



architectural
ironmongery
journal

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advancing architectural ironmongery



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TECHNICAL

Sight Line
Showing Teeth
Threshold Gaps



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Like most sectors of the construction industry, the Architectural Ironmongery trade has not been immune from the influence of the Chinese economy. And while that influence has traditionally been felt as a concern about quality, certification, and price deflation, that is all set to change.

As the Chinese economy continues to grow exponentially, different forces are now coming into play as China becomes an exporter of inflationary, not deflationary pressure. European (and possibly American) legislation to prevent the "dumping" of large quantities of Chinese product in these markets will only serve to increase prices, by restricting supply.

All of this comes at a difficult time for the UK economy. Struggling to come to terms with the effects of the credit crunch and soaring energy costs, China's burgeoning consumer economy can only continue to restrict supply of steel and other raw materials.

So, as manufacturers continue to sell in substantial price rises and their customers resist, under pressure themselves from cash-strapped clients, all eyes once again turn eastward to China for answers.



Helen Curry

aijfront cover



The newly opened £14m Faculty of Health building at Edge Hill University - a shining example of how architect, AI and manufacturer working closely together can make a complex, fast-track project work effectively and efficiently.

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NEXT ISSUE

Copy date for the **Autumn** issue is **19 September**. All adverts are accepted subject to approval from a Technical Approval Committee



ZERO HEROES

Zero Seal Systems Ltd was launched by Ken Drake and Mike Quinn back in 1997 and quickly established itself as a reliable supplier of door seals and hardware. To consolidate their position, and looking to the future, they have appointed Mandy Greaves and Mark Lockley as Directors of the company.

Both Mandy and Mark have been with Zero since the early days of the business and played a significant part in the continued expansion and success of the company. Mandy has been appointed Commercial Director and will continue to manage the office, accounts, warehouse and commercial aspects of the company.

Mark has been appointed Sales Director Designate, to assume total control of the Sales function following a suitable period of transition as Mike progressively winds down from Sales Director towards retirement.

"This is an exciting time for our company and we shall be issuing a new catalogue very shortly which will include many new products and expanded ranges including port-holes, fire block louvres, finger protection and stainless steel doorstays. We go forward with confidence that these new appointments will enable us to continue to provide the high service levels that our customers have come to expect of us," says Mike Quinn.



'SCARLET JONES' STARS FOR UNION

UNION Architectural Hardware is causing a stir in the industry this summer with its creatively styled marketing strategy.

Back in April, the company embarked on one of its most exciting and eagerly awaited product launches to date - the UNION 880 Series exit hardware - an innovative, contemporary yet cost effective range of European style exit hardware.

To promote this range, UNION produced a film starring 'Scarlet Jones' a damsel in distress escaping from a burning office block using the UNION 880 Series exit hardware. The

film was advertised in the style of a movie poster throughout the industry press and can be seen at www.union-greatescape.co.uk.

The marketing campaign is definitely something new and fresh for the industry. "It is a fabulous strategy to be working with. The creative illustrations featuring Scarlet Jones are amazing and the whole UNION team gets really excited when the next poster is revealed" says Carly Baker, Brand Manager at Union. "Look out for more film premiere posters from UNION to come!"



THE GOOD THE BAD THE EASY

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DORMA IS FAVOURITE AT 100-30

This year DORMA is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its formation in the UK market whilst DORMA Group is celebrating its centenary. Thirty years of growth, innovation and success in the UK, and one hundred years that have seen DORMA Group grow from a two-man business to become a world market leader in its sector.

Today the UK and Ireland operation employs some 410 people and has a turnover of £51M operating through five specialist divisions comprising Door Controls; Automatics; Glass; Movable Walls and Service.

Alan Blower, CEO of DORMA UK and Ireland comments: "The last 30 years have seen continuous growth for DORMA in the UK. From the early days when we began as a door controls company, we have developed into a five-division company covering everything around the door. Our success has been based on the quality and durability of our products, but more importantly on the expertise and dedication of our workforce in meeting the needs of our customers."

DORMA entered the UK market in 1978 as DORMA Door Controls Limited. The main product range consisted of single and double action floor springs, the BTS61 and BTS62 respectively; along with TS73, TS77 and TS78 door closers.

Today DORMA remains strong in its traditional markets and in addition is increasingly looking to provide a whole variety of related products to the domestic market as well. DORMA works hard in its product development programme to meet and exceed the increasingly stringent demands set by the requirements of the DDA, CERTIFIRE and Approved Document M (Part M) with particular consideration to the needs of people with disabilities, and Approved Document B (Part B) covering fire safety.

In addition, this summer also sees the DORMA Group celebrate its centenary. In 1908 two young German entrepreneurs Wilhelm Dörken and his brother-in-law Rudolf Mankel, started a small forge operation in the town of Ennepetal in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

They had been impressed by a simple everyday concept from then far-away America – double doors which opened in both directions – not something common in Europe at that time. They decided to manufacture double-action hinges so that the idea could be adopted in the German market.

Today DORMA has almost 6,500 employees in 45 countries around the world. Group sales worldwide exceed £838 million, and it owns and operates production facilities in Europe, Singapore, Malaysia and China, as well as in North and South America.

REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Now in its 7th year, the Builders Merchants Awards for Excellence will provide the opportunity for companies across the UK to be rewarded for their hard work, innovations and the furtherance of their business.

The Awards, supported by the GAI, recognise the accomplishments and achievements of every merchant, large or small. Award categories include Supplier of the Year, Best Customer Service by a Builders Merchant, and Achiever of the Year.

The closing date for entries is 11 September 2008 and entry packs can be obtained by emailing dvw@bmpublications.co.uk.



IRON MEN

Six Ironmongery Direct employees showed their mettle by completing the Flora London Marathon. Thanks to their iron resolve they raised over £9,000 to fight heart disease and have vowed to continue fundraising until they have collected at least £10,000 for HEART UK – the charity committed to preventing premature deaths caused by high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease.

Leading the Ironmongery Direct pack was Chris Clayton who finished the course in 4 hours and 15 minutes, followed over the next two hours by his five other team mates.

Chris Bass, who completed the 26 miles in 5 hours and 51 minutes, says, "I am very proud of the Ironmongery Direct team for their commitment to the cause. They put in so many hours of training and it really paid off on the day. Completing the London Marathon and raising so much money in the process is no mean feat."

The runners who completed the Flora London Marathon were: Chris Clayton (4 hours 15 minutes), Paul White and Alex Smith (4 hours 52 minutes), Marc Steel (5 hours 19 minutes), Glen Cattermole (5 hours 43 minutes) and Chris Bass (5 hours 51 minutes).

Donations can still be made at: www.justgiving.com/ironmongerydirectmarathon.

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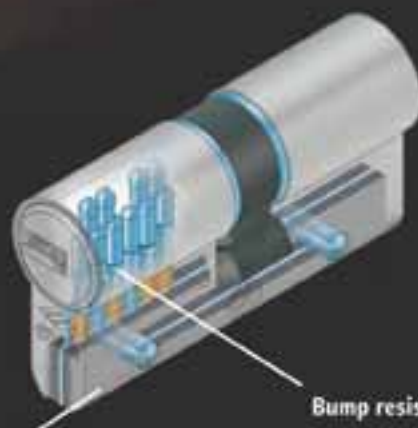
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SILVER SERVICE

DORMA's Dick Watts is celebrating 25 years with the company – and says the key to any long standing relationship is communication.

Dick has been communicating, advising and consulting with architects, specifiers and specialist ironmongery businesses for DORMA's Door Control Division in a role, which he says, has delivered him great professional satisfaction. He has also been witness to a number of changes and challenges during his period in service.

He says "Over the years I have seen many products from many sources come and go. But the reliability and product support we offer at DORMA has not, I believe, been surpassed. As many of our products are utilised in fire/life/safety issues it is reassuring to know their long term performance can be guaranteed."

Dick has been responsible for covering Kent, Surrey, Sussex and South of the Thames and celebrated his 25th Year on the 14 February 2008. He lives in Billingsworth and is married with two teenage children. His hobbies include fishing, golf and supporting Tottenham Hotspur FC. 2008 has therefore been a memorable one for Dick.



TACKLING ACCESS

GEZE UK has donated eight state-of-the-art door closers for the home of a young rugby star who was left paralysed following an accident on the pitch. The company, has joined forces with some of the building and renovating industry's biggest names to help build a specially adapted house for 22-year-old Chris McGuirk.

Due to his condition, Chris requires constant assistance to move around, making opening doors a challenge, so GEZE UK specified eight TS 4000 EFS overhead door closers, equipped with a free swing function to allow the doors to be opened in either direction and an electro-hydraulic hold-open device, making it easy to pass through.

The TS 4000 EFS closer offers flexible options for people experiencing access difficulties as it can be fitted on both right and left hand doors without adjustment and single action doors of up to 1400mm with an easy to adjust closing force size of 1-6. Not only is it suitable for private homes, but it is also ideal for hospitals and care homes.

The high profile project in Lancashire has been attracting widespread attention following the support of several sporting heroes including Ryan Giggs and Ricky Hatton, and is due to be screened on ITV later this year.

GEZE UK's sales and marketing director Jules Quested-Williams said: "At GEZE UK we specialise in creating bespoke solutions that make access easier for all and when we heard about Chris McGuirk and his appeal through our customer Elite Architectural Ironmongers we knew we had the perfect solution for him."

A NEW WAY ON THE WEB

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies has completed a radical redesign of its website at www.security.ingersoll-rand.co.uk. This change reflects the growing wealth of information now available and provides one of the most comprehensive but easy-to-use websites in the industry. There's a fresh look; easier, clear navigation; industry related content and interactive links, as well as a new contact section to improve personal interaction and response times.

The new website is very user-friendly. It includes information about all company matters and news together with a new download facility and specification area. It encompasses the complete Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies product and service offering, and guides visitors through all the different products. These include access control, architectural hardware, integrated security solutions, biometrics, hotel locking systems, high performance doorsets, automatic openings and portable security.

An innovative new 'Solutions' section offers help and guidance about specific key industry issues. Suggested solutions are provided covering matters such as anti-terror and blast resistance, DDA and accessibility, infection control, construction site security and the new RRFSo (Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order).

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

Following the acquisition of Lloyd Worrall Group, including Yannedis, by Macnaughton Blair, Chris Benton wished Allen Worrall a long and happy retirement and said "we now look forward to the next stage of our development" adding that it is "very much business as usual".

Macnaughton Blair, a subsidiary of Grafton Group plc, hopes to build on the strengths of its various architectural ironmongery businesses in the UK and Ireland. In Ireland Macnaughton Blair Ltd are represented by MB Architectural in the North and MB Doorplan in the South.

BODYCOTE HOTS UP

Bodycote Testing has expanded its Fire Safety Technology Division, which includes Bodycote Warringtonfire, the fire safety and testing organisation, with the acquisition from Siemens AG of Brandhaus Höchst, one of Germany's top Reaction to Fire testing laboratories.

