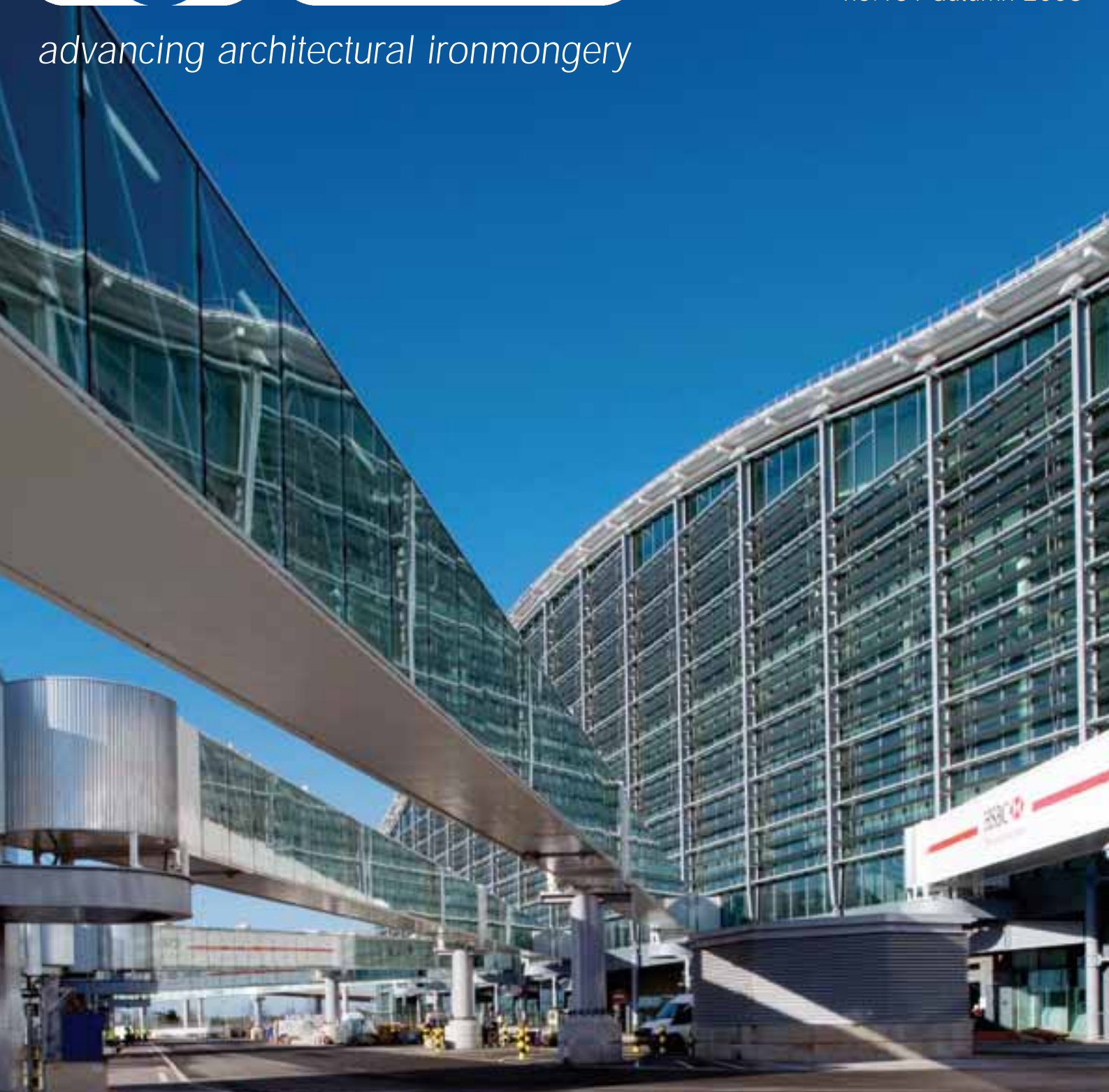




architectural
ironmongery
journal

no.131 autumn 2008

advancing architectural ironmongery



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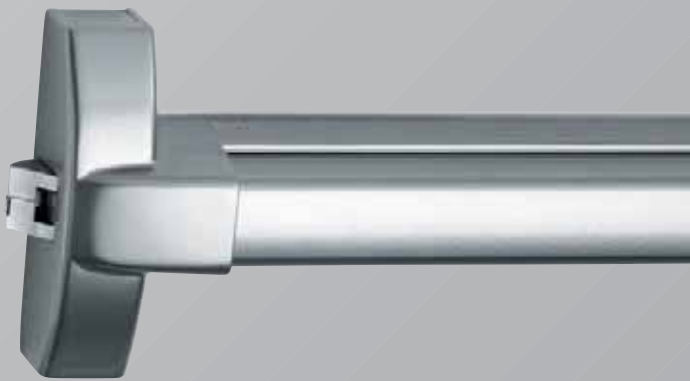
PHA Push Bar



ES200 Automatic Sliding Door



PHB Touch Bar



Cam Action Door Closer



Door Control

Automatic

Glass Fittings and
Accessories

Movable Walls

Service

NEW Panic Hardware to complete the CONTUR Range

DORMA have launched a new range of panic hardware as part of the CONTUR range with the distinctive end-caps. Now you can suite a whole building with matching panic hardware, manual door closers and automatic sliding door operators.

The unmistakeable appearance of emergency exits is particularly important. For safety reasons, they must be immediately identifiable should the worst occur. Hopefully that situation will never happen so why not specify panic hardware that will contribute to the building's individual character.

It is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge trying to write an editorial comment about the economy. Every time you reach a definitive conclusion, the ground shifts under our feet and all the markers which we thought were permanent suddenly disappear.

Construction output is expected to shrink during both this year and next according to the latest joint Trade Survey Report from the Construction Products Association and the Construction Confederation, as the economic slowdown, coupled with the rising prices of energy and raw materials begins to bite. Although the survey shows that light side manufacturers have so far remained relatively immune to the slowdown.

In the AI industry we look anxiously across the Atlantic and wonder whether the UK will catch a cold when America sneezes. So far, anecdotal evidence suggests that the British AI trade is, so far, weathering the storm with GAI members reporting excellent results in August and September. This could possibly be because of the trade's position right at the end of the building cycle meaning that it is one of the last parts of the building industry to feel the pinch. Only time will tell. If the AIJ is any barometer, then the number of new product launches we are hearing about certainly suggests that the AI trade is continuing to innovate and invest in its future



Helen Curry

aijfront cover



Now that the dust has settled after the PR disaster that was the opening of Heathrow's Terminal 5, it has come to be recognised as an architectural and logistical triumph.

Photo: BAA

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NEXT ISSUE

Copy date for the **Winter** issue is **18 December**. All adverts are accepted subject to approval from a Technical Approval Committee



ROVER'S RETURN

Andy Howland has returned to GEZE UK as Sales Director to lead the team he once served within.

Andy, currently the National Chairman of the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers, returns to GEZE UK after three years at Royde & Tucker. He has an extensive knowledge of GEZE's customers and products from his eight years in the sales team and also as national specification manager, making him ideally suited to the new role.

Andy Howland said: "I'm very excited about returning to GEZE UK and relish the opportunity to drive the business forward. My focus will be on delivering excellent service during what may become a challenging business environment. But GEZE UK is very well placed to weather a storm. Their sales team is well respected throughout the industry and they understand what a customer needs, know the product range and capabilities inside out and will bend over backwards to help a customer. That's why I believe GEZE is a cut above the rest."

STERLING SERVICE

Sterling Locks Ltd is the new name of Phoenix Security Products, suppliers of the Sterling security range.

The new company name, together with a new logo, has been unveiled as Sterling expands its range of security products. For 2008, Sterling has launched a new range of Bullet Locks all with a ten year guarantee. With a pin tumbler locking mechanism and key-retaining when in the unlocked position, Sterling Bullet Locks are strong, reliable front line security. They are also available in repeatable keyed-alike suites for convenience. Even more convenient, Sterling has also launched new Bullet Lock Housings alongside the range making it simple to find all the kit needed to secure properties.

With an extensive range of cylinders, as well as mortice locks, rim locks, nightlatches and window locks, Sterling is the ideal one-stop shop for both internal and perimeter security. To find out more call 0113 250 3603 or visit www.sterlinglocks.com.



HINGE MAN MAKES PIVOTAL MOVE

Cooke Brothers has appointed Geoff Mason to head up the company's sales activities in the south of England.

Geoff, formally with Royde & Tucker, has a wealth of product knowledge and industry experience at his disposal. Geoff is an active member of the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers, attending regional meetings and giving technical product presentations.

Commenting on his new position Geoff said "I am fortunate to be joining Cooke Brothers at such an exciting time in the company's history. Offering one of the most comprehensive ranges of hinges on the market, the Phoenix brand name is recognised worldwide as a benchmark for quality and innovation. With the company introducing a number of new products and services in the near future, I feel my timing could not be better".



SHRINKING RETURNS

The sales team at HEWI UK - Mike Thew, Gethin Davies, Peter Hicks and Martin Withall are hoping to see some of their figures going down, not up when they weigh in at their sales meeting in Germany in December. Weighing in at a combined weight of 527Kg or 1,161 Lbs, each person will pay a £1.00 for every Lb they lose – and are looking for sponsors to join them! The total amount raised will be matched by HEWI GmbH, with the man who loses the most weight choosing the charity to benefit from the money raised.

You can encourage and sponsor the team by emailing Peter Hicks on PHicks@hewi.co.uk

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EURO ROLE



David Whitworth has been elected president of the European Hardware Manufacturers Association (ARGE). This trade group, which represents hardware manufacturers from 16 European countries, protects the interests of its members in areas including European standardisation, regulation and international competition.

David is the chairman of the Door & Hardware Federation which represents UK manufacturers of industrial and commercial doors and shutters, garage doors, and door hardware.

Over the next three years David will use the opportunity of his ARGE presidency to reinforce the use of CE marking of hardware in the European construction market. He will also champion the Europe-wide adoption of high quality standards to combat the threat to the market of poorer quality products manufactured outside the EU.

"ARGE needs to be more outward facing, in particular in its relationship with the policy makers in Brussels," said David.

"Brussels will not talk direct to individual country-based trade associations such as the DHF, but will talk to a pan European association such as ARGE. Brussels sets the standards but does not enforce them, it leaves enforcement to the industries concerned.

"So this is a great opportunity for us as a Europe-wide industry to reinforce the use of CE marking and to encourage manufacturers in the door and hardware industry to further raise quality standards. This will certainly give companies within Europe a competitive edge against products originating from countries where quality standards are not as high."

BUILT FOR SUCCESS

Jules Quested-Williams, outgoing chair of the GAI's Communications Committee, has left her post as GEZE's Sales & Marketing Director to strike out in her own business. Jules has set up Built for Marketing, a marketing and sales consultancy with a specialism in the architectural ironmongery business.

Jules has previously held positions of both Managing Director and Sales and Marketing Director of leading manufacturing companies in the sector, Turnquest and GEZE UK. This has given her experience in Sales and Marketing strategies, People Management and Change Management.

Built for Marketing will work with companies to develop a marketing strategy and then work with the company to put an implementation plan into place. Other divisions of the Built For organisation will offer sales development services, recruitment and training facilities.



REWARDING EXCELLENCE

The Builders' Merchants Awards for Excellence 2008 will reward the brightest and best business stars in the industry at a luncheon and presentations at the Royal Lancaster Hotel on 21st November.

Hosted by GMTV and radio personality Andrew Castle, the event will see the industry's high achievers presented with awards for the categories in which they have excelled during the course of the year.

The Awards' aims are to encourage excellence across the board in terms of individual and business achievement. Merchant staff, their customers, and industry suppliers nominate individuals and companies from both national and independent merchants for fifteen categories of award.

The Builders' Merchants Awards for Excellence are officially endorsed by all major merchant industry bodies – The Builders Merchants Federation, The Institute of Builders' Merchants, Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants, National Merchants Buying Society, United Merchants and The Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW CONSTRUCTION 'TSAR'

The Government has announced its intention to consult on a potential new 'champion' role for the construction industry.

