice in the food industry), a worse fire performance tends to be achieved. Consequently a clear differential between the two applications is necessary. In addition, because of the range of risks attributed to internal applications, a more intense heat exposure is specified for high risks such as cooking areas. The need to contain the fire is also important so, for higher risks in the food industry, fire resistance is also specified. (See LPS 1208)

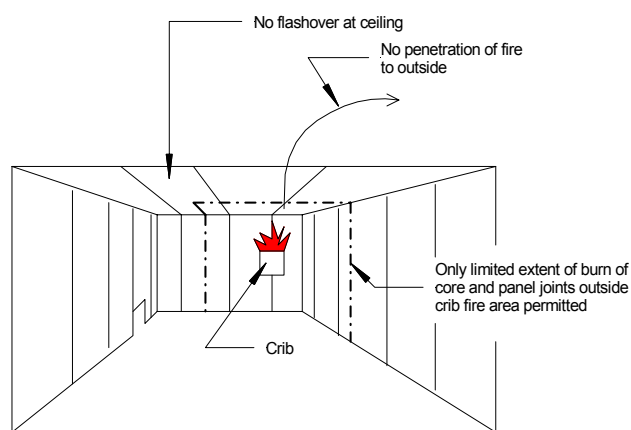
What is the criterion of LPS 1181?

Overview

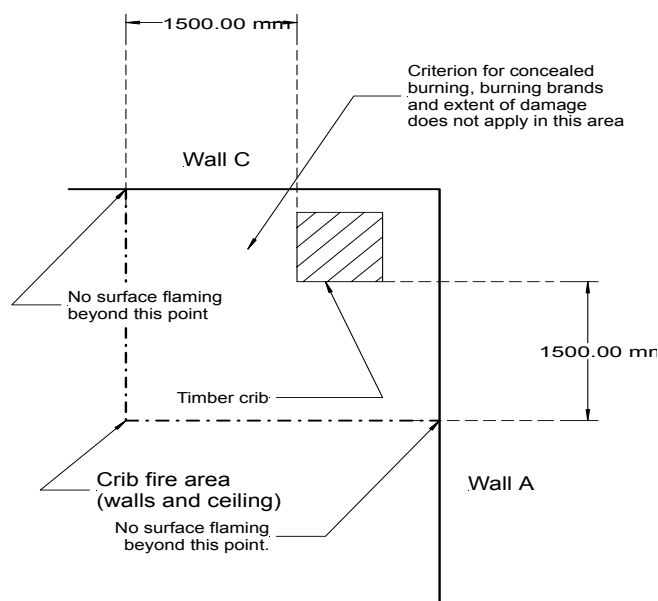
The following diagrams illustrate and summarise the criteria in LPS 1181 used as a basis for determining performance:

Flashover

There should be no flashover at the ceiling (based on a defined temperature limit not being exceeded).



Basic objective of LPS 1181 test



©BRE Certification Ltd

Internal Surface Flaming:

There should be no sustained surface flaming beyond 1.5m from the perimeter of the crib in both horizontal directions (e.g. outside crib fire area). Flaming less than 60 seconds duration can be ignored in respect to this criterion.

External Surface Flaming:

There should be no flame spread at any location on the external surface of the test building. For any flaming to reach to the outside would tend to indicate either poor design or poor installation of the test specimen.

Concealed Burning/ Damage

Should be within defined limits, based on charred/damaged area of core, see LPS 1181 for more information. Damage in burn area of crib is ignored. Also charring less than 6mm deep ignored in respect to measuring surface area of charr. Role of this requirement is to show that hidden burning is restricted and does not extend too far from the fire origin. Damage to surface finishes are ignored.

Burning Brands:

There should be no fall of burning brands from the ceiling outside the vicinity of the crib fire area

Stability: *(Internal applications only)*

This will be satisfied if no part of the test building collapses during the fire test. This will be deemed to have occurred if the deformation exceeds 1/30 of the distance between the ceiling support centres. Delamination of the exposed skin from the core should not be judged under this criterion

Note: Observations and surface temperatures recorded are also taken into account during the LPCB assessment.

What is LPS 1208?**Purpose**

LPS 1208 is the standard for evaluating the fire resistance of an element of construction with specific application to compartment walls and floors. Fire resistance is related to the fully developed or post-flashover stage of a fire. This is the phase of the fire where all the contents in the room or in the vicinity of where the fire originates are fully involved and are burning. The basic objective is to maintain the structural integrity of the building and to prevent the spread of fire into other compartments. Furnaces are used to test elements of construction for fire resistance.

Criteria for fire resistance

Criteria used for panel assessment are **integrity** (no gaps that allow fire and smoke to get through) and **insulation** (combustible materials on the non-fire side cannot become ignited). (Load-bearing capacity not normally applicable to sandwich panels)

Test methods

LPS 1208 uses the methods of test described in BS 476:Part 20-22:1987 or EN equivalent.