Based in Frankfurt, Brandhaus Höchst (or BHH) is an expert in Reaction to Fire for domestic products, textiles, furniture and accessories, building materials and transportation. An accredited (DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025) and certified (DIN EN ISO 9001) test centre, Brandhaus Höchst is also approved by Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik (DiBt), for reaction to fire testing in Germany. Acquisition of the business will enable Bodycote Testing to expand its Reaction to Fire capabilities in mainland Europe and provide greater access to the German market.

The new facility will be known as Bodycote Warrington Brandhaus. Tim Cornes, Divisional Director, Bodycote Testing Fire Safety Technology said, "Bodycote Warringtonfire is already a leader in Reaction to Fire testing in the UK, and employs some of the leading experts in this field. The acquisition of Brandhaus Höchst will enable us to expand our presence in mainland Europe and to offer an unrivalled capability to customers."

OBITUARY: PAUL LEWIS

Shortly after the close of the Institute AGM in April, the AI industry was rocked by the sad news of the untimely death of Paul Lewis in the early hours of Monday 28 April at the age of just 51. Paul had a long and distinguished career spanning more than 30 years in the AI industry, working for some of the trade's top manufacturers. Even 36 hours before he died, Paul was making a lively contribution to the technical debate on CE marking at the AGM, proudly showing off pictures of his brand new grand daughter and entertaining his fellow guests in his inimitable style.

Paul was currently working with Gretsche-Unitas, helping launch G-U into the architectural hardware and automatic door markets since joining the company in March 2007. He spent 15 years with Royde and Tucker and, more recently, Lorient Polyproducts and Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies.

Paul leaves behind a widow Christine two grown-up children, Emma and Kevin, and two grand-daughters Ellie and Lily.



Endorsed by the
RIBA

THE MARK OF QUALITY

Some of the industry's leading architectural ironmongery practices have become the first to become accredited under the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) and the RIBA's quality scheme, GuildMark. The scheme, the first of its kind ever to receive RIBA endorsement - crystallises the Guild's commitment to quality, education and professional excellence, working with architects to deliver the highest standards of reliability demanded in modern construction.

The GuildMark scheme was conceived to give architects the peace of mind of knowing that the highest professional standards which they apply to their work can be matched by that of their specification partners. The scheme was developed in close collaboration with the RIBA to mirror its own professional requirements. To become a member of the new GuildMark scheme companies must

- Have at least one fully qualified Reg AI on its payroll
- Demonstrate appropriate QA systems
- Hold full professional indemnity insurance
- Fully comply with a special GuildMark Code of Practice.

These key criteria aim to upgrade and emphasise the AI's accreditation for personal technical expertise, consolidating the important position of Reg AIs within the architectural ironmongery business. As well as being fully qualified Diploma-holders, Reg AIs carry out a full programme of certified CPD training, ensuring that their knowledge is absolutely up-to-date. This knowledge and current expertise is central to the GuildMark scheme, establishing a standard of excellence within the industry.

Companies wishing to apply for GuildMark membership can request an application pack with full details of the criteria they must fulfil. Forms are available by calling Sue Speed at the GAI's London HQ on 020 77903431 or by downloading a copy from the GAI web site www.gai.org.uk.

ON SPEC

The GAI has called for entries for its biennial Specification Awards and announced a new category for this competition: Sustainable Buildings. Sponsored by the GAI in conjunction with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the awards are designed to identify and reward excellence in the specification of architectural ironmongery.

This year, as well as the established six categories - Commercial, Established Buildings, Public Buildings, Renovations, Residential, and International Buildings - the GAI is initiating a class which recognises and celebrates the best architectural ironmongery in sustainable buildings. Entries need to arrive with the GAI no later than 30 August 2008.

The awards recognise design excellence in architectural ironmongery specification projects and are awarded to the whole specification team of architect and architectural ironmonger, highlighting the importance of the partnership between these two professional disciplines. GAI Chief Executive, Gary Amer, comments "The RIBA Specification Awards recognise excellence in one of the most important aspects of a building's design - the architectural ironmongery - and show ironmongery at its beautiful best. Ironmongery is the first item a visitor comes into contact with and provides an instant understanding of the quality of the building."

The awards have been held for 25 years, demonstrating the strong relationship between the GAI and the RIBA. All the projects entered are visited by regional judging partnerships which mirror RIBA's regions, and include both architects and ironmongers. Short listed projects are then assessed and judged by national judging panel involving prominent architectural ironmongers and independent practising architects. The winners will then be announced at an awards lunch to be held at Lords Cricket Ground 30th March 2009.



REWARDING EXCELLENCE

The Institute of Architectural Ironmongers, the individual membership section of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI), has awarded honours to some of the industry's leading figures in recognition of their contributions to the business. The awards were made at the Institute's AGM in Bath on 26 April 2008 where Andy Howland was inaugurated as Chairman of the Institute.

The Mike Lewis Trophy for excellence in customer service was once again awarded to the Royde & Tucker internal sales team. The Bob Ramage Trophy for services to the Institute was awarded to Shaun Brown, also of Royde and Tucker, and Fellowship of the Institute was awarded to Wayne Harris of Harbrine, outgoing President of the GAI for his outstanding contribution to the architectural ironmongery industry. All three awards were made after the recipients had been nominated and voted for by their peers.



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

The GAI's annual conference in Le Touquet in France was voted by many delegates as the best they have ever attended. The Conference, the culmination of a successful and rewarding year for the GAI, took place over four days from 29- 1 June 2008.

The conference brought together leading AIs and manufacturers for the GAI's AGM and a programme of keynote speakers including Maxwell Hutchinson, ex-RIBA president and broadcaster, yachtswoman Tracy Edwards, and Doug Gerbing, President of the GAI's sister organisation in the States, the DHI.

The GAI's AGM formed the first part of proceedings. Wayne Harris of Harbrine was re-elected for an additional 5-month term as President, with Andrew Hall, MD of GEZE UK stepping up to VP. He will take over as President in November.

A number of important developments were announced at the conference including the announcement of the GAI's biennial Specification Awards, the development of open and on-line learning schemes for the GAI's education programme, and a new customer service award for architectural ironmongers.

The GAI Conference gave delegates a chance to hear about a highly successful year for the organisation's education programme with record numbers of students enrolling. Starting in the 2008-2009 academic year, some students will be able to use a new on-line learning facility which will also allow course work to be completed and marked online.



LOCK STOCK



HELEN CURRY TALKS TO THE GAI'S BRONZE MEDAL WINNER

There are few people in the AI industry who can say that taking the GAI exams changed their life but this year's bronze medal winner Jason Healy would say just that. Jason works for family-run Lincoln Security and is still smiling about his exam success and how it has changed his outlook on his career and the direction that the business is taking.

Established in 1974 by Richard and Stephen Farrar, Lincoln Security remains a family-controlled business which started out as a locksmith and has expanded to provide a wider range of locksmith and security related products, together with security installation and maintenance services. These include providing master key and specialised locking systems, security doors and grilles, door closer & floor spring installation, access control systems, and electronic door & gate operators.

Operating nationwide, the company has a strong bias in the commercial sector with an emphasis on utility companies including Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire Electricity, Northern Ireland Electricity, National Grid, and Powergen. Other major clients include the public service sectors, armed forces, local authorities and commercial business. Lincoln Security regularly acts as specification consultants giving specialist advice on physical security issues on all types of buildings.

It seemed logical then, that when Jason decided to undertake some professional qualifications, he should consider studying with the Master Locksmiths Association. But at the time, his work started to take a turn towards architectural ironmongery when he started working closely with Assa. A chance conversation with Andy Fitzgerald of Concept Hardware led him to take a look at the GAI's qualifications, and, impressed with what he saw, he decided to take that route.

"The first two years, completing levels one and two, weren't as easy as I expected," he admits, "because these products were simply not a part of my everyday work." He persevered and decided to take a really serious approach to the year three course.

"Lincoln Security supported me every step of the way, allowing me time off on Tuesdays for coursework and revision," he says. "And as the exams loomed we decided that I should attend some residential courses."

This proved vital, as Jason attended the courses in Birmingham, things began to take shape for him. "Up until the first residential course, I hadn't written a schedule in my life," he confesses. "But the courses give you all the information you need, and if you apply it, then you'll do well." In addition, Jason found the courses an excellent networking opportunity and a chance to bounce ideas off other like-minded students. After going on the residential courses, Jason tackled some old practice papers and felt confident going into the exams.

When the exam came round, Jason was happy to find out that the schedule concerned a secure hospital case study - an area he had some experience of in his day job. Unusually, he felt very confident about the Business and Law paper and flew through the questions very quickly.

Despite his confidence, Jason was surprised to be named as Bronze Medal winner. "I knew I'd done OK," he says, "but I didn't think I'd done that well!"

Since finishing the course, Jason's job has changed completely and he has had the opportunity to take Lincoln Securities in some exciting new directions. "To be honest, architectural ironmongery was quite an alien concept to us here before I took the GAI course," he comments. "But the company has embraced the whole idea and we are doing some great business here now."

So keen was Jason and Lincoln to use his new-found knowledge that the company employed a new person to do his old job, and changed his role so that he could concentrate solely on architectural ironmongery. Business is going well - so well in fact that the company is looking to take on another AI in September.

"I'm so glad I took the GAI course," Jason concludes. "The knowledge and confidence it has given me is enormous and opened up a whole new career path to me."

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e SQUARE CORNER VARIANT FOR ON-SITE INSTALLATION c RADIUS CORNER VARIANT FOR OEM FACTORY PREPARATION
j CHOICE OF MILD STEEL OR 304 STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION k BRIGHT ZINC PLATE OR STAINLESS STEEL FINISH



Most AI's like to give a nod to their heritage, but Spiller AI in Yeovil can trace their business back further than most. George Spiller started his ironmongery and hardware business in nearby Sherborne 200 years ago, making the company one of the longest established in the business.

Despite the proud picture of the old Spiller Hardware store ('The House of Satisfaction') on the office wall, this is not an organisation trading on its past. Under new owners Wilson Marshall and Chris Pearse, the company is focused strongly on the future, bringing together impeccable technical credentials with a new, forward-looking business management plan.

Spiller AI made the leap from local hardware store to successful Architectural Ironmonger under the ownership of the Thompson family. They bought the business in 1972 when the last Mr Spiller found life a bit too much and 'ended it all' under a train. Colin and Sarah Thompson developed the business into a successful, fully-fledged AI and moved it into the purpose built premises it still occupies today.

Wilson Marshall and Chris Pearse, both industry outsiders, acquired the company last year, recognising a technically strong business that could benefit from Wilson's experience in sales and marketing and Chris's in financial management. Colin Thompson stayed on for a year to smooth the transition. "Colin was the first to admit that he was completely focused on the products and the projects", explains Wilson, "He was quite proud of the fact that he hadn't made a 'cold call' in 10 years. He relied purely on reputation for the business, which says a lot". The management team is strengthened by the promotion of Gary Hewitt to General Manager. Wilson, meanwhile is keen to point out that he has already completed his part one GAI exams.