The Chief Construction Officer, a civil service position, would serve as the main point of engagement between industry and Government. The Officer would work with and across government departments to help to ease the problem of fragmentation of construction policy across Government.

Full details of the potential terms and scope of the role will be confirmed following engagement with both industry and public sector bodies as part of the Operational Efficiency Programme announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury earlier this year, but duties could include:

- Working with OGC and other organisations to promote best practice in construction procurement
- Acting as the main point of engagement between Government and industry
- Helping to oversee the implementation of Government policy, such as the Strategy for Sustainable Construction
- Championing the industry's image
- Promoting regulatory consistency across departments
- Helping to co-ordinate the timing of major public sector construction programmes or projects
- Promoting innovation in the industry

The move comes as part of a response to a key recommendation in the Construction Matters report by the House of Commons Business and Enterprise Committee.



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STEP ABOARD THE AFL QUATTRO BUS

Architectural ironmongery suppliers Associated Finishers Ltd, will be touring the UK aboard their specially adapted double decker bus which is fitted out as a touring showroom. As well as presenting its latest product range and refreshments, AFL will have some incentives aboard for new and existing customers.

The tour kicks off on the 3rd November and will run for two weeks. The locations and the dates are as follows:

3rd November - Glasgow	10th November - Derby
4th November - Newcastle	11th November - London (Croydon)
5th November - Leeds	12th November - London (Wembley)
6th November - Manchester	13th November - Bristol
7th November - Manchester	14th November - Birmingham

Full venue details and times are available from AFL on 0121 359 0958 or by emailing sales@afl-birmingham.co.uk

ON THE MOVE

1. Sliding door gear and systems specialists Hillaldam Coburn Ltd, has moved to new larger premises in Wimbledon.

The company's new address is:

Hillaldam Coburn Ltd, Unit 16, Merton Industrial Park, Lee Road, London SW19 3HX Tel: 020 8545 6680 Fax: 020 8545 6720 E-mail: sales@hillaldam.co.uk Website: www.coburn.co.uk

2. In order to accommodate its growing business and increase stock capacity Ronis-Dom Ltd has recently relocated to larger, more modern premises in Birmingham based just off junction 2 of the M5. The sales, marketing and customer service departments have seen recent restructuring and the move is the next phase of the company's expansion programme.

The new details are:

Unit 1 Junction 2 Industrial Estate, Demuth Way, Oldbury, Birmingham B69 4LT Tel: 0800 988 4348 Fax: 0800 988 4349

aijtechnical q&a

Member companies and full members of the IAI can contact Jacky Sinclair with technical questions on **01952-414411** or **07852-225996**, or email at jacky@jrscconsultancy.co.uk.

6 inch hinges on fire doors

Q – A refurbishment scheme required the fitting of new fire doors to existing frames in a hotel. The contractor wanted to use the same type of 6" (150 mm) butts, which had previously been fitted, to save making good on the frames. Our member said they had to be CE marked to EN 1935, but the contractor didn't believe him. After all, they'd been used before.

A This is a rather grey area, as Building Regulation 4(2) provides that where there is a current non-compliance issue, as long as it is not rendered any more unsatisfactory after completion, it doesn't necessarily have to be any better. In other words, if an item wouldn't meet current regulatory demands, it can be replaced with a similar non-compliant item, as long as there is no worsening of the situation from what it was before. Therefore the contractor had a point.

However, under RRO legislation, the Responsible Person would be expected to take any opportunity provided by the refurbishment to further remove or reduce fire risks. This would be such an opportunity. They are answerable in court for their decisions, so one would suppose the choice of tested and CE marked products against the untested and unmarked would not be difficult to make. The GAI Member was rightly offering and recommending an upgrade which was very much in support of the duties of the Responsible Person.

Pragmatically, it's probably cheaper to make good the mortices in the frames and fit 100 mm butts, than to purchase new 150 mm hinges, and I believe that was what swung the decision in this case.

CE marked locked escape systems

Q – When ENs 13633 and 13637 are published next year, will I no longer be able to specify escape equipment and electromagnetic locks for fire escape doors from my own preferred suppliers? Will I have to specify a complete, tested system, preferably CE marked to one of the standards, from one source of supply? Which companies are gearing up to have these systems available?

A – To answer the last question first, at the time of going to press we don't know. It could be that manufacturers and suppliers are waiting for the standards to be published, which has been delayed, unfortunately. They were expected late 2008, but it now looks like it will be 2009.

However, as there is currently no requirement in Building Regulations covering the use of these systems, you will be able to continue putting your own packages together for a little while. If the introduction of an EU-wide Construction Products Regulation goes ahead in 2010 as expected, then the use of these CE marked systems will become mandatory. This Regulation will make the use of CE marked products generally mandatory, rather than optional, as is currently the case in the UK.

2010 is not far away in terms of production and testing, so let's hope UK-based companies are ready with CE marked systems as soon as possible. The Editor of Aij is always happy to receive news of new products and systems which meet the latest requirements, so if you have systems compliant with EN 13633 or 13637, let us know as soon as they are CE marked. (For further information on these two standards, see the article by Paul Duggan, published in Aij Spring 2008, available on the GAI's website.)

Jacky Sinclair Reg AI, FInstAI GAI Technical Consultant

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TRADITIONAL VALUES. MODERN THINKING

FRED DUNCOMBE MAY BE A TRADITIONAL BRITISH NAME IN THE AI INDUSTRY BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN A COMPANY WHICH IS RELYING ON PAST GLORIES. HELEN CURRY VISITS FRED DUNCOMBE'S CANNOCK HQ AND TALKED TO THE COMPANY'S SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR NIGEL TAYLOR ABOUT HOW THE COMPANY IS FORGING AHEAD.



A few years back, even Fred Duncombe's most ardent admirers would have described the Cannock based manufacturers of panic and emergency exit hardware as a "pipe and slippers" company, typically with old fashioned British manufacturing values and a production-led mentality. The company was always known for its black hardware – hardly at the cutting edge of architectural ironmongery.

But all that has changed. Starting with the launch of the Exidor emergency hardware range which, as one leading AI commented "turned the market on its head" and culminating in a change of senior management lead by MD Kaz Spiewakowski, known universally as Kaz throughout the business.

"Fred Duncombe was always well known for its fabulous quality products," comments Nigel Taylor "But this wasn't really backed up by modern service expectations. Kaz has changed all that. He has a strong production background so started by putting modern, professional production processes into place which has drastically improved productivity and efficiency."

These improvements have had knock on effects in the service that FD customers can expect. Commodity products are now available ex-stock for next day delivery with more unusual and bespoke products available on realistically short lead times. A new, young sales force is now on the road and spreading the word. Nigel himself epitomises the mixture of old values and modern vision having worked in the trade for 20 years for HOPPE, M Marcus and Chubb Locks. "Lots of people here have worked here for years – or even generations," says Nigel. "We are using that experience but developing it to our new modern thinking. Our people are now given much more responsibility – and accountability – which is really helping people buy into the changes."

Everywhere at FD there is an intriguing mixture of old and new. One of the most stylish, high design web sites in the industry (<http://www.fredduncombe.co.uk>) juxtaposed with a continuing strength in builders' hardware in the form of the Duncombe range. Minimalist design in handles is balanced by the fact that FD's Webb Lloyd range is now one of the few solid (not tubular) British-manufactured handles. The company was originally founded in the 1920s as a manufacturer of cabinet and padlocks and now turns over around £4million pa and employs around fifty people.

Nowhere is this blend of the old and the new better illustrated than in the development of the Exidor range. This range revolutionised the panic and emergency exit hardware when it was launched in 1991 and now accounts for 80% of the company's



turnover with a 30% market share in the UK and healthy sales world wide. The company takes product development seriously and sees it as a key differentiator for it in the market place.

The British manufacturing aspect of FD's operations is still integral in its ongoing modernisation strategy. "Being a UK manufacturer still plays well in many of the export markets that we are attacking – Australia, South Africa, and the Middle East for instance," says Nigel. In fact, such is the success of the FD export drive that they are even selling to the Chinese – in Hong Kong! The company is also targeting the USA and the EU for export and is working on certification and accreditation to US standards for its high security panic hardware.

In the UK too, FD has found that being a British manufacturer does cut some ice – although not always. In a recent survey it carried out among architectural practices in the UK, the company found that respondents were split 50-50 when asked if products being manufactured in Britain influenced their specifications. Of those who replied "yes", most cited reliability, European standards, technical support, supporting UK industry and previous experience of poor quality with imported products as the main reasons.

Since carrying out the survey, FD had been working hard at building relationships with Architectural Ironmongers who they believe are a vital part of the specification process. "Architects rely on AIs to steer them through what they see as a very complex area. They build up long-standing relationships with their favourite AI and trust them to do a job for them," comments Nigel.

"It's great working for a company which is positively moving forward in these difficult times and one which operates such an open, honest culture," enthuses Nigel "We're looking forward to bringing our British values bang up to date in the years to come."

THE MARK OF QUALITY

Some of the industry's leading architectural ironmongery practices and manufacturers are the first to become accredited under the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) and the RIBA's quality scheme, GuildMark.

Representing a cross section of small and large AIs the first tranche of GuildMark companies are already promoting their newly acquired status:

Abloy UK · Allgood plc · Castle Hardware · EmB Architectural Solutions · F R Scott Ltd · George Boyd · Harbrine Ltd · Häfele UK · John Monaghan Holdings · Laidlaw Solutions Ltd · Spiller Architectural

The companies which have joined the scheme may all give different reasons for doing so but all share the same motivation: to raise standards and recognise quality in the AI industry

"We see the GuildMark as a great opportunity to drive home the fact that there is a differentiation between companies that take writing specifications seriously and those that simply use creating schedules as a means of spec busting"

Nish Mohammed, EmB

"At Harbrine we work closely with architects who value our expertise and professionalism. We see achieving GuildMark a way of demonstrating those qualities to our customers and their clients." **Wayne Harris, Harbrine**

"Having successfully applied for GuildMark membership and being granted the coveted 007 license we believe we are now licensed to kill non-accredited opposition! Or at least leave them "shaken, if not stirred" Needless to say there will be a rise in quotations featuring "Gun metal" items as well as "Dead knobs" &



Endorsed by the
RIBA

"shoot bolts!" Seriously, we believe this new GuildMark status places us at the vanguard of quality in the AI industry."

John Planck, John Monaghan Holdings

The GuildMark scheme, the first of its kind ever to receive RIBA endorsement – is the latest development in the GAI's ongoing commitment to quality, education and professional excellence.

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.

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.

RESULT!

This year's results from the GAI's education programme show a record pass rates at levels one and two, and an impressive 44 candidates passing their Level Three examinations and becoming Diploma Holders with the right to use the DipGAI letters after their names. These newly qualified professionals will also become Registered Architectural Ironmongers (Reg AI).

The outstanding results from this year's exams - which were taken by an unprecedented number of candidates - reflect the GAI's continued commitment to education excellence:

Level One: 82% pass rate: up 3% on last year

Level Two: 83% pass rate: up 2% on last year

Level Three: Scheduling 40% and Business Studies 54% pass rate: in line with last year

Reg AI status is the benchmark standard for architectural ironmongers and one which lies at the very heart of what the GAI stands for – the highest possible standards of education and professionalism. Every Reg AI has to be able to prove they are fully up-to-date with industry standards, regulations and legislation.

This year's Pinnacle Award (sponsored by Assa Abloy) will be awarded to Neil Furness from Jackson Building Centre for achieving the best results over the last three years of the GAI education programme. The Gold Medal winner is David Shoebridge from Häfele for the top performance in the Level Three exams with Neil Furness taking Silver. Third placed student and bronze medal winner is Martin Lees, also from Häfele.

REWARDING ACHIEVEMENT

This year's (GAI) Annual Awards Lunch will be held on Thursday 6 November at the Royal Garden Hotel, in London's Kensington. The Lunch is the industry's chance to showcase and celebrate the successful students from this year's GAI education examinations.