Test reports express the result in terms of integrity and insulation. An example of which is given below:

Integrity: 240 minutes

Insulation: 15 minutes*

* The insulation value should be noted in particular, as this is more indicative of real fire performance.

Some sandwich panels may have only been evaluated to LPS 1208 and listed by LPCB because of their specific application in the building. This is particularly true for panels used in compartment walls. However, as most systems having fire resistance above 60 minutes are non-combustible, they may therefore meet the requirements without the need for testing to LPS 1181, provided the requirements in the screening tests are met given in LPS 1181.

Important role of LPCB**Approval process**

The LPCB approval process involves rigorous assessment and testing of products and services to ensure that they meet and continue to meet quality standards set by a team of experts who may be clients, regulators, insurers, designers, manufacturers, installers, engineers and scientists.

Insulating cores

Many of the insulating cores used in sandwich panels depend on close control of their chemical composition to maintain acceptable levels of fire performance and the benefit of LPCB approval is that an independent check is made to ensure that the product tested is actually still being made to that specification.

Samples of the insulating core are now taken from the factory, tested to the cone calorimeter test and compared to similarly tested samples tested at the time of undertaking the LPS 1181 test.

Need for stronger support for third party certification

Unfortunately, building regulators do not demand third party assessment of the products quality, so actual fire performance may fall below anticipated and required levels.

Extended field of application

We have developed two documents covering the application of LPS 1181 and LPS 1208 to real buildings and these are out for comment. This has included IACSC but are still awaiting their views.

LPC Design Guide for the Fire Protection of Buildings 2000

This document has been written by LPC/FRS on behalf of the ABI and is published by FPA. This document defines what insurers require in respect to fire growth performance of construction products as well as substantial text dealing with fire resisting compartmentation. This is being re-developed and is supported by stand-alone documents covering specific risks. Two publications of particular relevance to this conference are Food Factories and Cold-Stores. Input from the technical committee of IACSC has been taken into account during the drafting stage and proved extremely valuable.

Conclusion

I have been requested to restrict my presentation to testing and certification aspects of sandwich panels. Whilst these factors are of considerable importance to reduce the overall fire risk, the importance of adequate fire risk assessment and a good standard of fire safety management and design must be emphasised.

The Need for a Trained and Carded Workforce

The role of the IACSC and how to continue to work on construction sites.

By Graham Hill IACSC Technical Committee

History

- 113 deaths on Construction Sites in 2000/01
- Government to impose legislation
- Top 21 main contractors by turnover get together to form the 'Main Contractors Group' MCG

Main Contractors Group

- MCG Charter launched April 2001
- All Plant operatives to be carded by December 2002
- All Site operatives to be carded by December 2003
- Target reduction of 10% year on year in Reportable incidents until 2010
- Next tier of builders has accepted the charter also; The National Contractors Federation

Accident Statistics in Construction Industry 1999-2003

- In 1999/2000 there were 87 fatalities in the construction industry this increased to 113 in 2000/01 but since the introduction of the MCG charter in 2001/02 this dropped to 85 (25%) and 2002/03 to 75 (12%).
- In 1999/2000 1,108,935 people were employed and 628,672 were self employed. Total 1,737,607 persons
- No statistics are available beyond 1999/00.

Trade card for Working on Site

What is IACSC doing?

- The IACSC has a nominated standards setting committee developing with the CITB as the awarding body a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 1 and Level 2 for the Insulating Sandwich Panel Installer (ISPE).
- Levels 3 and 4 are being planned for the Design and Office functions.

Why establish a trade qualification ?

- NVQ will enable the cold store industry to establish a recognised qualification which will benefit our industry in the long term and allow us to continue to work on construction sites.

Status of the NVQ for Cold Store Erector

- Draft 2 of Level 2 was issued for comment at the meeting of the IACSC sub committee setting the standards for the qualification on 18th March 2004.
- CITB have been established as the awarding body.
- The standards setting committee met again on 14th May 2004 to discuss the Draft 3 of Level 2.
- Draft 1 of Level 1 was also issued at this meeting for discussion.
- The units required to achieve the Level 1 & 2 qualification were agreed at meeting in May.
- A meeting is to be held with the CITB early in July to agree the format and units for levels 1 and 2 of the NVQ and gain CITB approval.
- It is planned to have the NVQs up and running and available for the industry by the end of 2004.
- Assessors are required from all areas of the industry. Please contact the IACSC if you or your company are interested in training to be an assessor.

What happens until the NVQ is available ?

- Until the NVQ is available cold store construction companies can still continue to work by applying for an exemption letter.
- The exemption letter says you may wish to consider the CSCS Construction Site Operatives Card for your staff.
- Many MCG contractors are not accepting the letter and requiring at least the H&S test to be done.
- To obtain a CSCS Site Operatives Card you first have to obtain the correct H&S test pass.