"The company has two real strengths", he explains, "A highly-experienced team of staff and a strong, broadly-spread customer base". Of the 16-strong Spiller team eight are qualified Dip GAIs and the average industry experience is over 10 years. The company runs a busy trade counter and has a 2-man lock-smith team. "We find it a real advantage to have that in-house", says Wilson. "We do a lot of work with local schools and health authorities so having a quick turnaround on keys is a huge benefit. It's also nice to be able to help out with more



OVER SPILL

AIJ Reporter Simon Turner heads west to visit west country AI Spiller Architectural Ironmongery Limited



Owners Chris Pearse (left) and Wilson Marshall (right) with General Manager Gary Hewitt (centre)



The Project Management Team (left to right) Martin Pitman, Stuart Wadner, Rob Ayers, Mike Trowbridge and Dan Hawkins



The Spiller Trade Counter



You wouldn't find these on the high street. Church key blanks.

*Spiller in the 1960's.
'The House of Satisfaction'*

unusual requirements", he adds, as Master Locksmith Mike Drayton shows off a couple of giant church key blanks. "Now you wouldn't find those on the high street!"

Spiller AI prides itself in being a full service AI and has strong markets in a wide range of sectors. Retail has been a busy area for them with the development of some key client relationships. "We have supplied over 300 stores for New Look Fashion," explains Wilson. "We have sent fittings all over the UK and Europe for their stores. We've also worked with Wagamama, Suzuki and Pizza Express". Account Manager Mike Trowbridge is particularly proud of their work with the RNLI. "We have kitted out over 250 lifeboat stations" he says. "You won't find a more demanding environment for ironmongery than that."

Spiller AI also has a strong local market supplying public sector projects and regional contractors. "Being a local company is important to those customers," says Wilson, "The trade counter, and the showroom and our in-house local delivery operation all help support this. On paper it would make more sense to outsource all our deliveries to couriers, but the customers like our vans and it builds a much stronger personal link with them".

So how is business holding up? "Despite all the dire predictions of doom, things are looking OK," says Wilson, "The start of the year was excellent, though recent weeks have been a little more challenging than last year. Spiller AI was never heavily involved in the volume housing market so we've avoided the sudden drop-off in that sector. High end residential is still holding up pretty well." When asked to name-drop a few top-end residential clients, Spillers score well: Johnny Depp, David James and Mrs (wife of the late Tiny) Rowland are all recent recipients of their ironmongery.

Interestingly, the company doesn't currently employ any dedicated sales staff. They prefer to rely on the experience of their project management team to support their customers and deal with any requirements they may have - from specification through to installation.

When Wilson and Chris took on Spiller AI last year, they got a business that has untapped potential. With their plans for carefully refining and updating the management systems and more pro-active marketing and customer development, Spiller can head into its third century of operation with confidence.

For more information on Spiller AI, visit www.spillera.co.uk

OVER THE THRESHOLD

Jacky Sinclair Reg AI, F Inst AI looks at some of the conflicts in Building Regs which can lead to confusion when designing threshold gaps

Pick an Approved Document – any Approved Documentiron-mongers are increasingly required to supply products that deal with the floor-door gap at the threshold. A trawl through relevant Approved Documents to the Building Regulations reveals some varied and conflicting requirements. Here is yet another challenge to the laws of physics and our ingenuity!

Look at the table below to see the variety of requirements for gaps under doors.

Document	Paragraph	Advice
Approved Doc. B (Fire precautions)	Appendix B Fire Doors - 5	References BS 8214: Code of practice for fire door assemblies.
BS 8214 (2008 edition)	8.5.3 Threshold gaps	"There is only limited test evidence to support threshold gaps in excess of 8mm" [Most doors are fire tested with a 7-8mm gap – JRS]
Approved Doc. F (Ventilation)	Table 1.4	Undercut required giving 7600mm ² (= 10mm undercut on 760mm door width) for air transfer purposes in dwellings; and between a wet room and an existing building
Approved Doc. E (Acoustics)	2.26	Ensure that any door has good perimeter sealing (including the threshold where practical) [An alternative to this method is also given.] [A fire] door should also satisfy the requirements of Approved Document B.
Approved Doc. M (Access to buildings)	2.7.e	[to meet the requirements] any raised threshold [should have] a total height not exceeding 15mm, with any upstands higher than 5mm chamfered or rounded.

Some British Standards recommend a gap of 3 mm from the door to ffl to ensure minimum smoke leakage. However, "ffl" is not always clearly defined.

The bottom line seems to be that the gap required might be anything from 10 mm to zero, depending on function, and possibly all on the same door!

The zero gap presents some issues for consideration:

- If it is achieved by a fixed seal making contact with the floor, there will inevitably be drag, and that creates further problems for self-closing fire doors. Extra power will be needed to close the door, and this will increase opening torque values, no doubt exceeding the requirements for access for the disabled.
- The threshold is one of the gaps through which air can escape as a door closes into the frame. In areas where all doors are fully sealed, or the space enclosed by the door is relatively small, problems will arise with air pressure stopping doors from closing fully. For fire and security doors, this can present safety and security risks.
- Even with self-levelling cement, the likelihood of a finished floor surface being absolutely flat is probably a long shot. Timber doors tend to settle as they are used, and the nose of the door drops a little. Under these circumstances, expecting to open a door to 90 degrees with no gap, or even a 3 mm clearance underneath, would be a triumph of optimism over experience. With a 3 mm gap, the first point above is not relevant, but the second two still are.

Possible solutions

In some situations, there's no pat answer, but these suggestions might help significantly in appropriate applications. Smoke shutter/damper grilles can be fitted to doors to increase air-flow in normal circumstances, but they shut off in the presence of cold smoke. These are electronically controlled. Types are available which are suitable for fire doors. They might also offer enough air movement to allow the ventilation required by ADF, where a door is also required to give smoke control. However, they won't help where the door must have acoustic properties.

Where the gap required under the door is zero or not to exceed 3 mm, use products which will achieve this at the threshold, but allow a greater clearance over the swing of the door.

These might be:

- Automatic (drop-down) threshold seals, which only activate as the door closes into the frame
- Raised threshold strips which meet the requirements of ADM and BS 8300 for access.

There are probably other solutions which readers might have found, but whatever is offered, you must be sure that solving one problem doesn't create a conflict with another regulatory requirement, or invalidate performance test evidence, and that can be a big ask! The best solutions cost more money than many contractors are likely to have allowed. The need for them might not be apparent until the job is finished, and snagging reveals the doors that are "not working". Where architects are seeking scheduling help from reputable ironmongers with qualified staff, there is an opportunity to identify and resolve or ameliorate these conflicts at an early stage.



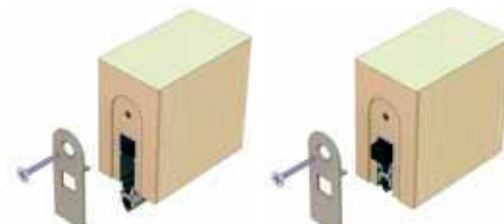
Smoke control air transfer grille



One type of raised threshold seal



A selection of automatic seals



Automatic threshold seal showing the two positions

SIGHT LINE

IN RECENT YEARS, THE NEEDS OF THOSE WITH SIGHT PROBLEMS HAVE PROMPTED THE REQUIREMENT TO ENSURE THAT ELEMENTS SUCH AS DOOR FURNITURE, HANDRAILS AND BALUSTRADES ARE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE.

JOHN JEFFRIES FROM LAIDLAW DISCUSSES THE ISSUE.

This need for visual clarity is not entirely new. As far back as 1992, Approved Document M made reference to stair nosings needing to be “distinguishable through contrasting brightness” while in the 2001 edition of BS 8300 the expression “contrasting colour and luminance” was preferred in relation to recommendations for the blind and partially sighted.

For people with adequate vision, differences in the nature of the colour or its intensity are sufficient. The problem is that many who are partially sighted cannot use colour alone to determine visual contrast. For them, the feature of a surface that appears to be strongly associated with ability to distinguish visual differences is its light reflectance value (LRV). This is particularly true of small objects on a larger background surface, such as a lever handle on a door.

In the 2004 edition of Part M and the 2005 amendment of BS 8300, the preferred way of expressing guidance on visual contrast became by reference to a difference in LRV. LRV was defined as “the total quantity of visible light reflected by a surface at all wavelengths and directions when illuminated by a light source”. Adequate visual contrast is achieved with a difference in light reflectance values of 30 points on a 100 point scale (with jet black equivalent to zero and a perfect white 100). However, it is worth remembering that, for all practical purposes, readings of zero and 100 are considered to be unachievable. Some evidence suggests that LRV’s of as little as 20 points may be acceptable, but differences of less than 20 points are certainly insufficient.

So how is LRV measured and how can designers be confident that, when a value has been determined it is reliable? Traditional sources of information about the visual characteristics of building materials and products such as literature, websites and colour swatches are susceptible to inaccurate and variable colour representation and can only be considered as a visual guide. Whatever degree of colour accuracy is claimed, it cannot be used to determine whether there is sufficient visual contrast between installed building elements or against surrounding surfaces. According to Shafiq Sharif, Marketing Manager of Laidlaw Solutions Ltd, “Provision of

accurate LRV data will undoubtedly be required in future. Laidlaw routinely uses a reflectance spectrophotometer to provide objective LRV assessment and will continue to do so, but the need undeniably exists for a standardised test method. Specifiers must be able assess products on known like-for-like criteria, using the same measurement technique and under the same lighting conditions”.

The BSI’s draft British Standard (BS 8493) - Light reflectance value (LRV) of a surface – Method of test has been circulated for public comment and is likely to be published later this year. The draft standard describes how the LRV can be measured for a range of different surfaces, such as those of piled carpets, painted surfaces, materials with opaque coatings, and reflective finishes. It can also be used for materials with non-opaque coverings such as veneered timber doors finished with a wood stain and metallic products such as brushed stainless steel door furniture. Although the proposed test needs to be conducted on samples with a flat surface, it is thought that results will apply equally to products such as door handles with the same surface finish but a circular or oval cross section. Given the importance of access areas for the partially sighted, and the differing combinations of doorset, lever, backplate and handrails, the ability to compare LRV’s for different manufacturers’ products will be of enormous value.

To illustrate a comparison between a colour and its LRV and to help designers make an initial assessment of suitable combinations, the BS 8493 draft includes an Annex showing the LRV of colours using the proposed method from the range in BS 4800, Schedule of colours for building purposes. The draft emphasises that it is not promoting exclusive use of BS 4800 colours in order to constrain manufacturers or designers, as the method can be used to determine the LRV of a surface of any colour.