The event's guest speaker will be Kriss Akabusi MBE. Three times Olympic medallist, World, European and

Commonwealth Champion at 400m, Kriss was awarded the MBE in recognition of his services to athletics. He now runs his own corporate communications and training company. As well as addressing the conference, Kriss will be presenting awards and certificates to this year's achievers including the GAI's Pinnacle Award for the leading student over all three years of the education programme.

The event has grown considerably over recent years with an unprecedented number of GAI members attending. Bookings can be made through the GAI website at www.gai.org.uk/news or by calling 0207 790 3431.

WINNING WAYS

The GAI has received a record number of entries for its biennial Specification Awards. 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 and are awarded to whole specification teams of architect and architectural ironmonger, highlighting the importance of the partnership between these two professional disciplines.

This year, as well as the established six categories - Commercial, Established Buildings, Public Buildings, Renovations, Residential and International buildings – the GAI has initiated a class which recognises and celebrates the best architectural ironmongery in Sustainable Buildings.

The awards, which have been held for 25 years, demonstrate the strong relationship between the GAI and the RIBA. All the projects entered will be visited before Christmas by regional judging partnerships which mirror RIBA's regions, and include both architects and ironmongers. Short listed projects will then be assessed and judged by a 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.

GOING FOR GOLD



**HELEN CURRY
TALKS TO THIS
YEAR'S GOLD
MEDAL WINNER
IN THE GAI'S
EDUCATION
PROGRAMME**

This year's Gold Medal winner is the latest in the recent successful crop of students from AI distributor Häfele. David Shoebridge was confident he'd done well in the exams but was delighted to find out he had won the GAI's Gold Medal.

David has been with Häfele for thirteen years – ever since he left university in Coventry in fact with little idea of what career he wanted to follow. "I got a job at Häfele, starting on the sales desk, taking orders, and I just thought it would be a temporary position while I figured out what I wanted to do," he confesses. "But thirteen years later I still haven't decided what that might be! I'm still here and I have loved it. I never imagined a career in AI but I have done so many things at Häfele that I have never been bored."

Following on from his start on the sales desk, David helped to set up the Technical Department and then on to become the Assistant Sales Office Manager before hitting the road five years ago as Häfele rep for South Birmingham covering down as far as Malvern.

So for an initially reluctant AI, David has built up a considerable store of knowledge over the years and jumped at the chance to embark on the GAI's education programme when this option was offered to the Häfele sales force.

The company has a strong commitment to its entire customer-facing staff completing the GAI education process and achieving Reg AI status. "Even with all of my working experience, I have learnt a lot on the GAI course. It's been a great chance to learn up-to-date information, and iron out some of the bad habits we all pick up along the way."

Since opening its first British warehouse in 1980, Häfele UK has become one of the largest furniture fittings and architectural ironmongery distributors and the company invests heavily in educating its staff, putting on internal training courses and tuition through the offices of Product Development Manager Alan Kemp to whom David is grateful for all his hard work. The company sets great store by the Guild's education process, seeing it as one of the key ways in which to differentiate itself as a quality company, offering quality products and quality service.

"We are all operating in very competitive markets," he comments. "The pressure from cheaper, imported products continues so it is vital that we can offer our customers added value and top-rate service in order to stay competitive."

This ethos is obviously working since Häfele continues to grow and prosper with branches in London, Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, Scotland and Wales in addition to the head office and main distribution centre in Rugby in Warwickshire. Head office covers a 6 acre site which holds the 4 storey office block and an automated high rise warehouse.

The company is part of an international group of 37 networked companies across five continents with 3,400 employees. Originally established in 1923 in Nagold, Germany, as a local specialist hardware business by the Häfele and Thierer families, the Häfele group of companies is now managed by the third generation of family members.

David was delighted to be named as the GAI's Gold Medal winner – but not entirely surprised. Having undertaken the Level Three residential courses, he did well in mock exams and was confident that he could reproduce good results in the final exam. "The fact that I am genuinely interested in the products and thoroughly enjoyed the subject really helped," he says. "The residential courses were invaluable and taught me a lot, even though I've been in the industry for a number of years." This confidence in the product knowledge was borne out when David was named as top scheduling student in the exams.

The studying wasn't too onerous for David who fitted it in around his other commitments at home and he was helped every step of the way by Häfele. In fact David managed to fit in training for a half marathon during his studies and his wife gave birth to a baby during his third year. David obviously took it all in his stride.

Now that he is a Reg AI and Diploma holder, David feels more confident in his day-to-day job. "Having this qualification makes me feel more confident in my knowledge and that makes it easier to sell," he says. It has also made him feel more involved in the industry. "I feel more a part of the AI industry now, more part of the family."

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QUALITY FINNISH

There aren't many Knights, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland in Watford, but editor Helen Curry met one in the form of Abloy UK's MD, Robin Rice. He tells us how that extraordinary title came about and how much he is still enjoying life in the AI business after nearly 40 years.

After nearly 40 years working for an organisation, most people might expect a gold clock. But Robin Rice, MD of Abloy UK got rather more than that when he received a letter from the President of Finland, Tarja Halonen, informing him that he was to become a Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland, an honour that he had been nominated for by Abloy Oy.

The award was made in recognition of nearly 40 years of service to one of Finland's biggest companies and the contribution he has made to establishing the Abloy brand in the UK. Robin received the award at a private ceremony and luncheon at the Ambassador of Finland's residence in London where he was presented his title by Ambassador Jaakko Laajava.

Robin clearly still relishes the challenges which his career brings him and he enjoys a reputation in the industry as a true gentleman. The atmosphere at Abloy is hardworking, but relaxed and Robin often talks about people in the trade as "friends who used to work for me."

But these heady heights are a far cry from the day when Robin first joined the company which was, at the time, a distributor in the UK for some new fangled locks from a far-flung corner of Europe.

Robin was but a fresh-faced lad, straight out of college with an HND in Business Studies when he entered the job market with little idea of what he wanted to do. "I went for an interview with a company called Industrial Devices Ltd which was a distributor for hinges, locks and handles," he remembers. "At the time the company consisted of just the owner, a bookkeeper and a secretary. I took the job when it was offered to me purely on the basis that it started on

Monday and I needed the money!"

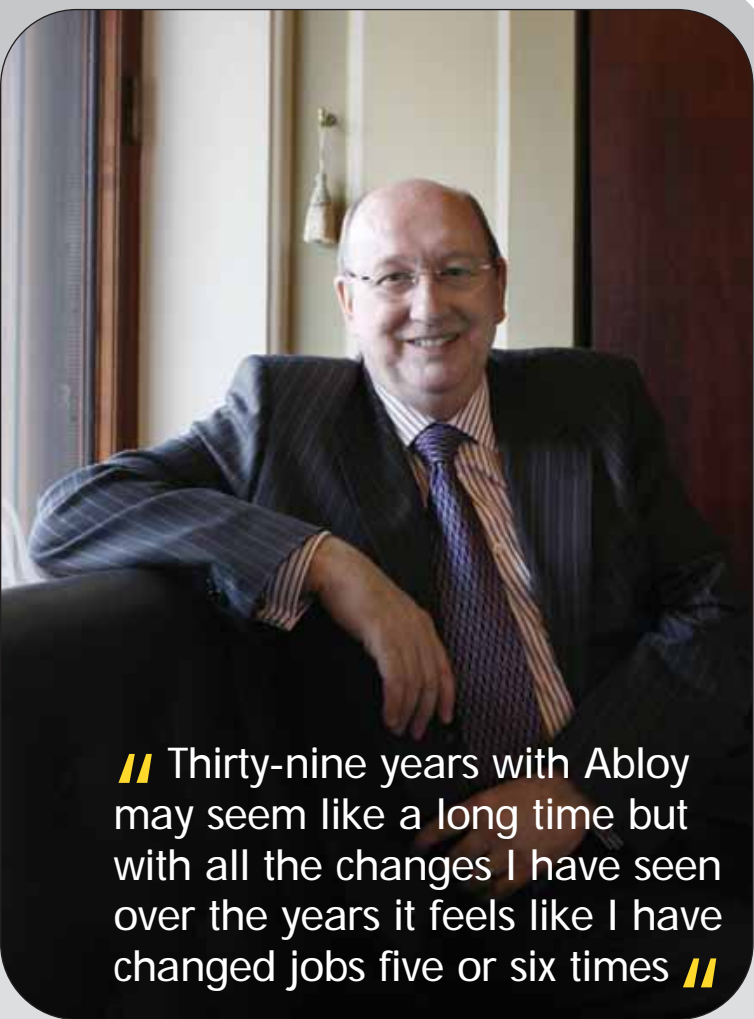
Working for such a small outfit gave Robin a brilliant grounding in the AI business. Right from the start Robin was involved in cutting keys and packing locks, as well as an active role in running the business. "The owner was a great entrepreneur with enormous business flair but he was not so hot on detail and I was given a lot of responsibility very early on," he says. Within two years, at only 22, Robin had taken on six people who all reported to him. "It was good fun," he says, in a typically good humoured way.

When the owner sold the business in 1984, the new Finnish owners, Abloy Oy, gave Robin the break he had wanted by making him MD. "They gave me a chance, even though I was only 35, and to be honest, I didn't look back."

The business grew very quickly and Robin describes the 80s as "a purple patch" and one which he clearly enjoyed. "Sometimes in life you have a time when everything just works," he says. "The sales guys were great; we moved to absolutely ideal premises and created a showroom that people wanted to come to. As a result we got contracts from blue chip companies like British Telecom and the business just grew and grew. My bosses in Finland were delighted. It was a fantastic time and we had a smashing team."

There were difficult times. When Abloy merged with a company in the UK, Robin had to let about forty people go. A task which he clearly found painful and difficult. "But looking back on it, I did learn a lot from the hard times and came out of them a better manager."

Nowadays, Finnish products are well known and respected for quality in the UK – especially with millions of Nokia phones on the market – but back in those days, selling



Finland was something of a challenge. "When we started in 70s, very few Finnish products were coming into the UK and in fact, very few people knew where Finland was and assumed it was a communist country because it was next to Russia."

This problem was exacerbated by the fact that the UK market was dominated by strong UK-based brands like Chubb, Union and Yale, now, ironically, all owned by the Assa Abloy Group. "It was like bringing coals to Newcastle and we didn't proactively promote the origins of the product until after I became MD. Now Finnish products are well respected for good design and good quality'.

Abloy UK is now part of the ASSA ABLOY Group, turning over in excess of £15million pa and employing 60+ people in the UK. The company targets professional end users such as utilities, telecoms, government and defence and OEMs and is increasingly moving into access control.

Robin is clearly a man at peace with himself. Happily remarried to his second wife Jeanette and still enjoying the challenges which his business life still gives him. He and Jeanette married last year in Las Vegas after eighteen years together and he still jokingly refers to himself as a newlywed. They have five children between them – two of Robin's sons work in the industry - and their first grandchildren are in New Zealand, so life is far from dull at home or work.

"Thirty-nine years with Abloy may seem like a long time but with all the changes I have seen over the years it feels like I have changed jobs five or six times," he says. It seems like this particular Knight is relishing the chance to charge into the challenges that the future holds.

Please send correspondence to:

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Tel: **01268 692195**

Email: **editor@aijournal.org**

Dear Madam

A number of major fires have made the headlines in the last week, the most memorable obliterating Weston-super-Mare's Grand Pier on Monday morning. Last Sunday a Wyevalde garden centre was completely destroyed; on Tuesday an Essex branch of Wickes DIY suffered; on Friday a blaze burnt an historic brewery in Bolton and yesterday morning a former church in Shepherd's Bush went up in flames. The causes of the fires have yet to be identified but there are some common themes.

Within minutes the fires at each of these locations spread from their point of origin and rapidly developed, destroying the properties. In some, the structures collapsed, leaving little hope for restoration of the building or the businesses. A lack of sprinklers was remarked upon in two or three cases – but no mention of the passive, or built-in fire protection that could have played a major part in saving these buildings.

Few people have even heard of passive fire protection, or its key principle of compartmentation, where a building is designed with fire secure compartments to limit the spread of fire and maintain structural stability and yet all buildings, by law should be constructed in this way.

