

NEWS & LETTERS

Toughglass seminar success

Toughglass Ltd held its first Technical Seminar on the 21st October 2004 in Kilkeel, County Down, Northern Ireland. The topics of this **Pilkington** sponsored event were an update on new regulations for windows manufacturers and Pilkington Activ self-cleaning glass.

After the inaugural speech of Toughglass MD John Agnew, Mr Rick Wilberforce gave an overview and update on energy efficiency legislation related to glazing, with a particular emphasis on the new BFRC Window Energy Rating proposal. Mr Ian Spokes followed in with a very interesting presentation on Pilkington Activ self-cleaning glass and several application and reference sites. The seminar also gave an overview of what might be the window of the future with a presentation by Dr Trevor Hyde (University of Ulster) of a window design with a U-value of 0.5 W/m²K and a high level of daylight transmission. A presentation on the current and future capabilities of Toughglass for the manufacturing of flat and curved toughened glass concluded the proceedings before a very social lunch around a display of samples.

All attendees have already booked their place for the second series. Toughglass intends to make this series an annual event and hopes that it will become a key date in the diary of all the key players in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This first event gathered more than 50 attendees representing architects, specifiers, windows manufacturers, partition manufacturers, glass processors and manufacturers, as well as glass and architectural media representatives.

If you wish to attend the next series, contact Toughglass Business Development Executive, Emmanuel Bourdin at emmanuelb@toughglass.com

1279 Myths Clarified

Dear Sir

I read with interest the article in November *Glass Age*, '1279 Myths De-mystified', from **Ulmke Metals**. It is refreshing to see informed comment on EN 1279 coming from other sources and I hope the following comments on the six myths identified by Stuart Hawker will be of further benefit to your readers.

Myth 1: Only the larger manufacturer can survive

I agree that this assumption is totally wrong. Some of the lowest Moisture Penetration Index results have come from smaller manufacturers.

Myth 2:

You need a lot of kit to pass

The text suggests that both large and small manufacturers have experienced difficulty in 'robustly controlling the operation'. This really is an unjustified generalisation which needs qualification. In the early days of testing to EN 1279 Part 2, a lot of Kitemark licensees failed the first time because they made the costly mistake of manufacturing the test units as they had done for BS 5713. Having learned the hard way, they didn't fail the second time! Our experience over the last two

years has shown a pass rate of over 90 per cent, so all can achieve compliance.

Myth 3:

Don't even bother with gas

To be perfectly honest I don't understand what the writer is trying to say. I do agree that gas filling rightly has an important part to play for many manufacturers. What should be made clear is that there have been significant problems at the test house in testing to Part 3. Until these problems have been resolved, manufacturers should concentrate on passing EN 1279 Part 2. Part 3 can be tackled later. As well as reliable gas filling machines, there is plenty of equipment available to assess fill quantities accurately. An efficient gas testing service will be available soon.

Myth 4:

I'll only comply when it's law

I totally agree with this rebuttal of the myth.

Myth 5:

I need a 1279 consultant

Readers may be surprised to learn that I agree with this statement. Nobody 'needs' a consultant, but the reality is that it takes more than 'just a bit of time, thought and imagination' – time being the key word. The evidence is the apparently few

FPC systems in place which have been derived from so-called 'free CDs'; even though they have been available for 12 months or so. Rather than talk about my company's 'wealth of experience', I would refer readers to any of the 250+ satisfied clients of CEN Solutions and let them do the talking.

Myth 6:

EN 1279 will not happen

Again, I completely agree with response to this myth.

At **CEN Solutions**, we are happy to work with all distributors in helping their customers to achieve EN1279 Part 2. By offering their customers our tried and tested formula that really works, enlightened distributors will reap the benefits of being seen to provide a vital added value service enabling their salesmen to provide a valued sales service to their customers.

Yours faithfully

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Stuart Hawker writes:

In response to the letter from David Frost I would like to clarify a few points from **Ulmke Metals'** recent article '1279 myths De-mystified'.

As David rightly points out the section of the article entitled 'You need lots of kit to pass', does indeed suggest that large and small manufacturers have had difficulty in robustly controlling the manufacturing operation to meet the standards required by pr EN 1279. Robust control of the operation, allied of course to the use of quality IG components, is essential to preventing costly failures when making the units to submit to the type test and the periodic test.

As far as the myth 'don't bother with gas' is concerned,

the article suggests that there is no practical reason why manufacturers should avoid gas filling IG units due to the requirements of EN 1279 part three. It is thus a myth that manufacturers should not bother with gas. They can, and if gas filling is an integral part of their system, they should. The secrets to passing the part three type test are understanding the capability of production equipment and ensuring that the whole process of producing sealed units is sensitive to the issues of gas filling. In other words, robustly controlling the operation. This is why Ulmke recommends capability studies of all IG machines as part of its 1279 service before any 'performance' or 'descriptive' claims are made.

The myth about needing a

1279 consultant is an important one. It is important to stress the point that consultancy services, such as those offered by Ulmke Metals, provide a great deal of convenience and value to manufacturers who do not want to spend time developing a system themselves. The Ulmke service makes the processes of understanding compliance, planning for compliance, managing compliance and evidencing compliance simple, effective and efficient.

In summary, I am very pleased that David Frost agrees with a great deal of the points raised in the article and I thank David for his response.

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