From the rather general guidance given in Approved Doc M 1992, great strides have been made in attempts to quantify the means of providing sufficient visual contrast. It is hoped that, when published, the BS 8493 standardised test method will be accepted as a valuable tool for determining accurate and comparable LRV data



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SCHOOL RULES

A set of school design guidance has been officially launched by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Partnerships for Schools (PFS).

The Standard Specifications, Layouts and Dimensions (SSLD) guidance sets out the latest designs for schools - covering many aspects of school design including internal doorsets.

The suite of documents has been developed with input from architects and suppliers to spread best practice across school building and refurbishment projects. It means that school building schemes can avoid costly duplication by having to draw up new design plans for each project - meaning that consistently high quality environments can be delivered, but without compromising design flair.

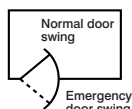
Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, said: "Our aim through BSF is to revolutionise the quality of schools with cutting-edge design and energy efficient buildings. They will be safe, welcoming and inspiring environments which are used not only by students and teachers during term time, but by local residents year-round, placing schools back at the centre of their communities.

"In a programme the scale of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) it is important that we learn from earlier projects, and share the knowledge and best practice that comes with experience. The SSLD suite of documents is one way in which we are able to do this, without stifling creativity and innovation."

This guidance will become the standard specification in the revised BSF programme documentation being prepared for the revised new BSF procurement process, which will come into effect later this year.

Design guidance on doorsets can be found in SSLD 7: and can be downloaded at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/schoolbuildings/innovativedesign/standardspecifications/



Make a quick exit.



Doors which ordinarily open in one direction only, but which are required to open in the opposite direction in an emergency can be fitted with a double action pivot and emergency release. An example is a door to a WC, ordinarily the door opens inwards, however it is important that the door can be opened outwards in the event that someone collapses against the back of the door.

If the person loses consciousness or is unable to move the only way of gaining access is through a double action pivot set. RT have recently also launched a domestic version of the commercial pivot set which is better suited to, for example, care homes and sheltered housing or indeed anywhere where having a double action door is preferable.

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Hinges**

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**SmoClo:
Fire Door Safety Device**

INTEGRATED WORKING BRINGS REWARDS

A report from the Strategic Forum for Construction has shown that working across the industry in an integrated fashion delivers discernable and material benefits to each contributing party.

The Report, entitled Profiting from Integration, comes from the Strategic Forum's Integration Task Group (ITG) and provides substantive evidence of a sound business case for improving integration.

Martin Nielsen, ITG chairman said: 'At its heart, integration is about improving industry efficiency, eliminating waste, raising safety standards and reducing project risk. This Report from the ITG makes it very clear the enormous benefits that companies can realise by making these changes.'

However the ITG also concluded that the uptake of projects operating in an integrated fashion is slower than had been expected. In the view of the Task Group, there remain some material

obstacles, which the industry would do well to address, such as the proliferation of contracts and a residual clinging to traditional, and some might say, outdated views on risk transfer.

Whilst evident to the group that working in an integrated way may have a variety of interpretations and degrees, it is also felt that there is insufficient promotion of the business case across all sectors of the industry. To be clear, the larger government spending departments and agencies have embraced the concepts, as have a number of the major developers and infrastructure providers, and the supply side of the industry has generally worked hard to respond. The degree to which the benefits can be obtained from smaller scale projects has still to be fully explored, but integrated working is as much a matter of mindset and attitude as contracts or charters.

The ITG has produced an action plan as well as given its endorsement to a



number of initiatives, including a series of plain English practice guides which are currently being produced.

The Report is now available free to download and can be found at <http://www.strategicforum.org.uk/pdf/ITGReport120308.pdf>.



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GRAHAM ORME, DIVISIONAL CERTIFICATION MANAGER AT WARRINGTON CERTIFICATION ANSWERS CONCERNS WITHIN THE BUILDING HARDWARE INDUSTRY ABOUT THE ALLEGED CURRENT LACK OF POLICING OF CERTIFICATED PRODUCTS

Preparing to write this article, I spent a short time researching various definitions around the use of the word "teeth". Please bear with me here as you might be starting to wonder what a tooth has to do with Architectural Ironmongery. Examples of definitions such as 'Effective Power' (the ability to accomplish something), 'Show your teeth' (to indicate that you have power and intend to use it) came to mind and the reason why these specific examples are used will become clear shortly. After a little more effort I started to 'get my teeth into it' (to start doing something that will be challenging and satisfying) and to learn how to do something and gain experience from it (cut your teeth).

This article is intended to address very current concerns within the building hardware industry over the lack of robust 'policing' (to ensure that rules and procedures are followed correctly in something, or that something is implemented as agreed) system within the industry. The concerns are over a number of apparently unsubstantiated claims about products such as door closers and hinges; products which are often used on Fire Resisting Doors, and the apparent inability of the stakeholders in the industry to determine whether the claims are appropriate and justifiable ie an effective means of doing so being readily available to the industry.

I recall a presentation that Warrington gave in 2005 at the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers Annual Conference which attempted to address these types of concerns. The talk was titled "Reliable Fire Protection - the contribution from building hardware and the role of certification (CE marking v Certifire)". I believe at that time the industry was becoming aware that CE marking was not the answer to all of the concerns over poor quality products placed on the UK (and wider European) market, and so we used the opportunity to explain where true third party product certification, and specifically Certifire, could fit in. Since then a significant number of allegedly unsubstantiated claims have been brought to the attention of Warrington Certification under the guise of CE marking and Certifire. You might say that the presentation worked and that the need for reliable fire protection via building hardware has been given an elevated profile and that's why there were an increased number of reported abuses.

The system for 'policing' the market is very reliant upon the industry itself and this is acknowledged by the European Commission as a means of checking the adequacy of CE marks. However, the system also needs a body or bodies to work together to 'police' the reported claims.

SHOWING TEETH

For me it is clear that we have that ability within the industry to do exactly what is needed and this is in the form of Certifire. I will acknowledge that the claims reported to Warrington Certification since 2005 have not always been adequately followed through in a timely manner in the past. This is now being rectified and a much more robust system is currently being implemented.

Before explaining the changes being made to Certifire, it is useful to explain the simplified version of product certification. Third party assessment or certification is conformity assessment carried out by a body that is independent of both supplier and customer organisations. The International Organisation for Standardisation, ISO, lists eight different systems of assessment, each valid as a third party scheme. These range from type testing of samples of the product, through to 100% testing, with various intermediate levels.

At one level it could be described as an MOT-type certificate at another, full audit testing with all sampling, testing and FPC aspects taken out of the manufacturer's control. The fundamental benefit of third party certification, put simply, is seated in giving the specifier, customer, end user, regulator or any combination of these an informed choice when purchasing or selecting the product. Choosing a product, which carries the badge or mark of a reputable third party certification body, will give safeguards as to the

performance of the product. Also, in the rare event of a failure, it will help to mitigate against the accusation of possible negligence, which may be directed towards the specifier or other individual concerned.

The presentation we gave in 2005 centred on:

Reliability

- In performance of supplied product (FPC) and its installation
- Market surveillance (audit tests)

Durability

- Need for long term performance (less maintenance)

Compatibility

- Identifying the possibilities for use on fire/smoke doors

Certifire addresses all of these aspects and has done so since its inception. But not all certification does so. Building hardware intended for use on fire resisting doors are normally CE marked nowadays, as harmonised European standards are applicable. This is a certification mark to be cautious of. It shows that the product meets a minimum level but does not carry sufficient information to easily enable the correct choice of doorset. It does not address the compatibility issue, ie which doors the item can be used on and for which fire resistance period it is suitable for. This can have serious consequences as a closer could be fire tested on an insulated



timber door for 30 minutes and it would carry the same mark as a closer required for an uninsulated steel door for 240 minutes. There would be very little outward differentiation in the Certificate/Declaration of conformity. The CE mark is therefore very much an MOT type certificate. It is compliant with the minimum regulatory requirements.

It is not a mark of quality. Furthermore, the ability of the Notified Body to control the use of the Certificate, once it is issued, is very limited.

Inadequate information

To address the concerns of inadequate information provided by the CE marking documents and of essential aspects of policing, I would urge you to look towards Certifire as the means of proving conformity for the intended use. This is perhaps an obvious conclusion for me to make given where I work, but the long-term support of the majority of the major hardware manufacturers bears testimony to this statement.

The system for approval of hardware items, particularly door closers, is currently being upgraded to use a simple, clear and concise matrix system which clearly shows the compatibility of the items for the various

types of doors and fire resistance periods. **An example is shown in Figure 1 below:**

All Certifire certificates for building hardware are currently undergoing an upgrade to ensure they include this simplified but clearer means of showing compatibility.

A number of manufacturers have been very concerned about the lack of 'teeth' available for policing the market. This is available via Certifire and following discussions with the industry an increased level of enforcement is now being implemented.

Audit testing has always been a part of the Certifire requirements but, in its truest sense, audit testing forms no part of CE marking for building hardware. There are some internal quality control tests required by CE marking standards but these are conducted by the manufacturer and the Certification body has a very small role to play in this process. They are not involved in the selection of the samples to test or in the testing. Certifire requires samples of the certificated products to be selected independently and normally from warehouse stock. The audit testing is conducted at an independent test laboratory and without the involvement of the manufacturer. This is a system which has been very successfully used in the BWF-Certifire Timber Door scheme over recent years and its one

which is also a requirement for Certifire approval of building hardware.

All holders of current Warrington Certification certificates for building hardware, whether "CE" or Certifire certificates, are now subject to unannounced visits to their distribution facilities to ensure that stock held is not in contravention of the marking requirements. Warrington Certification will increase the level of policing of the certificate holder's websites, literature, fitting instructions, catalogues etc to make sure they are only claiming what has been covered by the certification. The process will recall certificates if the holder is found to be in contravention of the requirements.

The Warrington Certification website (via www.warringtonfire.net/certifire) has, for some time, carried full copies of the Certifire certificates and made these available for downloading to any interested party. This will be supplemented by all current copies of Certificates of Conformity for CE marking produced by Warrington Certification. **Furthermore, and perhaps crucially, both Certifire and CE marking certificates which are no longer valid will be listed in a separate, easily accessible list.** This is to cater for products which have stopped being supplied, for companies which have ceased trading and for certificates which are no longer valid.

Returning to the definition of policing - to ensure that rules and procedures are followed correctly in something, or that something is implemented as agreed - I would contest that the changes currently being implemented by the building hardware industry in conjunction with Warrington Certification are completely in keeping with providing a more robust system for the specification and approval of building hardware. I would also urge any stakeholders within the industry ensure that whatever product they are using, the supporting evidence is not merely taken at face value. The evidence should be subject to detailed scrutiny. If it is felt that this is beyond your level of knowledge a Certifire certificate will provide the necessary reassurance that the product has been subject to sufficient scrutiny.

