



CENSolutions Press Cuttings

Apr-May 2011



Fenestration News (Apr)

CENSolutions: “We Practice what we Preach”

CENSolutions, the leading consultancy and test facility for the window, door and glazing industries, has just passed its second three yearly ISO9001:2008 strategic review for its test laboratory facility in Staffordshire. Mike Gaillard, Joint Managing Director of CENSolutions comments: “Passing the latest audit for ISO9001:2008 is simply further confirmation that we practice what we preach and are set up properly to help our customers through the complexities of legislation on both a consultative and practical level. The scope of our audit is for EN1279 Part 6 Periodic Testing, including the UV fogging test and gas concentration testing, which is more than any other UK notified body. Companies that are reviewing test houses to partner with should ask to see their Scope of Accreditation – you may be surprised at the vast differences that exist between them. We believe we are now the biggest provider of EN1279 Part 2 & 3 type testing and have become by far the busiest laboratory in the UK looking after EN 1279:6 Periodic testing having tested close to 2000 sets of periodic test units since June 2004. Plus, a third of the companies that have achieved a BFRC Window Energy Rating, have done so with the CENSolutions team guiding the BFRC WER Registered companies through the process. We also have a great team working at our lab to ensure the highest standards are adhered to on a daily basis. The team is headed up by Linn Spilsbury who has experience of high profile testing for companies such as BMW and Volvo.

“Legislation is only getting tighter and CENSolutions is keen to make the transition to compliance of existing and future legislation as painless as possible. ISO9001 helps us to be more structured and organised but doesn’t require bureaucracy. It helps companies to achieve the right results first time, giving customers the benefit of consistency, which is essential in our line of work.”



The Glazine (Apr)

Dear Nathan

I expected to get a response to my letter to you on the issue of CE Marking and sure enough last week I read a reply from Paul Jervis grasping at straws for a loop hole in the legislation.

He's right that people could interpret a particular clause of the legislation in two ways – ie, some people will consider that windows are custom-made because each one is different while others would say that although windows are different sizes they are manufactured en masse, with standard mullion and transom widths and heights and are therefore not considered to be custom-made.

That's why component supplies, such as hardware, are produced to standard sizes. I would argue that rather than picking through the terminology of the legislation to find a loop hole or a get out clause, our efforts would be better spent anticipating the most likely outcome and helping fabricators and sealed unit manufacturers get up to speed sooner rather than later.

It wasn't long ago that there was a huge effort made by many organisations to inform the industry of the changes to UK Building Regulations and yet I believe less than 5% were prepared for the 1st of October 2010 deadline. At the time a simplified route to compliance was offered by Fensa and was considered by many to save the industry. However companies who have used this approach have seen their monthly IGU spend increase by 15%-20% and their profits eroded away – not ideal in this current economic climate.

CENSolutions has supported the BFRC WER Scheme for many years and we are proud that assisting companies through the WER process has not only provided those clients with a competitive marketing edge, but also enabled them to achieve the desired WERs with more cost effective IGUs, allowing them to save money. Holding back to see what happens and then taking the most simple route is not always the most cost-effective or viable option for your business.

All the signs point towards CE Marking becoming mandatory. Paul himself wrote an article back in 2009 stating 'CE Marking would become mandatory' and walking around the recent Ecobuild show it was clear that our market is being flooded with European products that are already CE Marked. These are the products UK manufacturers are competing against every day. The UK is one of just four European member states not to have mandatory CE Marking so there's no way we will be allowed to sit on the fence on this for much longer.



As active members of the GGF, CENSolutions is aware there are meetings happening with the CLG to clarify any uncertainties, but our advice to our customers remains the same – to get prepared sooner rather than later because by the time all industry experts agree on what will be happening, if that ever happens, it will be too late. And like I said in my last letter, it won't be as easy for industry bodies to provide us with the get out of jail free card they gave us when the Building Regulations were updated in October.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Rogerson
Joint Managing Director, CENSolutions



The Glazine (Apr)

Audit passed

CENSolutions has just passed its second three yearly ISO9001:2008 strategic review for its test laboratory facility in Staffordshire.