Already some consultants are asking if the fire assessments now also required by law were adequate in these recent cases. Do the owners or those responsible for a building consider passive fire protection in their risk assessment? It's unlikely.

Passive fire protection provides the backbone to a building and the first line of defence in preventing the spread of fire.

Complacency is the greatest threat. Luckily, no lives were lost in these fires – but many lives and communities have been destroyed. What will the ongoing cost be to Weston now that its number one attraction is gone? We should be trying to save buildings and businesses as well as lives.

Many in the media and fire and rescue services are guilty of focusing on the 'active' elements such as sprinklers and alarms. But fire protection should be based on integrating active and built-in, passive measures such as structural protection and compartmentation.

It's up to the fire industry, from engineers and construction companies to the rescue services to make sure everyone gets the message.

David P Sugden

Chairman Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF)

Tournai Hall,

Evelyn Woods Road,

Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LL

Phone; 01252 357841

Mobile: 07973 154065

www.pfpf.org

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVERYONE

When choosing architectural hardware for door entrances, more and more specifiers are applying human factors and ergonomic principles to the heart of design to 'unrestrict' or 'enable' those usually 'mobility impaired' or 'disabled' by their environment. Simon Gardiner, Sales Director of Portman Pocket Doors, outlines specific guidance and advice on door openings.



For the majority of people, opening a manual door is a simple operation that does not require specific special attention. But the combination of gripping, depressing a lever handle, pulling/pushing and 'side stepping' the door leaf becomes increasingly problematic if the user is not fully able bodied. For many people, including those with varying forms of disability, luggage or buggies, a door is a barrier.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 was introduced to help eliminate the discrimination that many disabled people face relating to employment, access to goods facilities and services, education and transport. It outlines the duty of care organisations have in making reasonable adjustments where possible.

Reasonable adjustments can be defined as 'providing a reasonable, alternative method of making the service available, where the presence of a 'physical feature' makes it impossible or difficult to provide'. This relates to the feature arising from the design or construction of the building, such as a doorway.

Since the implementation of the DDA, a company faces prosecution if their premises

are inaccessible to people with disabilities. Companies must take practical steps to ensure that as many disabled people as possible have full access to goods, services and places of interest.

Along with the DDA, there are several access standards relating to improving the way in to and out of buildings, taking into account the many ergonomic factors within the design fabrication.

Approved Document M (ADM) 2006 requires that 'reasonable provision shall be made for people to a) gain access to, and b) use, the building and its facilities.' Part M applies not only to new developments but also to material alterations of existing buildings and changes of use to buildings such as hotels, institutions and public buildings.

In addition, BS8300: 2001, 'Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people – Code of practice', provides guidance on good practice in the design of domestic and non-domestic buildings and their approaches so that they are convenient to use by disabled people. Much of the act is subjective interpretation, meaning that there is not necessarily a right or wrong approach.

These standards help to shape an inclusive environment, whereby everyone, irrespective of age, gender or disability, can have independent access; not only into buildings but also to the rooms and spaces within them.

With this in mind, a pocket sliding door has many great advantages over a standard swing door in creating adequate, simple access into and out of a room. Pocket doors are the result of stepping back and taking a fresh look at the capabilities of people and then building the door and its operation around them. For non-disabled people they are much simpler in principle. For users customarily disabled by doors as a result of impairment, mobility aid or luggage – they are also much simpler and often easier to use.

Opening a hinged door in a wheelchair requires the user to be strong, agile, skilled and fit to reach the handle and pull the door open. For those in chairs or with mobility aids, it is increasingly difficult to move their body or aid out of the path of the door as they are trying to open it, hold the door open and then pass through it.

Sliding pocket doors move in one plane only. On opening, the door slides into a

pocket so the space usually taken up by a swing door can be occupied by the user, therefore there is no need for the user to move out of the way of the door. The space that can be saved by using a sliding door compared to a swing door is a minimum of 1.85m² for a typical indoor manual wheelchair. This is a significant saving for WCs adjacent to corridors, doors in hotel rooms, or dwellings where space is a premium. The available area will then enable use by much bigger wheelchairs.

Unlike a hinged door there is no risk of bumping legs or feet into the door leaf as the sliding door is pushed open and the wheelchair user passes through. In fact sliding doors can help the frail and the elderly because of their exceptionally fluid opening motion, which requires little strength to open. In addition, a sliding door avoids door projection into adjacent corridors, restricted areas and escape routes – satisfying ADM 5.40f for sanitary accommodation ‘doors, when open, do not obstruct emergency escape routes.’

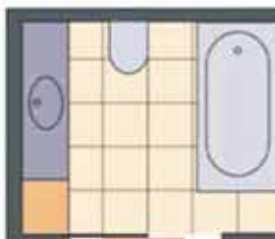
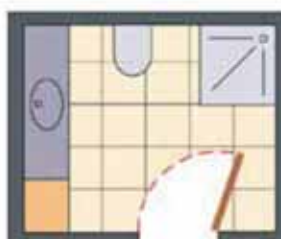
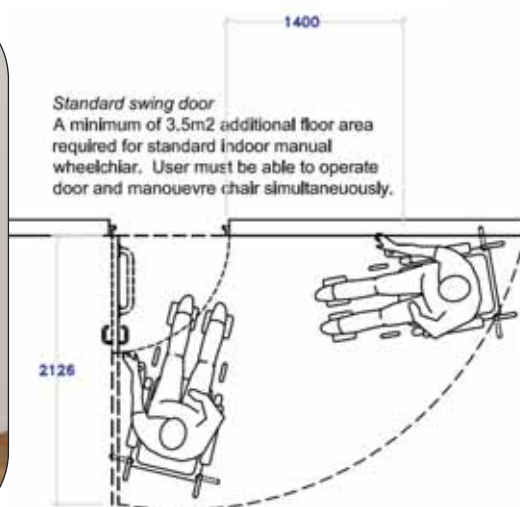
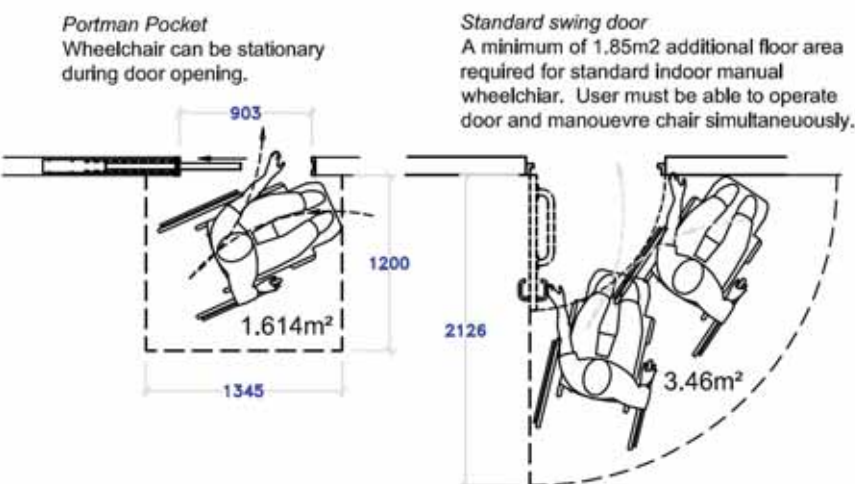
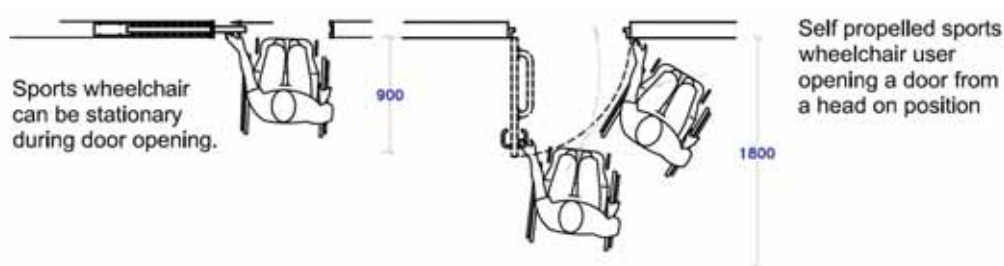
Sliding doors can also be specified to be self closing – only requiring the minimal amount of pressure to close the door. The Portman Pocket Door self closer is activated by pushing the door leaf gently where the ‘klose’ mechanism is triggered to self close. This is particularly useful to avoid collision hazards and enable people to close the door if they are unable to use the leading edge finger pull.

Power assisted openings enable people who are unable to pull or push the door themselves or who cannot get close to the door handle due to a reduced reach or a large mobility aid. It enables a designer to omit the unobstructed space of at least 300mm between the leading edge of the door and any return wall.

The unique benefit with the Portman Pocket Door is the wall and cassette stability is maximised by specially designed ‘Z’ section profiles. These sections uniquely slide into each other, allowing the system to be height adjustable on-site. Individual door leaves can be up to 2700mm high and up to 1500mm wide (as standard), enabling easy access for everyone in to and out of a room, ideal for sports wheelchairs that require a larger space than standard ones.

As stated, there are many ergonomic considerations that need to be addressed at the design and planning stage. Access into and out of a building or room should not be difficult for anyone. Therefore correct specification can ensure a simple process is in place that accommodates all levels of disability and mobility.

Planning in accordance with the various standards does not have to mean a



compromise on the design. There are many manufacturers producing stylish and functional architectural hardware to suit all applications. By making reasonable adjustments and considering all abilities, everyone can enjoy equal access into buildings and rooms. A well designed pocket door and power opener can provide a great and often better alternative to the typical doors that have been ‘standardised’ by ADM and BS8300.



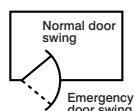
SLOWDOWN BITES

Construction output is expected to shrink during both this year and next according to the latest joint Trade Survey Report from the Construction Products Association and the Construction Confederation, as the economic slowdown coupled with the rising prices of energy and raw materials begins to bite.

After 15 years of almost unbroken growth until the downturn at the beginning of this year, the second quarter of 2008 has worsened still further and 2007's GDP growth of 3.1% looks set to halve during 2008. Troubles in credit availability have already had a considerable impact on construction this year and the problems within housing are now spreading into other sectors.

On the manufacturing side, there is a clear distinction between heavy and light side operations. The heavy side, generally used in the early part of construction is significantly affected by the economic slowdown, whilst light side manufacturers have so far remained relatively immune to the slowdown. The heavy side manufacturers have now experienced significant falls in sales volumes for three consecutive quarters although 42% of light side firms have still enjoyed growth in sales and 38% of firms have reported an increase of more than 5% in sales volumes.

Speaking about the survey, Noble Francis, Economics Policy Development Director at the Construction Products Association said: "The further reduction this quarter, although predictable is of great concern for many parts of the industry. Increased energy costs and high demand for materials from countries such as China and India has led to consistent rises in material prices, which in turn is leading to a reduction in profit margins. Output is definitely falling in the private sector therefore it is essential that government spending is not significantly cut."



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.

**HI-LOAD
Hinges**

**KRONA
Pocket Door Systems**

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Fire Door Safety Device**

FUEL PRICES BLAMED

The latest BERR Select Committee Report on energy prices calls on the government urgently to address some of the key issues that the Report raises. The Report has found that Industrial consumers in the UK are currently facing higher energy prices than in other European countries and that UK competitiveness will be adversely affected if these price differentials are sustained.

Responding to the Report, Simon Storer at the Construction Products Association said; "These findings are in line with our own experience. We recently carried out a survey of major companies in the construction products industry who have operations in a number of European countries. They are all suffering from higher energy prices in the UK and are very concerned about the competitiveness of their UK operations. The BERR Report is right to warn that this situation is putting thousands of jobs in manufacturing at risk. We have been discussing these concerns with officials at BERR for some time, but it is clear that urgent action is needed. We all know of the pressures we face from the economic uncertainty, therefore the government must look at why there is also this energy price difference across Europe and why individual companies are unable to buy gas in Europe at lower prices and transship the energy to UK. It appears that for energy, the Single Market is just not working."