Figure 1: Closer Fitting Position & Doorset Type

	Door mounted pull side	Transom mount push side	Parallel arm application	Latched or unlatched, timber doors	Latched or unlatched, insulated steel doors	Latched or unlatched, uninsulated steel doors
XYZ Closer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, up to 120 minutes	Not approved	Not approved

"It is not a mark of quality. Furthermore, the ability of the Notified Body to control the use of the Certificate, once it is issued, is very limited."

Despite the common view that UK manufacturing seems to be a thing of the past, you will be pleased to hear that locks are still being profitably manufactured in Willenhall – cradle of the British (and possibly the world's) lock manufacturing industry. Securefast are one of a handful of Willenhall lock-makers still confidently proving that those reports of the industry's demise are definitely wide of the mark.

Securefast's first lock patent is dated 1903, was for the Pinson padlock, which is still made. Today the company manufactures a range of British Standard lock cases and production control padlocks at Willenhall, together with an expanding range of the latest electronic access control systems manufactured by partner companies around the world.

The company has been manufacturing for over 100 years – and still operates from the original site, as Managing Director Duncan Crawley explains: "The

original building has been extended over the years. We now have raw material stores, tool making, manufacturing, powder coating, packaging, administration and warehouse operations all under one roof. It's a bit of a squeeze.

Securefast are recent Associate Members of the GAI, though Duncan achieved his Dip GAI in 1995 (Bronze Medal, no less). Today the company employs 57 people at Willenhall, Cheddar and Southport. "The average service for our staff is 18 years", explains Duncan. The senior management line-up includes John Morrall, Commercial Director; Ian Scott, Sales Director and Kevin O'Reilly; Technical Director.

Duncan joined the company in 1998 bringing experience from both ironmongery and DIY retailing: "Manufacturing here was starting to struggle and I could see that we needed to expand both the company's markets and product range, especially electronic systems. The week after I took over, the Arcon group went

into liquidation so we bought the Deedlock Access Control division then and there. Since then we have acquired Tate Fire and Colson." This strategic expansion has taken the company turnover from £2.9m to an impressive £8.1m in four years with expectations of further growth over the coming years.

Today electronic locking and access systems account for 65% of the company's business, but the traditional lock business is still significant. The company has invested in automated manufacturing systems at Willenhall and is currently developing a new 72mm lock case in response to demand from their AI customers. The padlocks are generally master-suited, production controlled units and tend to be sold direct to the end users – mostly the big utility companies.

The majority of the new electronic locking systems are manufactured in the Far East. "We have a number of small partner companies who just manufacture for us", Duncan explains, "It's all to our own

SECURE(FAST) FOR 105 YEARS



Securefast still manufacturing at the company's original Willenhall premises

design and specification, they're not 'off the shelf' products. We have a quality team based in the Far East as well as in the UK, so every one of our locks is inspected before dispatch."

The majority of the traditional locks go into the UK retail sector and Securefast have a dedicated packing operation providing locks to over 50 'own brand' customers who each take around 10 different product designs. The electronic products primarily enter the market via AI specification or through the electrical wholesaler and installers. "Electronic access control is becoming an incredibly specialised business", says Duncan, "But our customers can always come to us for specialist advice, we will even provide a scheduling service which many find useful. The sector is evolving so quickly, both in terms of regulatory requirements and new technological developments. The next generation - using finger-print or iris recognition are already being specified." Securefast have a team of technical engi-

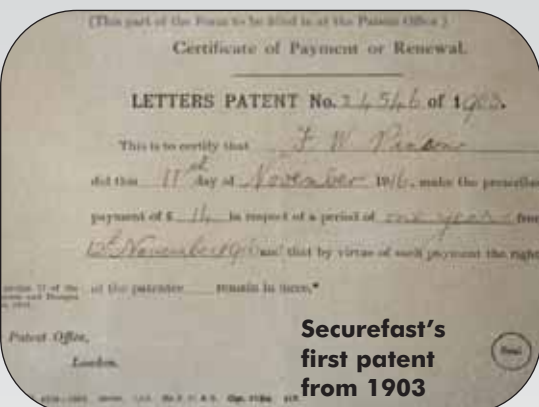
neers who can be involved at every stage of the process, from design through to installation. They also carry large stocks of both their own electro-mechanical locks and other leading brands all available for next-day delivery.

Access control systems offered include Paxton, ACT, Bewator, Pac and Progeny in addition to their own brand of Deedlock.

Looking to the future, Duncan is far from depressed with the current climate: "The AI traditional lock market has certainly slowed down, but the electronic side is still showing good growth. People need security and it's our job to offer as comprehensive a range as possible"

"Far East product prices are starting to rise, so we can see our Willenhall products becoming competitive again." Explains Duncan. "But we still have to try and persuade people not to specify on price alone". It's a frequently expressed sentiment and one that we will all doubtless continue to argue over for some time yet.

Master suite lists go back a long way.



Securefast's first patent from 1903



"But we still have to try and persuade people not to specify on price alone"



Securefast MD, Duncan Crawley



The newly opened £14m Faculty of Health building at Edge Hill University is a shining example of how architect, AI and manufacturer working closely together can make a complex, fast-track project work effectively and efficiently. It clearly demonstrates how bringing in a skilled AI early on can save headaches later and lead to great results.

The new Faculty of Health was built for Edge Hill University in the grounds of the college's Ormskirk campus bringing Faculty of Health staff and students into one, purpose-built centre there for the first time. It was designed by architects The Owen Ellis Partnership to provide teaching space, academic and administration staff offices, catering and an 850 seat lecture theatre.

In the last ten years, around £60 million has been invested in the campus facilities, providing students with everything they could want on one site and ensuring Edge Hill provides a modern learning environment. Original buildings have been complemented by state-of-

the-art modern resources, situated in picturesque landscaped grounds, including £4m of sport and leisure amenities

The Faculty of Health delivers pre-and post-registration programmes and a range of continuing professional development opportunities, as well as being home to the Centre for Health Research and Evaluation. It is the biggest provider of healthcare staff in the North West, with 4000 midwives, nurses and healthcare professionals graduating each year. The building is almost entirely naturally ventilated with heating and cooling provided by ground source heat pumps and solar panels, significantly reducing carbon emissions.

Architect in charge of the project for Owen Ellis, Andrew Brown realised early the importance of the architectural ironmongery scheme succeeding since, in this extremely busy environment, safe and efficient access, egress and movement around the building are of paramount importance. "With over 1000 staff and students in the building it is essential that the ironmongery performs successfully," he comments. "In addition it naturally had to meet the requirements of

durability, comfort, aesthetics and cost performance."

Andrew Brown called on AI Lloyd Worrall early. In fact "before the building was out of the ground," according to Tom Willis, MD of Lloyd Worrall's Merseyside branch. This allowed Lloyd Worrall to get under the skin of the project and work with the architects as they made changes as the building progressed. "We went through about ten drafts of the schedules before they were finalised," comments Tom Willis. "That was because we were with the architect every step of the way as they refined their designs."

"Lloyd Worrall developed the specification, schedule and suiting in conjunction with us to provide options and samples for approval," says Brown with regards to this close working relationship, built up over many years and numerous projects. He continues, "But as important as the performance requirements, with a fast construction programme and a completion date that was critical for the university, the ability to supply the ironmongery to site on time and efficiently for installation was absolutely key. Lloyd Worrall met the programme at a

AI WITH AN EDGE

HELEN CURRY VISITS EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY'S NEW FACULTY OF HEALTH IN LIVERPOOL TO FIND OUT HOW TEAMWORK HELPED THE PROJECT'S ARCHITECTURAL IRONMONGERY SCHEME GO TO PLAN.

competitive cost."

With hundreds of doors and a number of high traffic entrances to handle, Lloyd Worrall introduced DORMA into the project team early on. As well as the door furniture, Lloyd Worrall specified and scheduled sliding door and swing door units by DORMA for high pedestrian areas, together with fully automatic electro-hydraulic swing door operators and over 160 TS92 and TS93 cam-action closers.

The DORMA TS92 and TS93 closer features a linear drive mechanism combined with a heart-shaped cam, so that when the door is opened, the opening force falls away rapidly after the first few degrees, resulting in little resistance throughout the opening cycle, making it easy and safe for people with disabilities to use. Despite the low opening forces, the unit is extremely efficient and has a closing force that firmly closes the door, minimising any draughts and energy loss from the area – a vital consideration for a building which positions itself at the forefront of a drive to reduce the University's carbon footprint. Lloyd Worrall also introduced the architect to

"WITH OVER 1000 STAFF AND STUDENTS IN THE BUILDING IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE IRONMONGERY PERFORMS SUCCESSFULLY, IN ADDITION IT NATURALLY HAD TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF DURABILITY, COMFORT, AESTHETICS AND COST PERFORMANCE."



25 DORMA's innovative moveable wall systems which were supplied to the Faculty's 400 seater T-shaped lecture theatre. The walls perform as a functional room divider and as a reliable sound insulator.

Lloyd Worrall also worked closely with the architect to devise and design an effective key suite scheme. This was complex in its own right but was further complicated by the need for the design to work with

other, existing buildings on the campus. The result was a greatly simplified scheme which has revolutionised the way the maintenance team works by allowing them easy access to facilities like boiler rooms and store rooms without having to carry hundreds of keys and without having access to sensitive classroom and clinical areas.

In addition, Lloyd Worrall supplied a large number of electro-magnetic locking devices for fire and escape exits,

linked into the fire alarm system so that they fail unlocked when the alarm system is activated.

So far the building is working well in high traffic, heavy use conditions. "Despite the intensity of use in a student environment, seven months after handover, there have been no reported failures," comments Andrew Brown.

NOTE: Andrew Brown now works in his own practice, ABW Architects.

"DESPITE THE INTENSITY OF USE IN A STUDENT ENVIRONMENT, SEVEN MONTHS AFTER HANDOVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED FAILURES."



a|i|windsor

ROYAL FLUSH

GEZE UK is improving access for shoppers in Windsor with the installation of contemporary high-specification entrances to the town's brand new retail complex, King Edward Court.

Completed in November 2007, the mixed-use development is benefiting from GEZE UK's installation of seven Slimdrive SL automatic sliding entrances and two Slimdrive SC automatic curved sliding entrances in the elegant glass-dominated centre.

The new atrium, linking the car park to the shopping centre and to Waitrose, required a stylish sliding entrance that would accommodate heavy traffic, trolleys and pushchairs without compromising its contemporary double height glass design.

After shopping around, contractors Parry Bowen and John Sisk & Son Ltd decided GEZE's energy efficient Slimdrive SL, an automatic door operator that blends almost invisibly into the glass door frames and features integrated movement sensors and a fully compliant safety system was the answer. Quick and easy to install, the Slimdrive SL was used throughout the centre to maintain the sleek, glass wall effect that the architect envisioned.

