

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

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Issue 15A

January 2006

**Editorial**

There comes a time in the affairs of any organisation when change is inevitable and probably good for the development of new ideas and initiatives. I have had the pleasure and privilege of looking after the interests of the European Division since 1995 when I first agreed to take on the position of Executive Secretary. I was “recruited”, if not had my arm twisted, by the redoubtable Bev Russell who clearly perceived the need for an independent organiser to promote the interests of the industry. Since I knew several of the major personalities in the industry and I had had many dealings with Bill Hudson, President IACSC, USA over a number of years, my agreement to Bev’s proposal was not too difficult. I am delighted to be able to say that I have very much enjoyed my time with the European Division, and I have taken the decision to retire with quite a few feelings of real regret. However, as I approach my seventh decade I feel it is more than appropriate to hand on the baton to a younger and probably “feistier” successor. You will all know David Thompsett (ex Group Technical/Sales Manager of Vencel Resil Ltd - retired in February 2005) who has wide-ranging and deep experience of the industry over many years, and who can bring a fresh mind to bear on the development of the Division. I believe it was very fortunate that David had retired from Vencel Resil and was available and willing to take on the appointment. I am clear that he will continue to provide you, the members; with the service you both require and deserve.

David is taking over at an interesting time in the development of the Division. Our membership has increased and our Committee structure is well established. We have strong links with our US parent organisation as well as with other important International, European and UK Trade Associations and we are recognised and respected by the UK Government, the UK Fire Services and the UK insurance industry. We have excellent administrative back-up from IFC Ltd, without whose help I could not have managed, and I believe the platform has been established for greater things to come.

That may sound somewhat bombastic, but consider where we’re at:

Technical Committee

1. We have been and will continue to develop (a) solution(s) to the complicated problem of Extended Application of Insulating Sandwich Panels. It will take time but a practical and acceptable solution will be found. We believe that our solution will also benefit and improve the content of the Draft CEN Standard for EXAP which, in our opinion, has lost its way. The subsequent part of our task will be to persuade the CEN Working Group of the error of their ways - not easy

given the bureaucratic inclination of European legislation/standards committees.

2. We have achieved initial agreement in principle with BSI to develop a new large scale fire test for insulating sandwich panels/systems, which we believe will incorporate more aspects and be more realistic than the current LPS 1181 and/or the SBI fire tests. This will also take time, but will bring immeasurable benefits to manufacturers/contractors/end-users and insurers involved with temperature-controlled and ambient insulated structures. With BSI as the coordinating organisation we will hopefully be in a position to achieve agreement across the board as to the best way forward. If we manage to solve this particular problem then the industry will be able to construct buildings to the correct designation and with the most suitable materials for the functions of the structure.
3. We are in a position to publish the important revise of the well-recognised and endorsed Guide on *Design, Construction, Specifications and Fire Management of Temperature-controlled Insulated Structures* in the late Autumn of 2006. This will coincide with the publication of the equally important revise of Approved Document 'B' (dealing with fire safety) by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and following on from the publication of the Fire Safety Reform Order, both of which will impact significantly on our industry. The recommendations in the revise of our Guide will ensure improvements in the materials and methods of construction of temperature-controlled structures. (*Note: The new "Hospitals Guide" (an important element of the new Fire Safety Reform Order) also refers to Appendix F of Approved Document 'B' (Fire Safety) which refers interested parties (including BCOs) to our own Guide.*)
4. We have set up an **Approved Contractors Scheme** with IFC Ltd which will ensure coherent company structures in those contractors who successfully undergo the process. Contractors who will achieve approved status will automatically be more acceptable to end-user clients who seek best practice/best methods of construction.

#### Standards Setting Body (NVQs)

1. We have Level 2 NVQs covering our particular construction techniques agreed and accredited with CITB/City & Guilds and these were published in Cool Comments (October 2004).
2. We have a "**Strategic Assessment Plan**" and "**Question and Answer Guidelines**" covering the Level 2 NVQs agreed with CITB and available for use

by our Internal Verifier/Registered Assessors who will be involved in processing Level 2 NVQ Candidates throughout the industry (including sub-contractors).

