

Enquiries in question



When the 'Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety' by Dame Judith Hackitt was published it prompted much debate amongst the media, general public and industry.

Andy Lowe, director of building control at Bureau Veritas, the international testing, inspection and certification specialist, says: "The publication of the Hackitt Review comes at the first anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire and alongside the start of the public enquiry. For many, the Hackitt Review did not deliver what they had hoped and sparked a public outcry due to the decision not to impose an outright ban on combustible cladding. Instead, the recommendations focused on the need for a new regulator and a series of proposals to make high-rise flats safer to live in.

"Many of the recommendations are encouraging in ensuring a more robust approach is taken to fire safety in the long-term and across all stages from planning and construction to occupation. The recommendations are aimed specifically at changes to the overall system rather than relating to the specific technical aspects of a building. Cladding in particular and the technical measures used to ensure that a holistic approach to fire safety in high rise buildings is achieved, needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Key aspects such as the use of non-combustible cladding, sprinkler systems and the provision of two staircases are of critical importance in achieving public confidence, as well as the need to address the existing building stock situation."

Full story: www.thefabricator.pro □

Responding to the findings of *The Death of The Paper Trail* report, WorkMobile has launched a 'paperless challenge' campaign to invite businesses in the worst performing sectors – construction, utilities and education – to do away with day-to-day printing, and turn to digital solutions.

A survey of 1,000 employees, conducted by WorkMobile found that 39% of businesses have not yet implemented a paper-less policy. It claims that such a heavy reliance is having a detrimental effect not only on business costs but also on the environment.

The challenge asks participants to undertake a one-month stint of being completely paper-free, with the aim of illustrating just how many efficiencies can be made through replacing paper in the workplace with digital versions.

To aid the process, WorkMobile is offering £500 worth of digital data capture products, along with £500 of expert consultancy to the businesses that agree to take part. □



Best in show: a fitting title

The FIT Show has been shortlisted for two Association of Event Organisers (AEO) awards. The event is finalist in both the Best UK Trade Show (more than 8000sqm) and Marketing Campaign of the Year – trade categories for the awards.

FIT's shortlisting follows the team's success at the Exhibition News Awards, where the show took home the 'Best Trade Show Marketing Campaign' award in March.

Having outgrown its original home at Telford Exhibition Centre the FIT Show moved to the NEC in 2017. This played a prominent role in the 2017 marketing campaign.

The marketing campaign, which centred around the theme of 'Something BIG' and utilised new digital channels



Nickie West

including video content, saw an increase in website visits of 52% versus the 2016 campaign and a 63% increase in visits to exhibitor sites from the FIT Show website.

Speaking about the shortlisting, FIT Show event director, Nickie West says: "We're beyond delighted to have made the cut in not one, but two AEO award categories for the 2017 FIT Show.

"A great deal of our success is down to the support of the wider glass and glazing sector and we see any recognition that FIT Show receives as a further opportunity to highlight the fantastic achievements across the industry as a whole."

Full story: www.thefabricator.pro □

Hoppe for Thomas

A sustaining example

Hoppe (UK) has appointed Rob Thomas as business development manager for the Midlands.

With over 30 years in the door and architectural ironmongery industry, Thomas has extensive experience in dealing with steel, timber and aluminium door sets. Starting in 1988 with architectural ironmongers Parker, Winder and Achurch, he has worked for a wide range of door manufacturers and door hardware suppliers.

Thomas also completed his Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI) diploma and is currently working towards becoming a Registered Architectural Ironmonger (RegAI). As a fully qualified DipGAI, he can help Hoppe (UK) customers choose the right products for their projects. He can also give them technical advice and make sure the project meets the relevant standards and regulations.

Thomas says: "After working in this industry for so many years, I'm excited to have the opportunity to provide a far better quality of product and service to our customers and ultimately the people who work, live, play and shop within the built environments we help create and sustain."



Rob Thomas - Hoppe UK

"Hoppe is market leader in the field of door and window hardware and it's a pleasure to be working with such experienced ironmongery experts."

As a member of Hoppe Group, Hoppe (UK) benefits from over 60 years' experience in architectural hardware. Based in Wolverhampton, Hoppe says it is committed to providing products that have been tested to meet the latest European and British standards. □

A £700,00 investment by Morley Glass & Glazing in a second IGU production line has doubled its production capacity, making it possible to manufacture up to 3,000 sealed units with integral blinds per week.

Ian Short, managing director at Morley Glass & Glazing, says: "When we moved into larger premises in 2016 we invested in a 58-metre long automated sealed



unit production line from Best Makina. I'm pleased to say that the quality and efficiency of the equipment was so impressive that we were happy to invest in a second line. With the capacity to manufacture up to 3,000 sealed units per week we are confident we will be able to continue to meet customer demand for our popular product range." □

Rehau is continuing to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to sustainable development after receiving the product label from VinylPlus marking its sustainable manufacturing processes.

VinylPlus is the voluntary sustainable development programme for the European PVC industry and aims at creating a long-term sustainability framework for the entire PVC value chain.

Rehau received the certification from VinylPlus for all four of its European window plants as well as a number of window profiles, including TOTAL70, at Fensterbau Frontale 2018



(Left to Right): Shamir Ghumbra – director BRE, Martin Hitchin – chief executive, Rehau, Gareth Jones – marketing and technical director of rehau windows Division and Stefan Eingärtner – technical director, VinylPlus

Martin Hitchin, chief executive at Rehau, says: "We were delighted to receive the certification from VinylPlus as it is another feather in our sustainable cap. Across the business we are working to continue to improve our green credentials – from looking at our plants, to the products themselves. Our TOTAL70 co-extruded product is now a hugely popular alternative, which offers all of the advantages of the mono-extruded product. The core of the profile is made up entirely of post-consumer waste, with only the outer skin made of new polymer for a flawless finish."

In the coming years Rehau plans to carry on their success, with European targets including producing up to 50 per cent of window profiles from European plants with recycled polymer core by 2020. □