Mike Gaillard, joint managing director of CENSolutions said: “Passing the latest audit for ISO9001:2008 is simply further confirmation that we practice what we preach and are set up properly to help our customers through the complexities of legislation on both a consultative and practical level.

“The scope of our audit is for EN1279 Part 6 Periodic Testing, including the UV fogging test and gas concentration testing, which is more than any other UK notified body. Companies that are reviewing test houses to partner with should ask to see their Scope of Accreditation – you may be surprised at the vast differences that exist between them.

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www.censolutions.com

GGP (Apr)

Increasingly, home owners are looking to cut their heating bills as well as reducing their carbon footprint. Shouldn't window companies get ready to benefit from the government's high-profile initiative?

Adrian Redshaw,
Design Director
Liniar Window Systems

CE Marking is here!

Dear Editor,
There has been a lot of discussion in recent months, even years, about whether or not CE Marking will be mandatory. Finally we have had confirmation. The European Construction Product Directive will be changed to the Construction Product Regulation and as a result, from 1 July 2013, it will be mandatory for companies to CE Mark. CENSolutions has always stated the official line in as much as the UK had opted out of CE Marking. Therefore CE Marking was not law in the UK, but compliance with the Construction Products Directive meant it was a legal requirement for companies to comply with Harmonised European Standards.

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manufacturer's declaration that the product complies with all essential requirements; the declaration is a legal statement, which if proved to be false could be legally challenged. What this actually means to sealed unit manufacturers, toughened glass processors and window and door fabricators is that they will have to prove their compliance to all relevant legislation including EN 1279, EN 12150 - EN 12600 and EN14351. This isn't something that can be done overnight at the eleventh hour and there won't be schemes that industry bodies can implement to offer a quick fix for the short term, as we saw with the latest revisions to the Building Regulations – so as an industry we will need to get up to speed sooner rather than later.

CENSolutions has been advising its customers to follow the CE Marking route for some time now and have always been disappointed when other figure heads in the industry have suggested it hasn't ever been necessary and won't ever be mandatory. Now we have the facts, perhaps we can all start working together to meet the next challenge we face, because 2013 will be here in no time at all!

Wayne Rogerson
Joint Managing Director
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Glass & Glazing Products

Glass Times (Apr)

CEN charts gas test surge

CENSolutions, a leading consultancy and test facility for the window, door and glazing industries, reports a clear trend in more companies submitting sealed units for EN1279:3 testing.

Wayne Rogerson, Joint Managing Director of CENSolutions comments: "We expected this to happen following the implementation of the revised building regulations pushing companies towards more energy efficient products, because of course Part 3 of EN1279 relates to gas leakage from a sealed unit. Similarly the amount of companies looking to submit their units for EN1279:2 testing (moisture penetration) is reducing. Although some sealed unit manufacturers, or fabricators making their own sealed units, may decide it's not worth the time and expense to upgrade their products in line with the new regulations,

the majority still want to keep control of their own destiny. Now approaching our 600th type test, we believe we are the biggest provider of Part 2 & 3 type testing in the UK through our preferred Notified Body Testing Partner TÜV/TNO in the Netherlands. It's interesting to keep track of the number and type of tests we have submitted since 2006 as an indication of how things have changed. Of the 147 tests we submitted in 2010, just 30 were for Part 2 and 117 were for Part 3. Back in 2006 when the testing with TÜV/TNO was established, we conducted 101 tests for Part 2 in the final six months of the year.


"Despite these statistics, there still seems to be a lot of confusion in the market about what standards companies need to comply with. Sealed unit manufacturers that are filling their units with gas need to pass EN1279 Part 3

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For more information on CENSolutions visit www.censolutions.com

Midland Vision (Apr)

Increase In Part 3 Testing



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Northern Vision (Apr)

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Glass News (May)

MAKING A MARK

The next big step change in legislation has been announced, compulsory CE Marking looks set to be on the way. Wayne Rogerson, Joint Managing Director of CENSolutions looks at the impact this will have on sealed unit manufacturers.

Last year you couldn't move for companies talking about the revisions being made to the Building Regulations and the impact this would have on the window industry. The revisions tightened the specification of our windows with regards to energy efficiency, but the way it was handled left everyone confused and frustrated.