3. Our trainee Registered Assessors have started their training programme with Level 2 Candidates and will be ready to expand their activities further from Spring 2006. We envisage that the contracting industry as a whole (including sub-contractors) will have been processed through Level 2 NVQ within the next 4 years. To cover the interim situation we have also agreed (CSCS instructions/cards for trainees and experienced workers and these are now in place and available through CITB. However, any trainee/experienced worker taking out a CSCS Card **will also have to agree the commitment of completing a Level 2 NVQ course within 2 years of receiving a CSCS Card.**
4. We have agreed/endorsed the establishment of a "**Specialist Assessment Centre**" staffed by IFC Ltd and organised in conjunction with CITB. This will be operational from Spring 2006, and will coordinate the work of the Registered Assessors.

As the assessment process widens throughout the industry this will ensure best practice/best construction methods by individuals as well as by companies. By Spring 2006 only IACSC CSCS Cards/Level 2 NVQ Cards will be acceptable to the Major Contracting Groups operating within the UK. Our IACSC Contractor members are now "in Scope" in the NVQ Scheme set up with CITB, and the Annual CITB levy is now mandatory for these companies. (*Note: The annual cost of the levy will be broadly offset by the grants available via CITB for Level 2 Candidates. For contractors with an annual pay-roll of less than £64000 no levy need be paid.*)

#### Round Up

That's the picture. The industry and the European Division is very much on the move and we have the full support of the IACSC Board and our US colleagues. I have agreed to coordinate the final details of the revise of our Guide through to its publication, but this sadly is my last Editorial. There are many challenges still to come and I am sure you will give David Thompsett the same support which I have received.

My best wishes to you all for a successful and prosperous 2006.

**W J BITTLES OBE**  
Executive Secretary



Left to right: David Thompsett, Peter Clayton, Olav Turner, Keith Hemmings, Simon Thomas

*“The new Executive Committee, January 2006, at their recent visit to Wormwood Scrubs - fact finding mission only”*

*NB. Richard Daley and Tony Wall, should also be in the photo but scarperred before the photo was taken!*

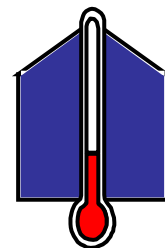


David Thompsett, the new Executive Secretary

*“Thinking about Wordsworth’s daffodils as he wonders about the future”*

## 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, Graham Wiles or Peter Jackman on:

Phone: +44 (0) 1844 275500

Fax: +44 (0) 1844 274002

Email: [ifc@intfire.com](mailto:ifc@intfire.com)

Web: [http://www.iacsc.org/iacsc/european\\_division/labelling\\_scheme.asp](http://www.iacsc.org/iacsc/european_division/labelling_scheme.asp)

## **Revision of the IACSC Guide ‘Design, Construction, Specification and Fire Management of Insulated Envelopes for Temperature Controlled Environments’**

The Technical Committee has been closely involved in the updating of the Guide which is being edited by Penny Morgan of the IACSC Secretariat. There has been a massive rethink of the whole document with a greater emphasis on the needs of the three main interested parties, that is the client, the architect/contractor/insurer, and the approving authority. We have rearranged and simplified the document and the new chapter headings are:

- Chapter 1 Introduction: scope, NVQs and the other topics to be covered
- Chapter 2 Legislation and related concepts
- Chapter 3 Insulating sandwich panels
- Chapter 4 Designing and construction; expanded by bringing in the material on supplementary support designs, thermal bowing, condensation and pressure equalisation as appropriate; links to NVQs.
- Chapter 5 Designing to meet the Health & Safety Risk
- Chapter 6 Designing to meet the fire risk. New information on air sampling , curtains etc. Replaces the old pink chapters, includes appendices A-F on the fire issues; regulatory controls and approvals, storage (and food industry) requirements; design standards and tests; fire safety engineering; insurance industry
- Chapter 7 Installation and commissioning; NVQs; Health & Safety during construction and commissioning
- Chapter 8 Maintenance; Health & Safety during operation
- Chapter 9 Decommissioning and refurbishment or closure
- Chapter 10 Environmental assessment impact; includes new information on refrigerants and covers disposal of panels containing oxygen depleting substances
- Appendix G Sources of professional advice and procurement

The content is now hopefully subject to minor changes only and should stay much as indicated above.

Penny Morgan

### Composite Sandwich Panels – Safety Issues

The HSE website item regarding safety issues in respect of false ceiling construction, which may be used for restricted “walk-on” access, has been amended. The revised full wording is reproduced below to ensure that Cool Comments reports accurately on this item and reflects the current HSE views.

The previous HSE Guidance should, of course, be disregarded.