The smooth, curved corners of the glass façade required a slightly unusual approach, so Zara and Zest, an upmarket juice bar, with prime positions, benefited from GEZE UK's versatile Slimdrive SC curved automatic door operator, which can be mounted almost invisibly onto curtain wall transoms and curved-steel sections with bespoke radii and door dimensions.

Richard Dawson, senior site manager at John Sisk & Son Ltd commented, "The door operators are ideal for the glass entrances in King Edward Court, complementing the contemporary architecture of the building whilst ensuring easy access for shoppers."



a|i|yorkshire + northumberland

CARE AWARE

A family-run business, Wellburn Care Homes operates some twelve care homes in Yorkshire and Northumberland, catering for the needs of more than 500 residents.

The company's mantra of 'care without compromise' is reflected in its commitment to ensuring that all of its residential facilities are as safe, comfortable and homely as possible. In maintaining such high standards, Wellburn is keenly aware of the ever-changing demands imposed by performance standards, building regulations and legislation as well as the need to assure a high quality of life for its residents.

It is these considerations that have led Wellburn to select the Perko Powermatic concealed, controlled door closer for room and access doors in its care homes. The Samuel Heath door closer meets fire and accessibility requirements, including BS-EN 1634-1 for half-hour and one-hour fire doors and opening forces that comply with Approved Document M of the Building Regulations, but has the added advantage of being totally concealed from view when the door is closed.

All of these features and benefits provided the perfect solution for Wellburn, as site technical manager, David Dryden, explains, "Perko Powermatic ticks all the right boxes for us. It enables us to make sure that our doors meet the various technical performance standards whilst avoiding the institutionalised appearance that surface mounted closers have a tendency to create.

"Some of our residents are quite frail and we have found Perko Powermatic to be particularly effective in facilitating the opening of doors with minimal resistance. The controlled closing rate is also very easy to set, enabling us to make fine adjustments to cater for varied back pressures in rooms and corridors. And, last but not least, our joiners have found the closer simple to fit and adjust, which makes my life a lot easier!"

In addition to the advantages recognised by Wellburn Care Homes, Perko Powermatic boasts a number of features that make it suitable for a wide variety of residential, secure accommodation and health facilities. In

addition to its technical performance credentials, the door closer's concealed nature can enhance cleaning and hygiene measures as well as reducing the opportunity for vandalism and ligature thanks to its ability to be positioned close to the bottom of the door.



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aijmerseyside

HOPPE TEES OFF AT BRITISH OPEN

The world's best golfers will soon be getting to grips with handles from leading hardware supplier HOPPE (UK) at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Merseyside. The venue for The Open 2008 Championship, which dates back to 1889, was recently refurbished and ArcWare Architectural was asked to supply 10 pairs of brass finish lever handles and 22 pull handles from HOPPE's Paris range. The handles were fitted throughout the building in a contract worth £10,000.

ArcWare Architectural's Director Graham Rawcliffe says: "We buy from HOPPE because they supply us with high quality products which are second-to-none. The next day delivery service is 100% reliable. Companies who offer this kind of service are few and far between."

ArcWare Architectural, based near Preston, is a leading supplier of Architectural Ironmongery to architects and specifiers in the commercial, public and domestic building sectors. The company is also growing sales via the internet. Around 50% of its business is generated online at www.handledesign.co.uk, 25% of which is from homeowners who can buy contemporary designer door handles previously only available to interior designers and architects.



aijchester

SPA BREAK

DORMA has supplied a range of automatic door operators as part of the modernisation of the Grosvenor Pulford Hotel and Spa just south of Chester. During an eight month, three-phase schedule, DORMA has installed ES200 automatic sliding doors and ED 200i automatic swing doors to five entrances throughout the venue.

All of the DORMA operators were chosen to meet the hotel's high spec interior which features stainless steel, polished glass and slim frames. The operators complement the glass designs of the entrances which have been enhanced with floral etchings. The DORMA ES 200 features classic lines and wide choice of finishes. They are optionally available with Dual-Drive technology for use in emergency exits and escape routes since the system's self-monitoring facility ensures that the door open automatically in the event of emergency.

The ED 200i retains the door's elegance since it does not have any bulky box units or swing arms and has a drive unit of just 150mm high by 152mm deep so it fits almost invisibly within the transom of the door.

The Grovesnor Pulford is a family run hotel set in a stunning mid-Victorian building with 73 rooms, bars, two restaurants and a luxury spa. The hotel's owner, Mr Nelson comments "We have developed a close working relationship with DORMA and feel that their products have effectively contributed to the ambience we strive to create in the hotel. It was crucial that we maintained a high quality and luxurious environment throughout, and DORMA fulfilled these requirements."



aijuk

FUELLING THE WAY

GEZE UK, has secured a substantial service contract with petrol giants BP, to maintain automatic doors at 240 filling stations across the UK.

BP handpicked GEZE UK, which specialises in installing and maintaining automatic and assisted doors, after being impressed by its 24-7 commitment and flexible approach that ensures every petrol station receives the best possible service.

As a major part of this commitment, GEZE UK's team of experienced engineers have to respond to national call outs within 24 hours and produce full door condition reports at every visit, assisting with the planning of preventative maintenance that takes place every six months. All engineers have undergone intensive health and safety training in order to ensure they work safely and efficiently on sites, regardless of the location or time of call-out.

GEZE UK's innovation and ability to provide a customer-focused solution was a key factor in BP's decision to award the contract and the petrol stations were keen to take part in the trial of GEZE UK's new state-of-the-art iContact wireless telemetry device, which continually monitors automatic doors and instantly notifies a technician when there is a fault.

Lee Lawrence, project manager at BP, said: "We feel GEZE UK is right for the contract as they offer a much more flexible and personal service than most other service providers. They were very responsive to our needs, which allowed us to provide a much more customer focussed service."



aijwarrington

THE RAIL WAY

The idea of having a gate that can be firmly closed against fresh air would seem impossible to achieve at first thought, but when Mouchel Consulting Engineers were involved in making essential safety modernisations to a railway station, they contacted Medway Galvanising Company, with exactly this challenge.

Mouchel has a long term involvement with Network Rail, concerned with capacity improvements and safety upgrades to the infrastructure and railway stations. This includes Warrington Central

where a modified version of the widely specified Mono Hinge gate has been installed to prevent unauthorised public access onto the trackside at the end of the station platforms.

The contract was awarded to Medway Galvanising on the basis of the manufacturer being able produce a version mounted on a base plate to be bolted down to the platform, while the self-closing mechanism alone would be responsible for where the leading edge 'parked'. The gate also needed to be robust, aesthetically acceptable and not present any finger trap points on the hinge side

The Engineer in charge of the work for Mouchel is Rob Stephens who comments: "We are contracted to Trans Pennine Express by Network Rail for this project at Warrington Central to extend pragmatically the platforms so that they can accommodate the new and much longer than previously operated Class 185 trains which the Train Operating Company has recently brought into use. However, because space to conventionally extend the station platforms is very severely inhibited at this station by a signal box and an under-bridge, we were tasked to devise a suitable form of modular emergency walkway at one end, with a self closing gate to allow for emergency egress from trains only, whilst preventing unauthorised Public access from the main Station Platforms during normal operating conditions.

"We had no previous dealings with Medway Galvanising but found the Mono Hinge gate via an internet search for self-closing gates. Most companies we contacted were unable to supply a gate that did not have a post to close against, but Medway Galvanising was able to modify the Mono Hinge with a base plate. The Mono Hinge is now installed and the contract will be handed over soon."



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CODE TEN

Keyless locks specialist Codelocks has launched the ten-button CL1000 Cabinet Lock – the keyless electronic lock which will make building owners struggling with countless keys, and users losing their keys, a thing of the past.

The CL1000 Cabinet Lock is the latest product in the Codelocks range for schools, offices, hospitals, leisure facilities, factories, care homes and nurseries which aims to enhance access control and simplify the administration and management of lockers, cupboards, offices, IT stores, the storage of sensitive information and access control for building occupants and facilities managers alike. This is a particularly pertinent issue in this age of increased data protection.

Simple to retrofit on existing cam locks or Cabinets which currently have no locking mechanism, the CL1000 is easy to operate and offers a simple and effective way to safeguard valuables, and control access. All without having to manage dozens of keys with all the hassle, time and cost implications which that entails. The system's beauty lies in the fact that the user controls the lock, removing the responsibility from clients who no longer have to waste time replacing keys and opening lockers.

The new lock has three programme levels: Master Code, Sub-Master Code and User Code. The Master Code allows management to programme and set the lock into either of its two modes of operation. The default mode is Multiple User Code allowing the lock to be used repeatedly with the User Code – ideal for individual users on lockers and the like. The second mode is One-Time User Code (or Locker) mode. This offers a single-use code setting facility, for single opening by an individual user. The codes are then erased to be reset by the next user. In this mode the Codelocks CL1000's red LED light will flash red when locked to show they are unavailable. Master and Sub-Master Codes are easily set to allow locks to be managed simply and effectively. It offers up to 10,000 four-digit User Codes making the CL1000 infinitely versatile and functional.

THE 100% HINGE



Simonswerk UK will introduce and display an addition to their award winning fully concealed Tectus range of hinges on their stand (T35) at this years 100% Detail exhibition at Earls Court, London in September. The new fully stainless steel TECTUS 525 3D, with cover caps, is one hour fire rated and CE marked. Completely concealed for unrebated doors with timber, steel and aluminium frames this outstanding hinge is UL certified with a load capacity of 100kg, opening angle of 180° and can be used with the Tectus MK cable conduit set to carry electrical power from frame to door. Maintenance-free slide bearings and left and right hand adjustability add to the remarkable features of this exceptional hinge system.

FUTURE HINGES ON UNION

UNION Architectural Hardware has developed a range of high performance door hinges - UNION PowerLOAD.

Tested to BS EN 1935:2002 and CE marked, the new UNION hinges have also been assessed for use on timber fire doors to BS EN 1634-1. With the additional reassurance of a 25 year guarantee, the new UNION PowerLOAD hinges are ideal for the specification market where durability and reliability are paramount.

Designed for long life and outstanding performance, the UNION PowerLOAD hinge range requires little or no maintenance. Metal to metal wear is dramatically lowered by using carbon steel and phosphorous bronze flanged bushes with a specially formulated lubricant. This material combination significantly reduces the wear and regular maintenance required by other types of hinge.

The new hinges also feature precision positioning for fixings in order to spread the load on timber door frames and stiles and achieve consistent performance over time.

UNION PowerLOAD hinges are available either bulk packed with radius corners for OEM factory preparation, or tri-packed with square corners and complete with screws to suit on-site installation.

The UNION PowerLOAD square cornered range includes two butt hinges, a butt projection hinge and a lift off hinge. The radius cornered range has been further expanded to include a European style lift off hinge.

Both ranges are manufactured from mild steel, or stainless steel grade 304 dependent on the level of corrosion resistance required, and are available in a choice of satin stainless finish or bright zinc plate.