We were given a reprieve with the Building Regulations as industry bodies decided to offer an 'easy' way to comply and in the wider economy things are just starting to show a tentative sign of recovery, but as things start to settle down we hear news of more new legislation on the way. This development has been in the pipeline for some time and shouldn't be a reason for concern. Yes, it means sealed unit manufacturers, toughened glass processors and window and door fabricators have to adhere to another piece of legislation, but it also provides us with an opportunity to up the ante and streamline a lot of the ways we demonstrate compliance.



CE Marking is due to become mandatory in 2013.

It would be nice to think that as an industry we will embrace the benefits of this change. We so often hear from companies that are competing against less scrupulous manufacturers that claim to have all the relevant standards but don't. Companies that claim to gas fill their sealed units but don't comply with EN 1279:3, or worse still don't fill them with gas at all.

The majority of glass and window companies operating today are professional, quality outfits that want to improve the reputation of an industry that hasn't had the best standing to date. Companies that CE Mark have to prove compliance to all the relevant standards, so this change in legislation may provide us with an opportunity to drive standards up. Unfortunately since we raised the issue we have already seen individuals looking for loop holes but surely our efforts would be better spent anticipating the most likely outcome and helping sealed unit manufacturers, as well as toughened glass producers and window/door fabricators get up to speed sooner rather than later.

Help is at hand

Hot topic

Glass News continued (May)

Whether or not CE Marking will be mandatory has been a hot topic for years now, but finally we have had confirmation. The European Construction Product Directive will be changed to the Construction Product Regulation and as a result from 1st July 2013 it will be mandatory for companies to CE Mark. CE Marking was not previously law in the UK, but compliance with the Construction Products Directive meant it was a legal requirement for companies to comply with Harmonised European Standards.

The CE Mark literally stands for 'Conformité Européene' or European Conformity and it is the manufacturer's declaration that the product complies with all essential requirements; the declaration is a legal statement, which if proved to be false could be legally challenged. What this actually means to sealed unit manufacturers, toughened glass processors and window and door fabricators is that they will have to prove their compliance to all relevant legislation including EN1279, EN 12150 – EN 12600 and EN14351.

Up to speed

Unlike the helping hand we received following the revised Building Regulations, there isn't the same option for CE Marking. This isn't something that can be done overnight at the eleventh hour and there won't be schemes that industry bodies can implement to offer a quick fix for the short term – so as an industry we will need to get up to speed sooner rather than later.

CENSolutions has been advising its customers to follow the CE Marking route for some time now and we hope, now we have the facts, that the industry can start working together to meet the next challenge we face, because 2013 will be here in no time at all!

We have eight consultants placed strategically across the UK working with over 700 customers to ensure they are not caught out by any existing or up and coming legislation. It was really interesting to see the amount of products on display at Ecobuild recently which were CE Marked against EN 14351-1:2006, EN 1279 and EN 12150 – sadly they were all products produced outside the UK. Clearly we need to ensure we compete on an equal footing, but complying with current somewhat conflicting British Standards will not enable you to CE Mark!

CENSolutions' expertise and market knowledge, as well as its friendly and plain English approach enabled it to play a huge role in helping the industry achieve the necessary standards to meet the revised Building Regulations, and it will continue to offer its support to companies who would rather get ahead of this latest development sooner rather than later.

For more information visit www.censolutions.com or call 01785 716625



CENSolutions has been advising its customers to follow the CE Marking route for some time.



Midland Vision (May)

Letter To The Editor



Dear Mark

Years of Debate are over - It's official, CE Marking is here!

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Yours sincerely

Wayne Rogerson, Joint MD
CENSOLUTIONS, Tel: 01785 716 625



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Yours sincerely, Wayne Rogerson, Joint MD, CENSolutions, Tel: 01785 716 625

Windows Active (May)

windows **active**

IGUs & Glazing

CE Marking is official!