The Report raises concerns about the lack of gas storage capacity in the UK and the impact this will have on the volatility of wholesale gas prices. The Association supports the Committee's view that significant additional storage is needed and stresses the importance of the proposed Infrastructure Planning Commission to enable quick decisions to be taken on essential development required to benefit UK plc.

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE KEEPS SECTOR AFLOAT

The latest ONS figures for construction output in the second quarter of the year show a sharp slow-down in new build activity by the private sector, particularly new house building which is nearly 17% down on the same quarter last year. Balancing this, however, has been a strong performance in the repair and maintenance sector which has grown by more than 2% since the beginning of this year and by more than 6% since the same time in 2007.

Overall construction output has fallen 0.5% since the first quarter of the year, but is still stronger than in the first six months of last year.

Commenting on the figures, Construction Products Association Chief Executive, Michael Ankers said: "These figures confirm the serious state of the new housing market and the slowdown that many companies are experiencing in private sector industrial and commercial work. The strength of the repair and maintenance market is surprising, but has been helped by the funding for energy efficiency improvements through the new CERT scheme which became operational at the beginning of April. There are also some indications that with the sharp fall off in house sales people who have decided not to move are spending more on their existing property.

"These figures also demonstrate the importance to the construction industry of government remaining committed to the capital spending plans set out in last year's Comprehensive Spending Review. Without the planned increase in spending on infrastructure, schools, hospitals and improvements to social housing, the construction industry would already be in recession, which would have serious consequences for the broader economy."



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NEW CYLINDERS STANDARD BECOME MANDATORY ON DECEMBER 1ST 2008

NICK DOOLEY (DIRECTOR - KABA ACCESS CONTROL BUSINESS)

to be opened without any means of detection that entry had been made) the Home Office intervened 18 months ago to push through an amendment to standards in an unprecedented 6 month period!.

In November 07 the test against bumping called the General Vulnerability Assessment (GVA) was introduced and this led to the BSI Kitemark Approval.

The recent update of BS 3621 and PAS 24 form a key part of the requirement of the GVA and are considered necessary by Secured by Design (SBD). The GVA is conducted by the Master Locksmiths Association but they are not a certification body in their own right. As a result SBD have concluded the GVA must be carried out by the MLA within a 3rd party cylinder certification process. Presently there are only two 3rd party certification schemes/bodies that are considered acceptable as follows;

BSI Kitemark
LPCB certification to LPS 1242:
Issue 2

The effective date for compliance to these standards is 1st December 2008 and therefore the industry should expect to be compliant to the new standard from this date onwards.

Manipulation of mechanical cylinders by bumping method has generated both positive and negative publicity for our industry over the last 12 months and many involved are seemingly unaware of the unprecedented series of events linked by the bumping issue to the most recent changes to the BS 3621, BS 8621, BS10621 and PAS 24.

As you may recall BS 3621 had to be revised in 2004 due to its conflict with BSEN 12209. This revision along with BS 8621 & 10621 incorporated a pass fail criteria that was no longer in conflict with the said publication. Then with the revision to BS EN 1303 in 2005 this enabled the British lock security standards to incorporate cylinders within a pass/fail criteria.

Prior to the 1st issue of EN 1303 in

1998 it took many years for this, the first dedicated cylinder standard to be both published and adopted due to the different interests and conflicting opinions of the members of working groups in different European countries and from different competing manufacturers.

This was not the case last year when, fuelled by the significant threat of bumping (and the ability for cylinders



"THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR COMPLIANCE TO THESE STANDARDS IS 1ST DECEMBER 2008 AND THEREFORE THE INDUSTRY SHOULD EXPECT TO BE COMPLIANT TO THE NEW STANDARD FROM THIS DATE ONWARDS."

HOUSING GLOOM REPORT

A new report from AMA predicts a significant decline in volume completions in 2008. "Forecasts for 2008 are changing constantly, but there is no doubt that there will be a significant decline in volume completions in 2008, with a further decline forecast for 2009. However, longer term prospects remain favourable as supply continues to fall well below demand, with affordable housing and self build offering some rays of light in the economic gloom."

The Report - Housebuilding Market UK 2008-2012 - describes how housing completions have experienced a period of steady underlying growth for the last 5 years, but prospects are changing rapidly. While 2007 was a good year with completions up around 5%, forecasts for 2008-09 indicate a major downturn.

Since late 2007, there has been a major change in market activity. New housebuilding starts began to show signs of slowing down following the collapse of the sub prime lending and mortgage market in the USA and its consequent impact on the UK economy.

Conditions in early-mid 2008 deteriorated rapidly with housing starts and completions well down on the previous year, followed by a series of increasingly pessimistic announcements from builders indicating severe problems in the sector.

Forecasts for 2008 are changing constantly, but AMA estimates a decline of around 25% in volume completions in 2008, followed by a further decline of around 4-5% in 2009, before experiencing modest recovery in 2010. Even this forecast downturn may prove optimistic if market conditions continue to deteriorate, though Government initiatives may offset some decline. Forecasts also mask differences between sectors, with affordable housing and self build remaining more resilient and helping to partially offset the declining private sector where declines of more than 30% are being experienced in some regions of the UK.



NEW CONSTRUCTION JOBS 'TO HALVE'

Research by the Construction Skills Network (CSN) suggested that the slowdown in the housing market would cut the number of new workers needed every year from a previous average of 88,000 to 42,000 between 2009 and 2013. But the study added that high value projects such as the London 2012 Olympics, coupled with investment in schools, hospitals and roads, would help the UK construction industry grow slightly.

Sandra Lilley, manager of CSN, said: "The current economic climate provides challenges to every business sector, and construction is no different. But, despite some high-profile redundancies recently, our growth predictions remain strong and in line with industry and Government forecasts. The fact is that we still need over 40,000 new entrants to the industry every year to fulfill some big projects, and that's a significant requirement."

Mark Farrar, chief executive of Construction Skills, added: "The indications are clear that the construction industry will continue to flourish in the long-term, and that the workforce will expand beyond the current number of 2.5 million."

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At first glance, it would seem that T5 is something of an anti-climax for an AI since it is a struggle to even find a door in the airport's front of house public areas. In line with the vision of the project's Architect, Richard Rogers Partnership, the new terminal was conceived as an open, free-flowing space which would not only maximise and speed passenger throughput, but also reduce tensions by ensuring that passengers do not feel confined.

Production Architects Pascall + Watson's aviation director Alan Lamond has stated that the idea was to open up spaces to create "an openness that increases the sense of well-being and avoids claustrophobia. Similarly, the screening process invokes concerns in some passengers, and so is located in the most open space possible." This in turn has the added benefit of relaxing people just as they are about to enter the retail section, where they feel more comfortable about spending money.

But even given this vision for the front-of-house areas of the terminal, architectural ironmongers on the whole project, Allgood, have scheduled and supplied hardware and access control equipment for 6,109 door sets in total with a project value in the region of £1.9 million. Allgood was appointed in late 2004 to work as part of the design team with specialist subcontractor Swift Horsman to develop the hardware and access control specification. This covered the T5 Concourse A & B, the rail & tunnel areas which connect Concourse A & B and future concourse C, the fixed nodes and flans and the multi-storey car parks that service Terminal 5.

Allgood has great experience in working on these large Airport projects both here and abroad which includes Chek Lap Kok in Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Airport, Norman Manley International Airport Jamaica, the North Terminal at Gatwick, and Terminals 1, 2 & 3 at Heathrow and put this experience into play for what was the UK's biggest construction project at the time.

Unlike other recent major airport terminals around the world, which tend to extend horizontally, passenger movement in T5 is stacked vertically, with banks of lifts rising through the interchange zone. As well as shorter walking distances and simplified passenger circulation, concourse A and satellites will offer clear views of the airfield through glazed façades. Terminal 5 is now the biggest freestanding building in the UK. At 40 metres high, 396 metres long and 176 metres wide, Terminal 5 is five times the size of

HIGH FIVE



NOW THAT THE DUST HAS SETTLED AFTER THE PR DISASTER THAT WAS THE OPENING OF HEATHROW'S TERMINAL 5, IT HAS COME TO

BE RECOGNISED AS AN ARCHITECTURAL AND LOGISTICAL TRIUMPH. HELEN CURRY

EXPLORES HOW AI ON THE PROJECT, ALLGOOD, TACKLED THIS HUGE COMPLEX PROJECT.

Terminal 4, and is the UK central hub of British Airways. The building comprises five levels, each the size of ten football pitches – designed around the different stages of the passenger journey.

The first part of Allgood's contract was to write schedules for hardware and access control interface. Phil Newson, Allgood Chief Executive was involved from the start and soon realised the complexity, as well as the scale of the project. "There were so many different pressures on the project," he recalls. "Keeping passenger flow rates optimised and accessibility for all were big issues. But that had to be constantly balanced with a need for the highest levels of security in a post 9/11 world." Smoke compartments have been so cleverly designed at T5 that the vast majority of the 6000+ doors are, in fact, located behind the scenes, away from the public areas in what Phil describes as "a rabbit warren".

Working with multi subcontractor teams and numerous door manufacturers on this vast project raised some logistical challenges as the varying subcontract packages were being simultaneously serviced. Allgood quickly geared itself up to handle a project on this scale, setting up a separate T5 stockroom at their Birmingham distribution centre with two specially trained dedicated distribution teams to handle the volume of stock that need-

ed to be picked, packed and shipped to the T5 consolidation centre at Colnbrook. The company also produced an online T5 technical catalogue to be used by the various sub-contractors working on the door packages.

Although specialist subcontractor Swift Horsman carried out the majority of the fit out, Allgood also dealt with six further sub contractors. "We set up a specialist full-time T5 team to deal with the logistics of the project," recalls Newson. "This included five full-time AIs scheduling and project managing the hardware and access control systems, a dedicated QA manager controlling quality and certification of products and a Project Manager co-ordinating the whole project."

Strict control between airside operations and public circulation areas was paramount to client BAA and within Allgood's scope of works was eighty double leaf sets of Automatic operated swing door sets. This part of the project was handled via the Allgood Secure division of the company, a specialist supply and installation service company.

2008 Products

HOPPE (UK) IS WELL KNOWN FOR THE EVOLUTION OF PRODUCTS & INNOVATION IS ONE OF THE MAIN PILLARS OF ITS SUCCESS

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- **ARRONE 2-6 DOOR CLOSERS**
- **ARRONE EURO PROFILE MORTICE ESCAPE LOCKS**
- **ARRONE EURO PROFILE CYLINDER RANGE**
- **HOPPE CONTEMPORARY BRASS LEVER DESIGNS**
- **ARRONE COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF CYLINDER & LEVER LOCK CASES**
- EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY FOR COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

The HOPPE, ARRONE Architectural Plus and ARRONE product ranges are now firmly recognised and established within the market place. However, evergrowing demands for additional feature benefits and product enhancements, coupled with changes in legislation has in turn lead to extensive product developments and additions throughout the various ranges.

standards

These new products, where applicable have been successfully type tested and certified to the latest european standards and also satisfy the UK construction product regulations for ironmongery and are easily identifiable by their logos.



WATCH THIS SPACE FOR 2009!

25

This team carried out the installation of the service areas door sets throughout the terminal, along with the supply of wireless digital locking systems to specific high security specialist areas. Allgood supplied all the on-door electronic security on the automated door sets which was then connected into BAA operating MAID security system on handover. "There were very few mechanical cylinders used at T5," says Phil. "We used digital electronic cylinders with wireless keypads for a number of high security areas. These were designed so that they can be lifted out and used on alternative door locations to allow BAA maximum versatility with the space planning."

Mechanical cylinders were used temporarily during construction, and then recycled through Allgood when the permanent cylinders were installed. In fact, environmental concerns were reflected throughout the project with Allgood reducing its packaging on the T5 project and demonstrating the life cycle costs of every product used on the terminal.

