

# Safety under fire

The CAB Aluminium in Building Conference 2018 *The Facade as Protection against Fire and Flanking Acoustics* takes place at the Jaguar Visitor Centre, Birmingham on Wednesday 16th May. CAB chief executive Justin Ratcliffe outlines the programme



Dame Judith Hackitt’s interim report as part of the independent review of building regulations found that the whole system of fire safety regulation regarding complex and high-rise buildings was ‘not fit for purpose’, and left room for those who wanted to take shortcuts to do so. A programme of change is needed to safeguard our built environment.

The first theme for CAB’s Aluminium in Building Conference 2018 at the Jaguar Visitor Centre, Birmingham looks at the issues facing our industry, particularly considering this on-going review of regulations. Our early confirmed speakers are:

**Keynote Speaker: Merlyn Forrer**, fire protection manager, Greater Manchester fire and rescue service who will set the scene with his first-hand experience of a variety of pertinent fire safety issues.

**David Metcalfe**, director, CWCT will focus on windows and curtain walling including such areas as:

- fire performance of facades – glazing systems
- fire performance of curtain wall and windows
- cavity barriers and fire stopping in curtain walling
- spandrel panels as used in curtain walling
- curtain walling testing.

**Clive Everett**, facades technical standards director, MD Insurance Services will speak on fire compliant facades – practical considerations.

He will consider several issues including:

- The warranty perspective
- Other façade elements requiring consideration
- Complying with BCA Guidance Note 18
- Defects we continue to see

**Our second theme is** flanking acoustics in curtain walling. As more curtain walling systems are used in high-

rise living accommodation, how do you protect against flanking acoustics from one apartment to another? Can simple design changes make a big difference to performance? How do you test systems for their flanking acoustic performance and what impact does the installation have?

**Our first speaker is: Nick Colan**, acoustic consultant, Apex Acoustics whose presentation is entitled *Making sense of the Acoustic Performance of Flanking Paths for Curtain walling Systems*.

The presentation looks at how the different types of performance data provided for curtain walling systems are used to predict the sound insulation between spaces. It shows how the sound reduction index and the flanking

level differences can be both used for the calculations. He will also describe common types of curtain walling and the associated flanking paths along with typical performances achieved and methods for improvement. A case study will demonstrate the contribution from flanking paths. □



**Justin Ratcliffe**

We will shortly be announcing further speakers. Please email [julie.harley@c-a-b.org.uk](mailto:julie.harley@c-a-b.org.uk) for further details or go to [www.c-a-b.org.uk](http://www.c-a-b.org.uk) to download booking forms.