The next big step change in legislation to affect the industry has been announced. **Wayne Rogerson** of **CENSolutions** looks at what this actually means for fabricators and sealed unit manufacturers



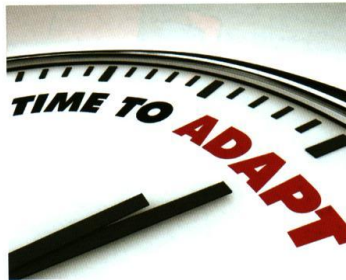
The window industry has had its fair share of obstacles to overcome in the last couple of years. The revised Building

Regulations tightened the specification of our windows with regards to energy efficiency, while the recession continues to squeeze our margins. We were given a reprieve with the Building Regulations as industry bodies decided to offer an 'easy' way to comply and in the wider economy, things are just starting to show a tentative sign of recovery, but as things start to settle down we hear news of more new legislation on the way. CENSolutions has been warning the market of this development for some time and actually don't see it as a reason to be concerned. Yes, it means sealed unit manufacturers, toughened glass processors and window and door fabricators have to adhere to another piece of legislation but it also provides us with an opportunity to up the ante and streamline a lot of the ways we demonstrate compliance.

Recent discussions

There has been a lot of discussion in recent months, even years, about whether or not CE Marking will be mandatory. Finally we have had confirmation. The European Construction Product Directive will be changed to the Construction Product Regulation and as a result from 1st July 2013 it will be mandatory for companies to CE Mark. CENSolutions has always stated the official line in as much as the UK had opted out of CE Marking. Therefore CE Marking was not law in the UK, but compliance with the Construction Products Directive meant it was a legal requirement for companies to comply with Harmonised European Standards.

The CE Mark literally stands for 'Conformité Européene' or European



ABOVE: As the market begins to settle down after the revised Building Regulations were introduced last October and adjusts to the double-dip recession we're still in the midst of, the next big step change in legislation has been announced.

Conformity and it is the manufacturer's declaration that the product complies with all essential requirements. The declaration is a legal statement, which if proved to be false could be legally challenged. What this actually means to sealed unit manufacturers, toughened glass processors and window and door fabricators is that they will have to prove their compliance to all relevant legislation including EN1279, EN 12150 – EN 12600 and EN14351. Unlike the helping hand we received following the revised Building Regulations, there isn't the same option for CE Marking. This isn't something that can be done overnight at the eleventh hour and there won't be schemes that industry bodies can implement to offer a quick fix for the short term – so as an industry we will need to get up to speed sooner rather than later.

Hopefully as an industry we will embrace the benefits of this change. We so often hear from companies that are competing against less scrupulous manufacturers that claim to have all the relevant standards but don't. Companies that claim to gas fill their sealed units but don't comply with EN 1279:3, or worse still don't fill them with gas at all. The majority of window companies operating today are professional, quality outfits that want to improve the reputation of an industry that hasn't had the best standing to date. Companies that CE

Mark have to prove compliance to all the relevant standards, so this change in legislation may provide us with an opportunity to drive standards up.

CENSolutions has been advising its customers to follow the CE Marking route for some time now and have always been disappointed when other figure heads in the industry have suggested it hasn't ever been necessary and won't ever be mandatory. Now we have the facts, perhaps we can all start working together to meet the next challenge we face, because 2013 will be here in no time at all!

Strategically placed

CENSolutions has eight consultants placed strategically across the UK working with over 700 customers to ensure they are not caught out by any existing or up-and-coming legislation. All of our clients, whether IGU manufacturers, safety glass producers or window and door fabricators, are well prepared for this already because our approach has always been to ensure our customers have future-proofed their businesses. It was really interesting to see the number of products on display at Ecobuild recently which were CE Marked against EN 14351-1:2006, EN 1279 and EN 12150 - sadly they were all products produced outside the UK. Clearly we need to ensure we compete on an equal footing, but complying with current somewhat conflicting British Standards will not enable you to CE Mark!

CENSolutions' expertise and market knowledge, as well as its friendly and plain English approach means it played a huge role in helping the industry achieve the necessary standards to meet the revised Building Regulations and it will continue to offer its support to companies who would rather get ahead of this latest development sooner rather than later.

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Windows Active (May)

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CENSolutions, the leading consultancy and test facility for the window, door and glazing industries, has just passed its second three yearly ISO9001:2008 strategic review for its test laboratory facility in Staffordshire. .