An area which required particular attention was the security of the main entrance doors, partic-



ularly following the well-publicised attacks on Glasgow airport in June 2007. Allgood worked with partner Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies to supply bomb blast resistant doors which would fulfil tough security criteria as well as allow easy entrance and egress for the tens of millions of passengers using the facility each year, including easy access for disabled customers. As a result, Dor-O-Matic bomb-rated automatic doors were installed on the main entrances throughout the terminal building. They are able to withstand the blast overpressures associated with a vehicle bomb and provide protection from high velocity shards of glass being projected into an occupied area.

Newson has visited the site hundreds of times over the life of the project and is still impressed with the sheer quality and scale of the new buildings. "It may have had some teething troubles at the initial opening phase, but T5 has got to be one of the most complex AI projects ever undertaken. And we are very proud of our involvement in this most challenging project," he concludes.



" IT MAY HAVE HAD SOME TEETHING TROUBLES AT THE INITIAL OPENING PHASE, BUT T5 HAS GOT TO BE ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX AI PROJECTS EVER UNDERTAKEN AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MOST CHALLENGING PROJECT "

aijdubai

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

HOPPE (UK)'s German door lock cylinder partner CES has secured a contract to supply cylinders for what will be the world's tallest building.

Currently under construction in Dubai and expected to open in September 2009, Burj Dubai will offer hotel, retail and office accommodation as well as high-end residential apartments. The building's projected height is being kept a closely guarded secret but it will be over 700m high, making it three times taller than London's Canary Wharf tower.

The contract involves the supply of 1600 CES cylinders for the tower's residential and office areas within one master key suite. The keyways are protected by patent and exclusively designed for the Gulf region. Additional demands for security can be easily realised with these cylinders.

CES cylinders and mortice lock cases are available in the UK and Ireland through HOPPE (UK). The product range includes 5 pin standard differ cylinders, 5 pin master keyed cylinders and 6 pin Softline cylinders.

With its specialist pinning centre, HOPPE (UK) uses CES cylinders to provide customers with solutions for numerous applications including central locking systems for apartments, master keyed systems for offices and public buildings

Further information about CES cylinders available through HOPPE (UK) can be found at www.hoppe.co.uk or by calling 01902 484400.



aijscotland

IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

DORMA door controls have been specified and installed at a brand new Additional Support Needs (ASN) school development by Perth and Kinross Council in Scotland.

Al John Monaghan Ltd supplied DORMA's AD4000 panic hardware at fire exits, and TS92 cam action closers – some with electro-magnetic hold-open units (EMF) – to classroom entrances and doors on the main routes throughout the building.

Project architect, Sundeep Salins of Perth and Kinross Council, explains the thinking behind the specification of DORMA: "In order to achieve a 'non-institutional' feel, the large building is broken down into small, discrete zones that each child can distinguish as their own 'place'. This means that easy, yet safe and secure access throughout the building is very important. We specified DORMA products for a number of reasons, but primarily because they combine aesthetics with a really dependable, robust performance, which is what was required in this environment".

In addition to the standard TS92, a number of TS92 EMF units are also fitted at Fairview School. These are electro-magnetic hold-open variants, which enable the door to remain open securely at a pre-selected position and as a result present no obstacle to anyone using the door. However, in the event of an alarm or a fault in the power supply, the hold-open feature is released and the door is shut by the closer mechanism.



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www.simonswerk.co.uk



aijliverpool fc

RED...

North West architectural hardware specialist M J Whiteside & Co Ltd has supplied HOPPE door handles for the new Liverpool FC club superstore at the city's prestigious Liverpool One retail complex.

HOPPE nylon pull handles, which were selected to colour co-ordinate with the club's world famous red, were supplied for the 10,000 sq ft store which stocks an extensive Liverpool FC merchandise and product range.

Designed by S'porter Retail, the new company of retail and fashion guru George Davies, the new outlet is the largest official football club store in Europe with two areas of floorspace linked by a striking central staircase.

Southport based M J Whiteside was awarded the contract following the success of a previous project at Liverpool FC's Melwood training ground, where it supplied HOPPE heavy duty satin stainless steel levers for the new sleeping quarters.

Further information on all HOPPE (UK) door handles, visit www.hoppe.co.uk or telephone 01902 484400.



aijeverton fc

...AND BLUE

To help meet the requirements of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) Everton FC has installed DORMA ED200 and ES200 automatics in hospitality areas, entrances and exits at Goodison Park, in a move which will dramatically improve accessibility.

Supply and installation of the units was a joint venture between DORMA and Liverpool based architectural ironmongery specialists PSL (Weir) Ltd, starting in October 2006 through to 2007. Most of the initial work was completed in just over two weeks and installation was kept on schedule, despite having to be organised around match days – including an unexpected cup replay.

Alan Bowen, the Everton FC Stadium Manager, comments: "We have had a good working relationship with PSL (Weir) Ltd, and the different divisions of DORMA, due to the various projects they have carried out around the ground. The relationship is a continuous one, as there is always another project that DORMA can be specified for. This is evident in another ES 200 being installed in February 2008 to the "Football in the Community Office" entrance".

The ED200 fully automatic, electro-hydraulic swing door operators, installed to single doors at Goodison Park, offer a powerful and dependable means of safe access and egress for visitors. The ED200 is a fire rated product, making it particularly appropriate for internal door applications. Should there be an emergency, the doors will continue to open for people to exit, but close firmly to prevent the fire or smoke spreading.

The ED200's unique package of safety, security and interfacing features makes it ideal for demanding high traffic applications – when the fire alarm is actuated, or when the power is cut, the closer will revert from an automatic door to manual operation with a hydraulically dampened spring close action.

Complementing the ED200 units are a combination of single and bi-parting ES200 sliding door operators, which are designed to meet the requirements of every automatic sliding door application.



aijfelixstowe

FIRST PORT OF CALL

Felixstowe, the UK's largest container port, is now controlling access using smart card technology and biometric handreaders from Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies.

Felixstowe handles over 3 million standard sized containers each year and security is of paramount importance. The Port owners, Hutchison Ports (UK) Ltd, needed to enhance security by monitoring movements in and out, without increasing cargo handling times and inconveniencing hauliers. After detailed discussions with Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies, a biometric access control system was introduced which is quick and easy for registered users to use and which can handle thousands of records.

The new system, the first of its type in the UK, is known as RHIDES (Road Haulier Identity System) and is designed to be an increased deterrent to container theft and improves access controls required to meet the requirements of the ISPS Code. It uses HandPunch 300 hand geometry access readers together with the Interflex 6020 Access System, Interflex Proximity Access Readers and an iCMS Identity Management System all supplied by Ingersoll Rand. Currently, 10,000 road hauliers are registered on the system, which can be expanded as necessary.

On arrival at the Port, the driver places the card into a reader and his/her hand onto the biometric hand reader. This action simultaneously analyses more than 31,000 points and takes 90 measurements to verify that the person using the device is who he or she claims to be. If this tallies with the valid smartcard, the Port's gate system records the number against the container and permits the driver to enter the restricted terminal area.

More information about the range of biometric solutions for access control or Interflex Smart Card technology is available from Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies on tel 01922 707400 or visit its new website security.ingersollrand.co.uk



aijlondon

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DOME

A DORMA RST space saving automatic operator has been installed in the new South Churchyard at St Paul's Cathedral. The restoration required a bespoke design for the entrance due to a restricted space configuration, and the RST space-saver door offered the perfect solution.

DORMA's RST features a unique operating method that allows the door to provide an opening nearly as wide as the clear structural opening width itself. This is achieved by a swivel movement where the pivot centres are located off-centre, above and below the door opening, resulting in the doors first swinging open and then moving sideways – all contained in a minimum sweep area.



DORMA RST space-saver doors are available in standard sizes ready to install, or as customised units to suit individual requirements. There is a choice between elegant fine-framed system with "all-glass" look and a rugged aluminium frame system. The RST, which helps meet DDA requirements, can also be used on emergency escape routes as it is possible to open the doors like a normal hinged door in an emergency.

The opening of the new South Churchyard of St Paul's Cathedral is part of a £40m campaign to clean and restore the famous 17th century building, and has been designed as a peaceful and contemplative open space for visitors.

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aijmoscow

SECURISTYLE GOES 'SUPERTALL'



Europe's tallest building will benefit from natural ventilation without compromising the sightlines of the 1660ft construction, by using new Parallel Plus window hardware for curtain walling from Securistyle.

The futuristic Federation Tower is in the heart of Moscow's financial district and is Europe's first 'supertall' building. The modern skyscraper complex consists of three linked towers housing entertainment facilities, retail outlets, offices, luxury apartments and a five star Hyatt Hotel.

Securistyle's Parallel Plus hinge system is being fitted to the curtain walling to help maintain the smooth, curved façade, even when the windows are in the open position. The practicality of the parallel system has proved popular with architects as it allows the creation of modern buildings with vast facades without compromising on design.

The Parallel Plus hinge system offers the ultimate in natural ventilation by providing a balanced airflow around the entire opening. The small opening gap ensures

security for occupants whilst not spoiling the aesthetically pleasing sightlines of the towers. The system 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.

For further information contact Securistyle on 01242 221200 or visit www.securistyle.co.uk

aijhandforth

COOKING UP A TREAT

Kitchenware giant Lakeland has specified GEZE UK's market leading maintenance service for a smart solution using the unique telemetry device, iContact.

GEZE UK has installed its state-of-the-art remote monitoring software to ensure the automatic doors at Lakeland's headquarters and Handforth site remain problem-free.

iContact helped to pinpoint the threshold safety sensor on a door that was causing it to 'ghost' within just three days of installation, allowing immediate action to be taken, reducing lost time and revenue for kitchenware specialist Lakeland.

The wireless telemetry device, which relies on GSM and GPRS technology to remotely monitor usage of the automatic door, instantly alerted trained GEZE UK engineers to the potential issue.

Once iContact identified the sensor, engineers were immediately able to remotely control the system and activate a 'safe mode' in real time to ensure the door was closed instantly, securing the building and allowing staff to leave before engineers replaced the sensor.

Marc Harrison, facilities manager, at Lakeland, commented: "We're very impressed with the service and aftercare provided by GEZE UK and feel confident that installing iContact at our busy stores ensures that should a problem occur it will be dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible, saving us crucial trading time."



aijlondon

THE YOUNG ONES

A combination of Lorient's acoustic, smoke and fire seals have been installed in one of London's most loved and unique theatrical venues - the Young Vic. Theatre specialists, Hawarth Tompkins completed rebuilding it in 2007, creating an informal, unique space while maintaining its ad hoc ambience.

The Young Vic required the doors to achieve an acoustic rating of 35dB Rw, both to enable the sound in the auditorium to be amplified without disturbing the rest of the building, and also to prevent noise from outside disturbing performances. The high performance acoustic doors were fitted with an integrated sealing system, incorporating Lorient's acoustic and smoke perimeter seal - the Curved Fin Batwing®; a plain fire seal and the IS8010 si automatic threshold seal. This selection of Lorient seals was also installed throughout the rehearsal areas, changing rooms and around the public spaces, providing an effective, practical solution for acoustic, smoke and fire containment, to meet the requirements of Approved Documents E and B.

However, access for all, covered by Approved Document M, demands that many doors have minimum opening forces to enable doors to be easy to use. With a 100,000 people, young and old, passing through the Young Vic each year, it was vital to fit a sealing system that did not impede the door's smooth operation. The Lorient seals installed provide exceptionally low frictional resistance to everyday opening and closing forces to help the doors meet Document M requirements.

Lorient's integrated approach - known as the Threedom® concept - provides a straightforward solution to enable the requirements of Approved Documents E, B and M to be met, and offers complete peace of mind for specifiers, installers and clients alike.





BOLT FROM THE BLUE

UNION Architectural Hardware has launched a new British Standard 5 lever mortice lock - UNION StrongBOLT™, a cost effective yet highly efficient variant ideal for both first and retro fit markets.

UNION StrongBOLT™ features radius inner forends for ease of first fit installation or simple retro fit replacement. It is designed using the same footprint as many UK first fit products, therefore eliminating the need for additional tooling or carpentry saving time and money as well as avoiding any aesthetic damage to the door that may occur on a retro fit installation.