SLIM DESIGN FOR EXIT HARDWARE

A new slimline and stylish range of panic and emergency exit hardware has been launched by architectural door and window hardware company HOPPE (UK).

Designed and manufactured in the UK, the ARNONE Architectural Plus range combines style and aesthetics with reliable performance and compliance with European exit safety standards. It also features the exclusive 'EFC – Easy Fix Clip' designed to make on-site fitting easy.

Supported by solid engineering principles, the range can be used in many demanding applications such as schools, hospitals, sports stadia, cinemas, supermarkets, railway stations and other public or commercial buildings.



GEZE HAS THE POWER

The trend for large, imposing entrances to new developments has lead GEZE UK, to launch the Powerdrive, a heavy-duty automatic sliding door system designed specifically for extra large and heavyweight entrances.

Legislation that demands effective access and egress, as well as architects' desire for impact, have led to a dramatic increase in the demand for an automatic door system that is tough enough to accommodate extra wide entrances or heavy doors.

The high-capacity system supports heavyweight glass, metal, UPVC and timber doors up to 200kg. For internal and external entrances, the cost effective, off-the-shelf Powerdrive can be easily fitted to single or double leaf doors with an opening width of up to 3000mm.

Guaranteeing optimal safety, the Powerdrive is certified to the DIN 18650 standard and features electromechanical locking system as standard, as well as a battery to allow use when an external power source has failed.

The highly functional Powerdrive incorporates state of the art DCU control technology, which is a self-learning 16-bit microprocessor that enables the system to communicate with other GEZE products and remain up to date with ease. The operator requires very little maintenance; the integrated brushes fitted to the roller carriages continually clean the rollers, ensuring a long service life, minimal maintenance costs and almost silent operation.

SLIDE TECHNOLOGY

Striking contemporary design distinguishes the new Glassmaster Tec sliding door system available from Hillaldam Coburn.



The Glassmaster Tec system uses polished stainless steel guide rails to carry frameless glass or wooded doors available with a range of doors handles and grips in matching finely ground stainless steel.

There are five sliding door systems available, all providing exceptionally smooth and quiet operation, that satisfy most contemporary design needs. The system supports single door widths from 750 to 1250mm and double door widths up to 2.5m. Doors can be wall or ceiling hung.

NEW OPENINGS



Securistyle has launched the Parallel Plus hinge, which allows the parallel opening of a window to provide ultimate balanced natural ventilation in buildings such as schools, hospitals, offices and apartments. It is a product that can make a significant difference to a building's performance.

Securistyle's Parallel Plus hinge allows the parallel opening of a window and provides effective natural ventilation by ensuring a balanced air flow around the entire opening. It also allows vents of up to 200kg in weight and 2.5 metres in height to be manually operated, cutting out the need for motor operators. In the past, windows weighing 60kg required motorisation so the Parallel Plus has more than trebled the weight that can be operated manually.

Securistyle's Parallel Plus hinge achieves effective, balanced and relatively draught-free ventilation at very small openings compared to any other type of window opening. This increases the security of the building, particularly in hospitals and schools, where personal safety is such an important factor. Parallel opening windows also provide excellent potential for smoke egress and can be combined with a building's management system.



EXCAVATING A NEW SECURITY RANGE

Henry Squire & Sons Ltd and JCB have joined forces to create a new range of heavy duty security products. The new JCB range offers an extensive range of strong, attractively packaged products for the trade and DIY markets, including high-security, weatherproof and all-terrain versions, combination locks, D locks, luggage locks and bike locks.

"The new range represents a collaboration between two of the oldest and best-known British family firms. Both companies have a strong British manufacturing base and a combined pedigree representing one of the strongest sales propositions in the security market for years," said Squire's managing director John Squire. All locks carry the distinctive JCB yellow colouring and logo.

The trade range includes CEN graded high security products including padlocks, shutterlocks, lock and chain sets, locksets and padbars. The range for the DIY market include heavy duty weatherproof padlocks, all-terrain padlocks, pin tumbler steel padlocks, recodable combination padlocks, a backpack lock, wall anchor, hasp and staple, ladder and gate lock, security cables and lock and chain sets.

Manufactured by Squire, the JCB padlock range is being distributed in the UK by Listers and by Basta in Ireland.



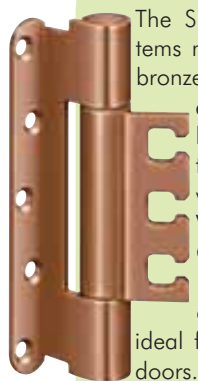
CONTAINING CONTAMINATION

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies has linked up with Komfort Workspace to form a new partnership aimed at reducing the spread of infections and risk of cross-contamination in hospitals and healthcare premises.

Acting in response to public and health authority concerns about HAI's (Hospital Acquired Infections), including MRSA and Clostridium difficile, Ingersoll Rand's Normbau Microban collection, along with DDA related items and Briton locks and cylinders have been used for two of Komfort's showrooms. Located in Edgbaston Cricket Ground and Bonhill Street, London, the showrooms are designed to replicate common room layouts found in modern healthcare facilities.

Normbau Microban comprises a colourful collection of nylon door levers, pull handles, grab bars, handrails, balustrades, sanitary fittings and bathroom accessories - all impregnated at production stage with Microban antibacterial protection. The impregnation is integral which means that the protection cannot be washed, rubbed or worn away and will always remain active throughout the life cycle of the product. Inhibiting the growth of unwanted bacteria the products can help to provide a constant and superior level of hygiene in hospitals, care homes and other public access buildings by mitigating risk of infection.

BRONZE AGE



The Simonswerk Variant VX hinge systems now include a new, attractive real bronze hinge which perfectly matches the ever increasing demand for real bronze door furniture, meeting all the demands for high performance with sophisticated design. The VARIANT VX range also includes CE rated hinges - tested to 1,000,000 cycles, fully 3D adjustable, maintenance free and ideal for fire, sound & burglar resistant doors. Available in 100mm and 160mm sizes & load capacities up to 300kg, the high quality steel & stainless steel VX hinge has basic or soft finish finial options and is already highly successful on interior and exterior doors whilst pushing the boundaries of hinges to carry heavy duty doors.

THE USE OF UNCONTROLLED DOOR CLOSERS

Jacky Sinclair Reg AI, F InstAI of the GAI's Technical Committee offers advice on the selection of door closers, especially in residential projects.

Most ironmongers will schedule door closers which are CE marked to EN 1154, for commercial buildings. This is the easiest way of showing that the products comply with the health and safety requirements of the Construction Products Regulations (CPR). It is also the GAI's strong recommendation, and is repeated in our Code of Practice: Hardware for Fire and Escape Doors which can be browsed on line, or downloaded as a PDF from the GAI website at www.gai.org.uk

But confusion has arisen due to some suppliers saying that uncontrolled door closers can be used instead, because there is no standard for them to be tested to. Therefore they fall outside the need to show compliance with the CPR. Because of this, such products have been offered for use on flat entrance doors, and other locations.

This advice is incorrect, and leaves everyone in the supply chain open to prosecution. Legal opinion on this matter agrees with the GAI's own interpretation of the situation, and we share it here for the benefit of all specifiers.

Regulation 3 of the Construction Products Regulations states in part:

"3.—(1) A construction product, other than a minor part product, shall have such characteristics that the works in which it is to be incorporated, assembled, applied or installed can, if properly designed and built, satisfy the essential requirements when, where and to the extent that such works are subject to regulations containing such requirements.

(2) In paragraph (1) above "regulations" includes any rule, regulation or other provision which has the force of law."

On first reading, this text seems to lead the reader round in circles, but what it means is this: if there are regulations covering the use of the product in a building, then it is also covered by the requirements of the CPR. This then means that the sanctions offered by the CPR would apply to anyone in the supply chain offering a non-compliant product.

Let's take an example and work it through. Fire doors in apartment blocks are covered by the Building Regulations. The document we commonly consult is Approved Document B. AD B is not a regulatory document itself. It is an advisory document which interprets the main Building Regulations, by demonstrating ways which are deemed to satisfy the requirement that buildings be safe in case of fire. In most projects, the Approved Documents are followed closely, so that everyone knows the outcome will satisfy the Building Regulations, and therefore Building Control.

What does AD B say about door closers for fire doors?

The relevant bit is in Volume 2 – Buildings other than dwellinghouses, which also covers flats. In "Appendix B: Fire doors" we read:

"2. All fire doors should be fitted with a self-closing device except for fire doors to cupboards and to service ducts which are normally kept locked shut and fire doors within flats (self-closing devices are still necessary on flat entrance doors)."

So what is a "self-closing device"? AD B gives us the following definition: "A device which is capable of closing the door from any angle and against any latch fitted to the door."

Uncontrolled door closers are unlikely to be able to meet these criteria. Their closing force is weakest in the closed position, so they would be unlikely to close a door if the latchbolt were allowed to rest against the strike before the door was released. A correctly adjusted closer CE marked to BS EN 1154 would be able to perform this test. In fact it is a requirement of the standard detailed in Annex A.

Any specifier selecting door closers for fire doors must ensure that they meet the requirements of the Construction Products Regulations and Building Regulations. By supplying a product which is CE marked to BS EN 1154, the specifier shows they have exercised "due diligence" in the selection of safe materials. When all is said and done, a specifier must be able to answer in court for his decisions. How would you answer a barrister with the personality of Anne Robinson who enquires why you chose to ignore a wide selection of CE marked product in favour of an untested or un-testable product, which could not meet the recommendations of Approved Document B, let alone BS EN 1154? These are issues of life safety, not lifestyle.

Regulation 4 in the CPR states:

"4. Any construction product which bears the EC mark shall be presumed to satisfy the relevant requirement in regulation 3 unless there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the product does not satisfy that requirement or that the EC mark has not been affixed in accordance with regulation 5."

In other words, the CE (or EC) mark provides you with a statutory defence in any litigation concerned with the safe performance of the product – either in every day use, or in case of fire.

If you supply or specify non-CE marked closers for fire doors which need self-closing devices under AD B, you're on your own. Your trade association does not condone your action.

CONSUMER KNOW-HOW



A new easy-to-use guide from HOPPE (UK) has been produced to help homeowners overcome one of the major barriers to DIY replacement of faulty or outdated PVC-U door handles – knowing where to begin.

The company developed the handle selection guide, which is available to all HOPPE (UK) stockists, to give homeowners basic assistance in measuring up their existing door handle with a view to replacement. Crucially, the guide informs consumers about the need to consider the measurement between screw centres on the two common backplate types, and advises on factors including the 92mm lever

to keyhole measurement and enhanced security.

Michelle Wilkinson, National Account Manager, HOPPE Architectural and Retail Division says, "Unlike many elements and features around their home, homeowners perhaps lack the confidence to change the handles on their PVC-U doors unless they really have to. However, armed with the right knowledge of where to begin, we believe there is great potential for consumers to take on this task themselves and seek authoritative assistance from retailers and builders merchants."