“Composite sandwich panels - safety issues (22 December 2005, revised 20 January 2006)

Composite sandwich panels are used extensively for wall, roof and false ceiling construction in food factories and other large commercial structures and provide thermal/fire resistance and a hygienic cleanable surface. The panels comprise an insulating core sandwiched between two thin steel sheets. The most common core materials are mineral fibre, polystyrene and polyurethane. Panels used for ceilings may allow restricted 'walk-on' access for maintenance etc., subject to safety criteria set out by the manufacturer.

HSE has investigated incidents in which workers have fallen through composite sandwich panel ceilings. Investigations have revealed incorrect installation, overloading and weakening by previous walk-on events as factors.

Checks should be made where such panels are installed as a suspended ceiling or roof cladding, and where access across them to plant or for maintenance etc. is required.

In particular:

- Panels should be selected and installed as per the manufacturers' guidance with particular care to safe working practices during construction.
- Independently supported walkways should be installed where frequent access is required, or boards used to spread loading for other prolonged work activities.
- Panels should not be used as a working platform or for positioning equipment. Guidance on loading capabilities should always be sought from the manufacturer.

Some panels are described as having a load bearing capacity of '1 man + 1 toolbox per panel for occasional access'. Occasional access is not defined and this load bearing criteria may lead to complacency in risk assessing safe design at installation and for subsequent maintenance operations. The accurate load bearing capacity of a particular panel must be sought from the manufacturer as the actual performance of different types of panels can vary greatly.”

#### Editor's Note

Accidents in which workers have fallen through composite sandwich panel ceilings are, of course, a concern to our industry. IACSC Guide has a specific paragraph on “walkability” and we will update it in the light of the HSE recommendations.

We welcome all views on this subject and would be very pleased to publish any comments in the next issue of Cool Comments.

#### IACSC Publications

##### **Guidelines for the Specification, Design and Construction of Cold Store Floors (published 1993).**

Non members £55 + £5.00 p&p

Members £50 + £5.00 p&p

##### **Design, Construction, Specification and Fire Management of Insulated Envelopes for Temperature Controlled Environments (published 1999).**

Non members £120 + £5.00 p&p

Members £100 + £5.00 p&p

##### **Fire Stable Certification Scheme for Insulated Panel Systems and Structures (published 2000; revised 2001).**

Non members £45 + £5.00 p&p

Members £40 + £5.00 p&p

##### **Model Building Specification for Design, Installation and Commissioning of Insulated Envelopes and Insulated Floors for Temperature Controlled and Ambient Environments (published June 2003).**

Non members £65 + £5.00 p&p

Members £50 + £5.00 p&p

To order, forward your remittance made out to IACSC (European Division). On receipt of your payment the publications will be sent by return of post.

20 Park Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire  
HP27 9AH. Phone: +44 (0)1844 275500

We were delighted to hear some of the work our members are up to outside of the day to day business activities and felt we should share this with you all.



### Christmas Greetings

heritagehygienic

Like many companies this year Heritage Hygienic Environments have decided to replace diaries, calendars, gifts etc and make a donation to a registered charity. Stick'n'Step Charity (Charity No 1095981) based at St. Johns Parish Centre, 128 Bebington Road, New Ferry, CH62 5BJ will be our beneficiary.

For those of you who do not know, I am a founder trustee of this centre, which is very close to my heart, due to the wonderful therapy my youngest son Jai has received. Jai who is now six is just starting to learn to walk with a frame and also with sticks and is learning to overcome his physical problems due to having Cerebral Palsy. This is purely down to Conductive Education he receives from SticknStep. We opened the centre on January 5<sup>th</sup> 04, to thirty children, we now have over eighty kids who travel from as far a field as South Wales to Greater Manchester.

Stick'n'Step is a parent led organisation that provides Conductive Education (A Hungarian based therapy developed at the world famous PETO institute) 'free of charge' to all children who can benefit. There are a small number of centres in the country but the majority charge between £400 & £500 per week.

Stick'n'Step has grown from strength to strength and employs five 'conductors', two classroom assistants, a fundraising manager and an administrator. The parents and trustees work incredibly hard to provide this service by fundraising, grant applications & with the help of businesses. They do not receive any government funding.