In addition to the standard characteristics you would expect from a BS 3621:2007 mortice lock, such as anti-pick, anti-saw and anti-drill security features, UNION StrongBOLT™ has a unique chamfered bolt design which increases the performance of the lock under attack.

Available in sash lock and deadlock variants, the product is tested to BS3621:2007 and BS EN 1634-1, assessed for use on 60 minute timber fire doors. The sash lock version is non-handed with an easily reversible latch bolt. The latch head featured a radius design for smooth operation. Both variants are available in both satin stainless steel and satin brass finishes. The products are individually boxed and supplied in outer cartons of 10.

A NEW HANDLE FOR BRASS



HOPPE (UK) has extended its range of brass door lever handles for internal doors with the launch of the Havanna, Las Palmas and Vicenza contemporary designs.

These top quality lever handles are available on backplates and roses for bathroom use, lever lock and latch, and are euro-cylinder compatible. As well as the polished brass finish, these stylish and modern handles are also available in satin chrome and polished chrome finishes and are backed by a 10-year operational guarantee.

Clive Smith, product development manager said: "Brass is a popular material providing end users with stylish yet practical handles. These new designs are particularly contemporary and provide our customers with even more choice."

For further information or a product brochure call 01902 484400 or visit www.hoppe.co.uk.

SAMSON STRENGTH

Samson high performance bearing brass hinges from SIMONSWERK UK, now available in a series of seven exciting Designer Finials. New designs have been added to the range which carries a 25 year performance guarantee. CE marked and fire rated options are available and all Samson hinges are maintenance free and SIMONSWERK now maintain they are the most attractive door hinge on the market.

For Samson leaflet or further hinge information call 0121 522 2848 or email sales@simonswerk.co.uk



SECURITY TO THE EXTREME

Security specialist Henry Squire & Sons Ltd has launched new state-of-the-art Stronghold Snapsafe security cylinders and Powerlok padlocks ranges, offering failsafe reliability in the face of attack or severe weather conditions.

The Snapsafe cylinder is purpose built and designed for high security protection against break-ins on doors fitted with Euro cylinders. Standard cylinders are prone to break during a specific physical attack. But the Snapsafe breaks at a pre-selected position leaving an in-built security zone inside the furniture of the door with active pin chambers.

In most instances, even after attack, the key holder will still be able to use their key to open the lock part which remains undamaged inside the door.

The Powerlok padlock range is purpose built for maximum security protection against an extreme situation of a different kind - an innovative weatherproof covering guarantees top durability against harshest weather conditions.

Uniquely, its contemporary design features a weatherproof, soft feel dust cover for dirt protection and easy handling particularly in cold weather.

These heavy duty padlocks are ideal for securing garages, site equipment, vans, perimeter gates, commercial vehicles, commercial property, storage areas and substations.

Four models of the robust Powerlok padlock are available in two sizes of 45mm and 55mm widths (57.5mm and 67.5mm including lock body cover) with open and closed hardened boron alloy steel shackle options.

For further information contact Henry Squire & Sons Ltd on 01902 308050, visit www.squirelocks.co.uk or email info@henry-squire.co.uk.





TWENTY

The first and lasting impression you get when visiting HOPPE (UK)'s HQ in the countryside near Wolverhampton is that it feels like family. From the onsite canteen to the open and friendly style of management, HOPPE UK has retained the values that it was first built on in the late 80s. This is reflected in the company's six values which include courtesy, respect and honesty. Keith Holt, HOPPE (UK)'s joint MD is keen that these values extend through the whole business.

The company is unique within the international HOPPE Group. With no manufacturing function on-site at its Wolverhampton premises, HOPPE (UK) is the only distribution-based operation within the group offering a next day delivery to its customers. But while there may be no manufacturing for HOPPE (UK) in Britain, they have an excellent ongoing relationship with their Swiss parent company. "The HOPPE Group have fantastically high levels of manufacturing quality and an in-house R&D team who are always happy to develop and adapt product for the UK market's requirements."

HOPPE (UK) was formed by Keith Holt and Roger Benton in 1988. Both men continue to head the company as joint managing directors, with Keith being responsible for architectural hardware products and Roger concentrating on PVC-U, timber doors and windows, together with the composite door market.

"We were both working at Newman Tonks at the time," says Keith Holt. "HOPPE in Germany approached us to set up a UK distribution business after we met a contact at a trade show," remembers Keith. "Things were pretty basic at the beginning – our temporary offices were the conservatory at the back of my house!"

"It was a bold move for the HOPPE Group at the time as it had never ventured into a purely distribution business before. We had every confidence it was a decision they wouldn't regret and that it would pay great dividends.

"Building from our very first customer, Consort Aluminium in Gloucestershire, growth was extremely rapid and by 1989 we had taken on our first employee. The following year we moved into offices in Wolverhampton city centre before moving on to our first industrial premises close by in 1991."

From a 3,000 sq ft building at Four Ashes, the company soon expanded with sales growth regularly at 30-40% per annum, and eventually it occupied most of the neighbouring business park. As well as a major marketing campaign,

HOPPE (UK) REACHES A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE THIS YEAR BY CELEBRATING ITS 20TH YEAR IN BUSINESS. FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, THE COMPANY HAS GROWN TO BE A UK MARKET LEADER IN THE SUPPLY OF DOOR HANDLES, AS WELL AS A KEY SUPPLIER OF DOOR CONTROL PRODUCTS, WINDOW HANDLES, LOCKS, CYLINDERS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED HARDWARE. HELEN CURRY VISITS THEIR WOLVERHAMPTON HQ TO FIND OUT MORE.

TWENTY



which included exhibiting at Glassex and Interbuild, two of the UK's largest building events, one key reason for this strong growth was HOPPE (UK)'s decision to move into the architectural market in 1993, a move that brought on board numerous new customers.

Another important development for HOPPE (UK) was its acquisition of a large customer namely Charter Hardware in 1997, who were based in nearby Walsall. Through a two-year plan to integrate the businesses and investment in the region of £6 million, HOPPE (UK) was able to strengthen its position in the supply of architectural ironmongery in further developing the ARRONE brand to its portfolio.

In 1999, HOPPE (UK) entered into a new era with the move into its current purpose-built 50,000 sq ft premises. Keith and Roger's roles changed to define the business it is today and staff numbers increased to nearly 100.

Keith's architectural division enhanced the 'one stop shop' concept for all the hardware required for the complete door-set. This was achieved by forging strong partnerships with manufacturers of complementary products, and it established a dominant market position for HOPPE (UK).

The value of sales of ARRONE products since 1999 has quadrupled. Access control products were added to the range



in 2006 and during 2007 HOPPE (UK) entered the retail market selling pre-packed HOPPE and ARNONE products complementing other leading brands, including CES cylinders, ABUS padlocks, Elfa shelving systems and the latest addition is the Italian cylinder producer ISEO.

The door and window division, under Roger's stewardship, has maintained its position as one of the UK's leading suppliers to the sector with a carefully selected number of distributors and market leading fabricators.

"The door and window market has changed significantly over the last 20 years but we have adapted extremely well to remain strong," says Roger Benton. "Consolidation of fabricators has seen the emergence of 'super-fabricators' who supply smaller installers. Price competition remains fierce as a result of products being introduced into the market from Asia.

Looking forward

HOPPE (UK) is proud of its loyal customer base. According to Roger Benton, maintaining long standing relationships has been achieved by the company's number one focus on staff training and development and creating an environment where people want to excel.

"As with the HOPPE Group ethos, we see our employees as the most important part of the business," says Roger. "Without a motivated, knowledgeable and happy team we could never have achieved the success we have today and we continue to invest in people's skills as we go forward."

Many of HOPPE (UK)'s staff have gone through the GAI's education programme, achieving Reg AI status. Roger is keen to emphasise how important this is to the HOPPE (UK) business.

Says Roger, "Having a skilled team is crucial but so too is having the capability to respond quickly to the needs of our customers.

"HOPPE Group's ongoing innovation ensures we have the products that today's market needs, giving us a competitive advantage. As we continue to adapt to the needs of the market, HOPPE (UK) may well have a very different looking product range in another 20 years' time, but our focus on people and customer service excellence will still underpin everything we do."

POCKET SIZED

PC Henderson's new Pocket Doors slide into the wall leaving a clear entrance and exit without cluttering up the surrounding space with a redundant door.

It's a doddle to install. There's no need for any special stud work (the system does not even need to be fitted directly to a lintel) as it has two frame brackets that make it self supporting.

The door and track can even be removed without having to pull the wall apart to get at the parts.

There are a variety of kit sizes to accommodate most standard door sizes, though even non-standard doors can be fitted simply by cutting down a kit to the required size.

All door sets come complete with pre-assembled track and header. The system is high specification with an anodised aluminium track along with a galvanised steel clad timber frame.

Pocket Door uses Husky 100 sliding door technology and is suitable for timber doors up to 60kg.



GET ON BOARD THE



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MORE FLEXIBILITY

Two new versions of Royde & Tucker's HI-LOAD hinges are now available which combine the appealing aesthetics of a concealed bearing with the advantages of a lift-off mechanism, the H201 and H206 offer increased flexibility to specifiers and installers alike.

The H201 and H206 consist of two separate leaves, which are handed left and right. Both allow for the door to be removed without unscrewing the leaves of the hinge. In addition, they provide a cleaner look than visible bearings. Both hinges incorporate the renowned HI-LOAD bearing system, which was developed to eliminate the need for maintenance. To achieve this, HI-LOAD avoids metal-to-metal movement by using carbon steel and porous bronze flanged bushes impregnated with a specially formulated lubricant.

H206 and H201 expand the highly successful range of HI-LOAD hinges by linking the characteristics of the 100 series of lift-off hinges with those of the 200 series (where the bearings are fully concealed within the hinge knuckles). "With a performance guarantee of 25 years, specifiers really will benefit from the flexibility and functionality the new designs provide", Simon Gardiner from Royde & Tucker commented.

For more information visit www.ratman.co.uk.

NEW SECURITY HINGES ON SIEGENIA-AUBI

A security hinge launched from SIEGENIA-AUBI UK will open up new creative possibilities for those involved in housing design, build and specification by utilizing the space creation benefits of folding sliding doors without the security risks usually associated with the external hinges.

The new hinge has been designed to overcome security fears, as well as offer additional benefits for even greater space creation. These include a slimline handle that ensures the doors fold flat to keep them out of the way as neatly as possible when they're open.

Weather performance is another key consideration for outward opening door hardware, which is more exposed to the rigors of the British climate than inward opening counterparts. The new FS Portal security hinge features a high performance corrosion resistant coating.



FIRE PERFORMANCE WITH STYLE

Lorient, is the exclusive distributor of the Georgia-Pacific range of high performance fire door components for the 90 and 120 minute market. The Georgia-Pacific system, utilising Lorient's seals, provides an integrated solution for applications where high levels of fire integrity are required, but without compromising on aesthetics.

The Georgia-Pacific solution, allows considerable design freedom for specifiers, flexibility for Fire Engineers and a range of options for door and joinery manufacturers. The system features a number of unique benefits; finished doors have either a 54mm or 44mm slimline profile and may be finished in veneered plywood, allowing suiting of doors throughout the building. A choice of single or double door leaf designs exist together with a variety of sidelights, over panels and multi-glazed openings to meet the requirements of Approved Document M.

The Georgia-Pacific engineered non-combustible system comprises cores, rail, stile components and framing; and is complemented by a range of Lorient acoustic, smoke and fire seals, and glazing systems to provide up to 120 minutes fire protection. In addition, the combined system provides a proven acoustic performance of 30dB Rw. The system can be used in a range of applications in any given building notably within the commercial, public and utility sectors.

The Georgia-Pacific fire door designs are supported by a library of test evidence, having been comprehensively tested at the Warrington Fire Research Centre. Fire tests have been conducted in accordance with BS 476: Part 22: 1987.