EQUALITY AND SECURITY

Homeowners and social housing residents can be more secure in their homes thanks to the launch of a new Secured By Design PAS 24 door handle from Securistyle.

Manufactured exclusively for Securistyle by one of Europe's leading door hardware companies, HOPPE (UK), the Equality 24 is an extra secure door handle, which meets the requirements of the updated PAS 24: 2007 specification. The dimensions of the product satisfy the requirements of BS8300 and the latest amendments to Document M of the Building Regulations.

The Equality 24 handle features a solid backplate, which delivers added strength and greater resistance from attack by a potential intruder. The uniquely shaped grip handle has been specifically designed to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and the more recently introduced Disability Equality Duty. This allows housing providers to "future proof" properties and ensure the most appropriate door hardware is fitted to meet the demands of occupiers.

The Equality 24 handle is available in gold, silver, white and black and can easily be retrofitted. It is backed by a 10 year guarantee, which is increased to 12 years if the handle is specified as part of Securistyle's Partnership Pledge audited warranty scheme.

LOCK DOWN

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies has launched a new range of cylinder locks which has been developed to combat the ever increasing problem of bumping and snapping, and provides levels of high security and protection from these kinds of attack.

CISA Astral S and AP3 cylinders are fabricated with a patented laminate, snap resistant steel core to provide flexural snap and pull resistance. The core is visible from both ends acting as a deterrent. A BKP bump resistant device is built-in as standard as well as hardened steel pins and drivers to protect from drilling. Fully compliant with BS EN1303:2005, the cylinders unique construction will withstand drilling, picking, bumping and snapping.

The Astral S cylinder has a 10-pin key biting system offering over 1.6 million differs and is completely interchangeable with the Astral range so that security can be enhanced as required.

The patented AP3 is a sophisticated 11-pin biting system producing over 40 million key differs. Its patented mobile ensures restriction of keys blanks and code cards guarantee only CISA authorised additional keys are cut. Meeting the requirements of Kitemark BS EN1303:2005, the locking system is unique in the marketplace and is patented until 2019.



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GETTING IN A FIX

KEITH CLARK OF PREMDOR DISCUSSES SOME OF THE ISSUES SURROUNDING FIXING HARDWARE ON DOORS

More than half a century ago the British Standard BS.459 range established prescriptive design guidance for manufacturers of timber doors. This included for the then 'modern' flush finish specifications, some of which were fire resisting types.

At the concept of this standard, use of timber was accepted as being a pre-requisite material which offered easy availability, low cost, suitable aesthetics, and a very 'forgiving' practical characteristic when required, particularly in ex factory rework and installation.

Installation of course included a need for adding required essential hardware and, increasingly, various special performance or decorative ironmongery, most of which is typically screw fixed.

In the 1950's raw timber and established sheet materials such as heavy plywood was used to fabricate most doors. This early reliance on timber as a key element remains even 60 years on, although modern advanced processing has now evolved some wood used, into an array of composite components. Solid sections, moulded or flat sheets and engineered core materials are now all produced and targeted at the joinery sector.

As these changes have crept through, the prescriptive guidance of BS.459 has been generally superseded and replaced, not by updated design principles but instead by stipulated test and performance standards. It is these factors which now drive modern timber door specifications.

Manufacturer testing has demonstrated these new material options to be extensively suitable for door production, including for use within performance application areas, where virgin timber had always been pre-eminent. Additionally, the new composites are comparatively economic in use and environmentally acceptable for sale to an increasingly green tinted market.

Not surprisingly with such advantages, homogenous components are now widely incorporated in many typical door constructions and even favoured, where suitable, by mainstream manufacturers.

Unfortunately however the adoption of timber alternatives has not been fully appreciated by the installing trades. Neither is it always clearly acknowledged within the available product guidance appropriate to fixing hardware, regardless of performance test success.

"It's just a door mate" is the common response from an aggrieved chippy. "I didn't know it needed something special! I used the screws that I always use" or which "came with the hinges/closer/lock" so "they must be suitable!!"

The key challenge for industry when wood substitutes are used is to ensure that they are comparable with the inherent natural beneficial characteristics that timber has.

In addition, when adopting them, some of woods natural defects can be designed out, reducing waste and avoiding possible product failure risk when in use. Both of these are significant advantages in cost control, and product development.

So far so good, but why should hardware providers and specifiers be aware of, or concerned about these changes and material trends that

are now well advanced.

In a word - **COMPATIBILITY!**

Although door makers, doorset producers, hardware factors, glaziers and installers all have a vested interest in providing a jointly viable product in use, it is suggested that we too often do not consider the need for a full understanding of what makes each sector compatible with the others involved.

Perhaps the best example of this 'coming together' is for ironmongery to be compatible with the door specification. This seems obvious enough but 'in reality', when faced with common site complaints, it tells a different story!!

Taking it to a simple level, is the fixing screw specification for the hinge or component always compatible with the door material it is being applied to? Against the background outlined in the preceding overview, the answer is quite possibly not!!

Result - **DOORSET FAILURE**

As acknowledged, traditional timber is a very accommodating fixing substrate. Even poorly applied or selected screws will often gain sufficient purchase. This fact has, in turn, almost encouraged poor practice in fixing discipline with often little concern given to the ultimate quality and longevity of the fixing strength, specifically when it is not natural timber that is being screwed into.

Providing or advising the use of traditional wood screws with hardware, is not helpful and does not emphasise enough the high risk that the fixing point may not in fact be into wood, but instead into a timber composite.

When considering for example screwing to MDF or high density particleboard door or frame elements, it is a fundamental certainty that established poor practice is unlikely to be accommodated, and it is essential that the fixing method followed is suitable according to material.

This may in some cases mean using longer screws and certainly they must have a thread cut and shank profile that is compatible with a composite substrate. Use of a pilot hole may also be a best practice requirement.

Other factors will also contribute to the effectiveness of the fixing. Firstly, the critical aspect of understanding the door 'duty' requirement in use must be recognised. Unfortunately this point is regularly overlooked by the specifier or installer, but it inevitably results in the finger of blame, when failure occurs, pointing firmly at a component supplier and not the installer.

Faced with this resistance, some may feel that despite millions of doors being produced, fixing to homogeneous components is a difficulty that should be endured or worse ignored.

The Industry needs however to fully and overtly recognise that things have changed dramatically since the mid twentieth century days of BS.459, - yes it may be "just a door mate" but perhaps not as we have known it.



THERE HAVE BEEN A SPATE OF RECENT CASES WHERE POOR DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION HAS LED TO THE COURTS EXTENDING THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN ACTS BEYOND THEIR ORIGINAL SCOPE.

For example, in the area of disability discrimination, the recent case of *Coleman v Attridge Law* appears to extend the protection of the Disability Discrimination Act to carers. Ms Coleman is able-bodied but has a disabled child whose difficulties caused her to have time off. She became so disenchanted with adverse comments about her absences that she volunteered for redundancy, but then pursued a claim under the Disability Discrimination Act on the basis that she had been directly discriminated against on grounds relating to disability (though obviously not her own disability). The case was referred to the European Court of Justice, where the Advocate General found that the Disability Directive protects people "who although not themselves disabled, suffer direct discrimination... because they are associated with a disabled person".

This decision is one which Tribunals here are likely to follow, so if you have an employee who has time off to care for a disabled relative or partner, be aware when dealing with any absenteeism issues that might arise, that the carer may well be protected under the Disability Discrimination Act, and the need to make reasonable adjustments may arise.

The case of *Gravell v London Borough of Bexley* provides a similar extension to the Race Relations Act. In 2003 a new Sec.3A was introduced to that Act, providing that an employee is subjected to unlawful harassment when, on grounds of race or ethnic/national origins, he is subjected to unwanted conduct which has the purpose/effect of violating his dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. Ms Gravell is white/British and worked for LBB as a Prevention and Advice Officer in the Borough's Housing Department. She was told that it was policy to ignore racist comments from customers and not to challenge them. She became increasingly concerned. She complained about receiving racist jokes by text. LBB did nothing. The Employment Appeal Tribunal found that LBB's policy had had the effect of creating an offensive working environment and Ms Gravell had been discriminated against under Sec.3A.

An employer has for sometime been under a duty to prevent employees suffering from 'third party' discrimination. Therefore, if a black employee of yours were to be harassed on racial grounds by a customer, you would be expected to take steps to prevent that happening. The Gravell case means that a white employee could complain if, for example, he or she had to repeatedly listen to racist jokes from a customer directed at non-white people.

In the case of *Redfearn v Serco Ltd t/a West Yorkshire Transport Service*, Mr Redfearn was employed as a driver for

people with mental and physical disabilities in the Bradford area. 75% of his passengers were Asian, as were 35% of Serco's staff. R was good at his work. In May 2004 R stood as a BNP candidate in the local elections. The GMB union told Serco about R's affiliations and Amicus wrote to Bradford City Council complaining. Serco's own workforce expressed their concerns on safety grounds. Mr Redfearn was dismissed on health and safety grounds and claimed direct and indirect race discrimination. The Employment Appeal Tribunal considered whether R was dismissed "on racial grounds". Serco's argument was that as Mr Redfearn treated others less favourably on racial grounds, then he should not get protection – so that the RRA deterred, not rewarded race discrimination. This sensible submission was not accepted and the EAT found in Mr Redfearn's favour. So he was apparently discriminated against because he discriminated against others. Again, this is associative discrimination – Mr Redfearn had not actually done anything to warrant dismissal while he was doing his job, but by BNP association he became an employee hazard.

Another oblique angle on discrimination occurred in the case of *English v T. Sanderson Blinds*. Mr English worked for TSB for 9 years, then claimed harassment under the Sexual Orientation Regulations. He was known to be heterosexual but he was subjected to homophobic banter by his colleagues, on the grounds that he lived in Brighton and had attended a public school. Sec.5 of the Regulations states that harassment occurs where an offensive environment is generated "on grounds of sexual orientation". An Employment Tribunal found that Mr English could only be protected from the homophobic banter if he was actually gay. This is because the wording of the Regulations required adverse treatment 'on the grounds' of his sexual orientation. However, while the Employment Appeal Tribunal agreed with this, it noted that this wording failed to implement the true purpose of the Equal Treatment Amendment Directive. 'On the grounds of' should be replaced by "related to" i.e. if conduct related to a person's sexual orientation causes humiliation etc., then harassment has occurred. This case has gone to the Court of Appeal and will probably give rise to a redrafting of not only the Sexual Orientation Regs but also those covering Religion/Belief and Age, so that cases like Mr English's will in future give rise to successful discrimination claims.

Both the Gravell and English cases show the continuing importance of maintaining an atmosphere at work which is as free as can be from banter which could possibly give rise to offence and therefore to discrimination claims.

If you would like further advice on this or any other area of Employment law, please contact Roger Vincent Associates on 01372 462 262 or email roger.vincent@talk21.com.



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