Again, I would like to say a 'massive' thank you from the parents, children & trustees to all the companies who have helped us along the way. If you can help in the future, please contact Allison (My wife), Barbara or myself. For information visit [www.sticknstep.co.uk](http://www.sticknstep.co.uk) or telephone 0151 645 1291.  
Happy Christmas & a prosperous New Year!!

Greg Howell



Helping Children with Cerebral Palsy  
Charity No. 1095981



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Company Registration Number: 5153542  
Registered in England and Wales

### SBI Test

Dr Bart Sette (University of Gent) gave a presentation at the 41st General Assembly of Panama International in Barcelona recently on the subject “*Evaluation of the Uncertainties and Improvement of the Single Burning Item Test Method*”.

Below is a quick précis of his presentation and if you would like to receive the full presentation please contact the secretariat who will arrange for a copy to be sent by CD as the file is quite large.

Dr Sette started his presentation by providing some background information on the setup of the Euroclass system.

In order to be able to evaluate risks, there is a need to categorise fires into a number of reference scenarios. These are ISO Room Corner, ISO Room Corridor, Façade, Shaft and any others.

Experiment:

- Test with DAQ running at 10 Hz (= 30 times faster than in SBI)
- This dataset allows us to deduce 30 different valid ‘SBI’ data sets at a sampling frequency of 1/3 Hz
- = 30 different datasets for same test

In his presentation Dr Sette set out three proposals each with different variables. He identified the following different components

- Bandwidth of different measuring devices
- Identification of built in filters
- Bandwidth data acquisition system
- Bandwidth mass flow controller (burner)

NB. The bandwidth is the frequency below which an input signal is transferred without substantial distortion in amplitude and/or phase-shift.

The conclusion.....

- Specify bandwidth (BW) of SBI Proposal BW = 1/10 Hz
- Use Henderson filters instead of moving average filters
- Use Pearson’s correlation coefficient to synchronise data
- Replace the existing bi-directional probe
- Calculate ‘c’-factor instead of taking it constant
- It is technically possible to estimate the uncertainty interval. Ask for it!
- Room for substantial improvements to the test method! Which proposals will be implemented?
- Although the product evaluation does not change as such – the result will still lie within the actual uncertainty interval – it may have important consequences for your product (especially for borderline products)
- Narrowing the uncertainty interval increases the reliability of the test method

## Up and Coming Events

The list below provides an overview of the forth-coming events in 2005/6, which will be of interest to our members.

Readers are also asked to put in their diary that the annual IACSC conference has been scheduled for the 28th June to 29th June 2006 at the Haycock Hotel, Wansford, near Peterborough.

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### February 2006

#### SHEDS

8 and 9 February 2006  
Celtic Manor Resort, Newport  
[www.shedshow.com](http://www.shedshow.com)

#### The Fire Safety Order

08 Feb 2006  
Inmarsat, London EC1  
[www.cnfiresafety.co.uk](http://www.cnfiresafety.co.uk)

#### Masterplanning and the European City

21 Feb 2006  
RIBA, London W1  
[www.euromasterplanning.co.uk](http://www.euromasterplanning.co.uk)

#### SAFER06

28 February 2006  
BRE, Watford  
e-mail: [events@bre.co.uk](mailto:events@bre.co.uk)

### March 2006

#### Third International Roof & Façade Materials and Technologies Exhibition, at CNR Expo

23 March to 26 March 2006  
Istanbul-Turkey  
e-mail: [efsun.sar@cnr.net](mailto:efsun.sar@cnr.net)  
[www.caticephe.com](http://www.caticephe.com)

#### UTECH Europe 2006 Conference

28 March to 30 March 2006  
MECC, in Maastricht, the Netherlands  
For Registration and Enquiries please contact: UTECH 2006, Registration Manager, 8 Ash Lane, Wells, Somerset BA5 2LU, UK.

Fax: +44 (0)1749 670095,

### April 2006

#### IARW-WFLO Annual Convention and Trade Show

22 April to 27 April 2006  
Walt Disney World Swan, Orlando, Florida, USA  
[www.iarw.org/hq/convention](http://www.iarw.org/hq/convention)

#### Interbuild 2006

23 Apr 2006 to 27 Apr 2006  
NEC, Birmingham  
Tel: 020 7505 8614  
[www.interbuild.com](http://www.interbuild.com)

### May 2006

Forty-second GA of Panama International  
18 May 2006 to 19 May 2006  
Prague, Czech Republic  
Contact: [coolpanel@skynet.be](mailto:coolpanel@skynet.be)

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