GETTING A GRIP ON C-DIFF

A first line of defence in the battle for effective infection control is the Webb Lloyd range door furniture incorporating the unique 'Hygienilac' coating, which has been independently laboratory tested and proven to be convincingly effective across a whole spectrum of harmful bacteria, including MRSA, E.Coli, Salmonella, Listeria and most significantly, Clostridium Difficile (C.Diff)

Whilst other infection control coatings incorporate either Silver technology or Nano technology, both of which can offer extensive antibacterial protection, only the Webb Lloyd range of door furniture with 'Hygienilac' coating has been independently certified by Bodycote Lawlabs, one of the UK's leading microbiological laboratories, as a conclusively effective solution against the deadly C-Difficile bacteria at spore level.

Webb Lloyd door furniture with Hygienilac has been tested by the Food and Drug Analytical Services and meets the requirements of BS EN 13697. All ingredients in Hygienilac have FDA and HSE approval for indirect or incidental food contact and are non-carcinogenic, non-mutagenic and are not skin sensitive.

For further details telephone 01543 578661 or email: nigeltaylor@fredduncombe.co.uk





NO PANIC WITH CONTUR

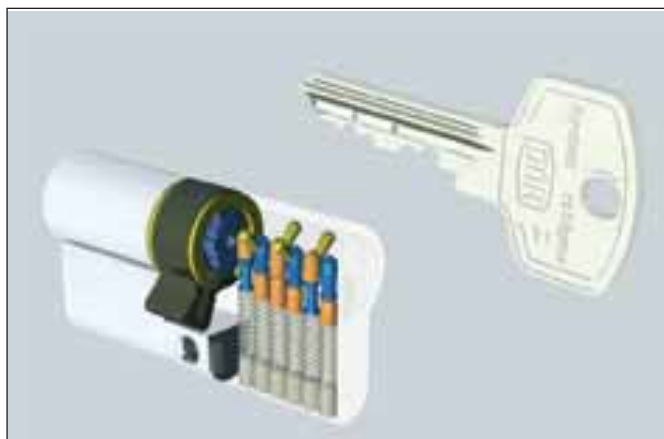
DORMA's PHA 2000 and PHB 3000 modular panic hardware systems have been restyled and launched in line with DORMA's new Contur

design. Its cubic design and compact profile allows the panic hardware to be fully co-ordinated with other DORMA automatic and door hardware products featuring the Contur design – resulting in a complete design solution for environments such as schools, hospitals, hotels, airports, shopping malls and theatres.

The PHA 2000 version offers crossbar actuation and the PHB 3000 pushbar actuation. Both units are CE marked, fully compliant with EN 1125 and offer a precision fit for a whole range of applications from timber doors to metal doors, with single to multi-point locking. There is also an exit Push Pad series CE marked to EN 179 for installations where the exit door is used by trained personnel only.

There are no visible fixings and both systems can be used for every type of door, right or left handed, narrow-framed or solid timber, single or double – and with flush or over-rebated meeting stiles. The DORMA PHA 2000 is particularly suitable for narrow-framed doors and the PHB 3000 system for solid timber doors. Dogging is supplied as standard on the two systems.

In addition to the standard colour range, both the PHA 2000 and PHB 3000 are available in a stainless steel finish.



NEW SIGMA LOCK FROM RONIS DOM

Using the latest in security technology RONIS-DOM has developed the RS SIGMA, a 6 pin locking which incorporates the DOM logo in the profile of the core and key. This provides a high level of copy protection through its trademark life long patent. RS-Sigma offers anti-bump and anti-drill protection and meets BS EN 1303:2005 and PAS24 security standards. For added security an anti snap modular version is also available.

The cylinders in the SIGMA range are available in a variety of high quality finishes and have been designed around a patented trademark key profile, offering a versatile and high quality solution for commercial and residential applications. This life long patent protection offers peace of mind and a secure long term investment.



UPDATED METAL FIRE DOOR CODE

The Door & Hardware Federation Code of Practice for Fire Resisting Metal Doorsets has been updated and revised to reflect the most recent changes in legislation.

The Code provides guidance to specifiers and approving authorities on the

best practice for - and a better understanding of - hinged and pivoted fire resisting metal doorsets. In particular it gives vital help on the correct specification of doorsets which satisfy the requirements of the Building Regulations and fire resisting doorset standards.

The new version of the DHF Code has been produced with the help of BRE Global (incorporating LPCB) and has been endorsed by the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers, Bodycote Warringtonfire (including CERTIFIRE and FIRAS) and Chiltern International Fire.

It demonstrates how the performance of fire resisting metal doorsets should be covered by product conformity certification, fire test reports and assessment reports. It details what evidence of performance should be provided and gives guidance on suitable hardware including locks, latches, hinges, door closers and electronic hardware.

The Code of Practice can be downloaded from the DHF website, www.dhfonline.org.uk.

THE GEZE RANGE - EXPLAINED

The UK's leading manufacturer of door and window control systems has unveiled two smart, new, specification guides to help architects, architectural ironmongers and specifiers stay bang up to date.

Featuring its widest ever selection of door closers, window control systems, RWA smoke and heat extraction systems and sliding door fittings, the easy-to-use product guide and price list will help users select the best product for the job. The loose-leaf information pages are presented in a glossy binder, making the one-glance guide simple to update and to incorporate other complementary information.

A second new guide focusing on GEZE UK's extensive range of glass fittings has also been developed, including everything you need to know about fitting to glass. The sleek, stylish brochure also incorporates a competitive price list, so everything is in one place, making life even easier for customers.

From jargon definitions to maintenance issues, glass preparation tips to weights and widths, the brochure offers step-by-step explanations and technical information on a wide variety of solutions for toughened glass, accompanied by diagrams and pictures of each fitting in situ.





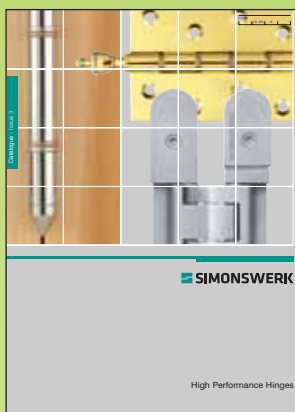
SQUIRE LAUNCHES NEW CATALOGUE

Leading lock manufacturer Henry Squire & Sons Ltd has published a catalogue illustrating the full range of its high-performance products, including newly launched products like the Snapsafe™ and Elite1™ cylinders, and the Magnatex™ and Quick Change™ key systems.

The 84-page colour catalogue includes photographs, information and detailed dimensions for all locks in Squire's 2008 range, including the Stronghold Bullit™ padlocks, the heavy-duty Powerlock™ padlocks.

It also makes comprehensive recommendations about the suitability for purpose of each lock, and recommendations where locks have several users.

For further information, contact Henry Squire & Sons Ltd on 01902 308050, visit www.squirelocks.co.uk or email info@henry-squire.co.uk.



NEW HINGE CATALOGUE

SIMONSWERK UK has launched a new Hinge Catalogue with detailed technical advice, illustrating its range of high performance, top quality brass, aluminium and stainless steel hinges. The new catalogue includes the award winning Tectus fully concealed hinge, extended range of Samson brass designer finials, bi-folding door hinges and a comprehensive portfolio of hardware items from door stops to letter plates. For a copy of the catalogue email sales@simonswerk.co.uk or visit www.simonswerk.co.uk



NEW HOPPE POCKET GUIDE

HOPPE (UK) has launched a handy new pocket guide for builders and joiners featuring its most up to date range of domestic and commercial architectural hardware.

The 96-page A5 pocket guide is available over the counter from HOPPE stockists including architectural ironmongers. It provides a wide selection of door handles manufactured from aluminium, brass, stainless steel and nylon. It also features panic hardware, door controls, locks and cylinders, hinges, signs and access control products.

MAKE OVER FOR UNION ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE WEB SITE

The Union Architectural Hardware web site has been given a make over to reflect the large amount of new products the company has launched in recent months.

The revamp is phase one of the UNION web development programme and includes new branding, information on the latest product launches, PDF files of all current UNION literature and the latest UNION news.

"Next year we will be embarking on phase two of the site development, as part of the ASSA ABLOY One Web project. This phase will mean the site will have much more functionality including a searchable product database and full details of where to buy UNION products" says Carly Baker, UNION Brand Manager.

To view the new look site visit www.uniononline.co.uk.

A NEW WAY ON THE WEB

Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies has completed a redesign of its website at security.ingersollrand.co.uk.

The new website 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 on offer. 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 RFSO (Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order).

The website is also equipped with a download section which features the very latest brochure pdfs, as well as copies of fitting instructions, installation templates, test certificates, press releases and case studies.



MATERNITY: A CAUTIONARY TALE

Maternity is in the news because as from 5/10/08, employees who take maternity leave will continue to enjoy all terms, conditions and benefits (except for remuneration) beyond the 6 months "ordinary maternity leave", so if you have programmed eg the company car to come back after 6 months, you will have to change your arrangements.

On the question of employees' rights on returning from leave, a recent case teaches a hard lesson. Mrs S was a Sales Executive covering the UK. During her maternity leave, the company tried to retrieve her car. When she notified them that she would like to return on the basis of working two days a week, to have no overnight stays and to not be required to work more than 100 miles from home, the company rejected the requests, and Mrs S resigned, claiming Sex Discrimination and Constructive Dismissal.

This raises the thorny issue of what are the maternity returner's rights? Can she more or less dictate how much work she does and under what conditions? The answer is no....but of course it is not as simple as that as company C found out.

Any company finding themselves in similar situations, and there are many, MUST consider with extreme care and caution the request, and I would always counsel companies to consult fully on such requests. It may be a classic negotiating position (I will ask for everything that I want, but I'm prepared to concede on the odd issue), or it may be an absolutely genuine childcare need. Either way, you should exhaust all reasonable possibilities, before deciding. A company that simplistically says that they can't possibly accept the request without examining it closely will have a big fall coming their way.

If you do look at the whole picture and conclude that the position just cannot be undertaken on a part-time/job-share basis, then that is a decision that you are entitled to come to, but you do so in the full knowledge that it may be

examined at tribunal in close detail, but cases have been successfully defended, when companies have satisfied a Tribunal that flexible working arrangements could not operate effectively.

Reading between the lines, C did not make sufficient effort to assess the viability of S's request. The tribunal found that S had been discriminated against in the refusal to accommodate part-time work, and in the attempt to retrieve her car. However, they found that the specific cause of resignation was the company's refusal to accept the request under the Flexible Working Regulations, which under the Regulations, they were entitled to do. That refusal could not, said the Tribunal, be tantamount to a fundamental breach of contract.

The Appeal Tribunal did not agree with this last finding. The tribunal had found that the company had discriminated against S, it was inherent throughout the entire process, and the rejection of the request to work part-time was inescapably tied in with wider discriminatory actions.

So, the message is clear. Maternity returners have extensive protections arising from the central purpose of European Directives, and a Tribunal must give purposive interpretation to issues that come before them where there is a discernible driving intention that is central to the relevant Directive. In maternity/pregnancy issues, that central message is that because it is women who are solely affected by maternity complications, and then it is important to ensure that companies do not treat them detrimentally in matters that relate to pregnancy/maternity arrangements.

If you address yourselves to maternity returner problems with this in mind, you should avoid the pitfalls. The company in this case obviously failed to satisfy the Tribunal that they had come to their decisions with this in mind and paid the price accordingly.

If you have ANY employment law problems, please contact Roger Vincent Associates on 01372 462 262 or email roger.vincent@talk21.com.



Dor-O-Matic

Bomb Rated Automatic Doors



Dor-O-Matic bomb rated automatic package installed at London Heathrow, Terminal 5 (© BAA Limited see www.baa.com/photolibrary) and right, on test using a 100kg TNT explosive device, followed by physical hammer attack



- Successfully tested to withstand a 100kg TNT explosion at both 25 metres and 45 metres - similar to a typical car bomb (met and exceeded GSA (C) and ISO EXV 45 and ISO EXV 25 standards)
- Designed to protect building occupants from high velocity shards of glass whilst ensuring integrity
- Doors retain the appearance and functionality of standard automatic door systems
- Particularly designed for high risk areas such as Government offices, transport hubs, public buildings, military and financial establishments

For further information visit www.bombblastdoors.co.uk where you can view dramatic footage of the test explosion

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