How to obtain a CSCS Site Operatives Card

- Register with the CSCS giving a CITB registration number.
- Apply to sit the CSCS Operatives Health and Safety Test through Thomson Prometric
- Sit the test (touch screen at driving test centres)
- On passing you do not get a card merely a letter saying you have sat and passed the test
- Apply to CITB to get a CSCS Operatives Card (see example of form). This gives you a CSCS Operatives Card (see example)

CSCS Construction Site Operative Application Form

CSCS Site Operatives Card

Plant Operator Card

- Plant Operator must have an appropriate plant card to operate; scissor lifts, booms (cherry pickers), fork lifts etc
- Only four recognised competence schemes accepted by the CSCS
 - 1, National Plant Operators Registration Scheme (NPORS)

2, Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) through CITB.

3, LANTRA Skills Training Association

4, International Powered Access Federation (IPAF)

- To obtain these cards an appropriate training course through one of the four qualifying bodies must be passed.

Plant Operator Card (Continued)

- The CPCS Plant Health and Safety touch screen test to be passed
- This will enable for those not having one of the 4 cards previously to apply for a trainee card (Orange)
- Operator must complete a log book to show that they have done a minimum of 300 hours of operation in 3 years and must also complete the NVQ in Specialised Plant and Machinery in that same period enabling a Red Trained Plant Operator Card to be gained.
- Orange trainee card runs out after 3 years and can not be renewed (see example)

Plant Operator Card (CPCS)

- Example of plant operator card which has a symbol showing the appropriate Health and Safety test
- A trainee would have an orange card for 3 years

Other Personnel Attending Site

- All personnel attending site will need a card to get on site. This includes; Project Managers, Supervisors, Drivers etc.
- To obtain the appropriate card for these the procedure is the same as for the Site Operative Card.
- Site the appropriate CSCS touch screen Health and Safety Test. There are 18 types including Managers and Supervisors
- Apply for the appropriate card eg Construction Project Manager, Building Site Supervisor (see example)

Other Site Cards available

Advantages to the Cold Store Construction Industry

- It gives the Industry credibility and brings the industry in line with most of the major industries
- Enables employers to employ a trained workforce either through external or internal training
- NVQ will become the recognised qualification for the Cold Store Construction Industry allowing a prospective employer to know that the operative has achieved a standard level
- Improves the standards of Health and Safety on site and improve the safety of your workers on site.

Making the Uninsurable - Insurable

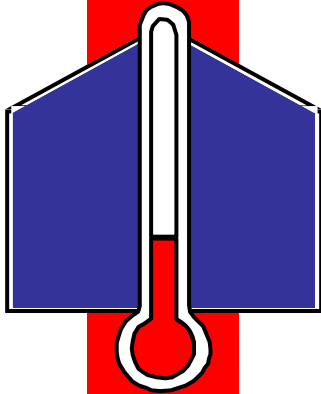
The objective of the 'IFC Gold Standard' is to lower the potential for fire to as near zero as possible, to reduce that impact of fire on the ability of the company to continue trading, and to reduce the incidents of disproportionate damage in the event of a fire. Whilst being designed for all building 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 'IFC 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 you feel this is a useful service that your clients would appreciate details of, then please phone +44 (0) 1844 275500 and request copies of our brochure from either Paul McGahey or Joanna Jackson. Any leads, contacts or suggestions in this regard would be most appreciated.



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Up and Coming Events

The list below provides an overview of the forth-coming events in 2004, which will be of interest to our members.

July

No events of interest

August

28 August —4 September
World Firefighters Games 2004
www.worldfirefightersgames.co.uk

September

8-9 September
Energy 2004
The Telford International Centre
www.energy2004.co.uk

14-17 September

Batimat, St Petersburg, Baltic Building Week
St Petersburg, Russia
www.primeexpo.ru/batimat/eng

23 September

Construction in Retail
Café Royal, London, W1
Tel: 0207 505 6044

23-25 September

100% Detail
Earls Court, London
www.100percentdetail.co.uk

30 September

Part E: Designing for Compliance
RIBA, London, W1
Tel: 0207 505 6044
www.partE-conference.co.uk

October

5-6 October

Everything European—A Comprehensive Guide to EC Food Law (Training)
Leatherhead Food International
Tel: +44 (0)1372 376761
www.leatherheadfood.com

6-13 October

National Construction Week
www.ncw.org.uk

6-7 October

Building Performance
Olympia, London
Tel: 0870 429 4558
www.interbuild.com

11-15 October

Our Built Environment—Past, Present Future
Edinburgh Moat House
Tel: 0845 126 1058
Email: cpd@abe.org.uk

14-15 October

B4E—Building for a European Future
Maastricht, The Netherlands
Www.b4e.org

19 October

IGD Annual Convention and Food Industry Awards
Royal Lancaster Hotel, London
Tel. +44 (0)1923 851916
Email: Catherine.ellwood@igd.com

November

3-4 November

Foodtech 2004
Wembley Exhibition Centre
Tel: +44 (0)1908 613323
www.foodtech2004.com

18-19 November

39th General Assembly of Panama International
Athens, Greece
Email: coolpanel@skynet.be