



# **CENSolutions Press Cuttings**

September 2010



## **Glazine (September)**

### **How to impress Trading Standards**

CENSolutions helped East Riding of Yorkshire Council prove compliance to EN1279 before it had a visit from Trading Standards.

Wayne Rogerson, joint managing director of CENSolutions said: “Any manufacturer can be subject to an unannounced visit from Trading Standards, and with a potential custodial sentence of three months and a £5,000 fine for non-compliance, surely it’s worth ensuring you have all the correct procedures in place.



“East Riding of Yorkshire Council wasn’t sure if it needed to be tested to the relevant EN1279 standards when they were implemented in 2005 because although its glass shop supplied units for their own housing stock, it didn’t sell units to anyone else. CENSolutions helped them understand the need for any company making sealed units to comply and what’s more, helped them through the process.

“Within the glass and windows market, the relevant standards include: EN12150 – required when manufacturing toughened glass; EN1279 – when making IGUs; EN14449 – required for the manufacture of laminated glass; and EN14351 – for window and external doorset fabrication.

“In East Riding of Yorkshire Council’s case, CENSolutions helped to implement a bespoke Factory Production Control (FPC) system and guided them through the process of getting units tested in the correct way to prove compliance to EN1279. Bill Abdy, the joinery shop manager at East Riding of Yorkshire Council had to source quotes from three companies before choosing a partner to carry out the work. He chose CENSolutions as a result of a recommendation and because we were the most cost effective option. Bill appreciated our common sense explanations of the requirements and was grateful for the continued support he received in the form of ongoing testing and auditing services, as well as the free advice we continued to offer.”

[www.censolutions.com](http://www.censolutions.com)



## **GGP Bullseye (September)**

### ***Prove it or lose it***

CENSolutions, the consultancy and test facility for the window, door and glazing industries, has helped East Riding of Yorkshire Council prove compliance to EN1279.

The council wasn't sure if it needed to be tested to the relevant EN1279 standards when they were implemented in 2005, because although its glass shop supplied units for its own housing stock, it didn't sell units to anyone else. CENSolutions helped the organisation understand the need for any company making sealed units to comply and helped it through the process.

Wayne Rogerson, joint managing director of CENSolutions said: *"Within the glass and windows market, the relevant standards include:*

*EN12150 – required when manufacturing toughened glass; EN1279 – when making insulating glass units (IGUs); EN14449 – required for the manufacture of laminated glass and EN14351 – for window and external doorset fabrication. In East Riding of Yorkshire Council's case, CENSolutions helped to implement a bespoke Factory Production Control (FPC) system and guided them through the process of getting units tested in the correct way to prove compliance to EN1279.*



*"It's becoming increasingly important that companies prove their compliance with relevant EN standards, not just say they comply. The window energy rating scheme is one of the routes to compliance with the revised Building Regulations coming in, in October. Currently companies operating under this scheme have to show that the IGUs they use are from companies able to produce a Declaration of Conformity to EN1279 Part 5.*

*This declaration has legal status and confirms that the IGU manufacturer has obtained a pass result for test units which have been tested to EN1279 part 2, EN1279 part 3 – if gas filled units are produced, EN1279 part 6, and a fully documented FPC system to satisfy requirements detailed in EN1279 part 6. With the revised Building Regulations on the horizon, installers will be looking for more energy efficient units that can prove compliance – if you can't supply them with this, someone else will."*

If you need help to prove compliance visit [www.censolutions.com](http://www.censolutions.com)



## **Glasswire (September)**

### **CENSolutions helps East Riding of Yorkshire Council impress trading standards**

*24 Sep 2010*

CENSolutions Ltd, the leading consultancy and test facility for the window, door and glazing industries, helped East Riding of Yorkshire Council prove compliance to EN1279 before it had a visit from Trading Standards. Wayne Rogerson, Joint Managing Director of CENSolutions explains why all window companies should take heed from East Riding of Yorkshire Council, especially with the revised Building Regulations on the horizon: “Any manufacturer can be subject to an unannounced visit from Trading Standards, and with a potential custodial sentence of 3 months and a £5000 fine for non-compliance, surely it’s worth ensuring you have all the correct procedures in place. East Riding of Yorkshire Council wasn’t sure if it needed to be tested to the relevant EN1279 standards when they were implemented in 2005 because although its glass shop supplied units for their own housing stock, it didn’t sell units to anyone else. CENSolutions helped them understand the need for any company making sealed units to comply and what’s more, helped them through the process.



“Within the glass and windows market, the relevant standards include: EN12150 – required when manufacturing toughened glass; EN1279 – when making insulating glass units (IGUs); EN14449 - required for the manufacture of laminated glass and EN14351 - for window and external doorset fabrication. In East Riding of Yorkshire Council’s case, CENSolutions helped to implement a bespoke Factory Production Control (FPC) system and guided them through the process of getting units tested in the correct way to prove compliance to EN1279. Bill Abdy, the Joinery Shop Manager at East Riding of Yorkshire Council had to source quotes from three companies before choosing a partner to carry out the work. He chose CENSolutions as a result of a recommendation and because we were the most cost effective option. Bill appreciated our commonsense explanations of the requirements and was grateful for the continued support he received in the form of ongoing testing and auditing services, as well as the free advice we continued to offer.

“It’s becoming increasingly important that companies prove their compliance with relevant EN standards, not just say they comply. The Window Energy Rating scheme is one of the routes to compliance with the revised Building Regulations coming in, in October. Currently companies operating under the Window Energy Rating scheme have to show that the IGUs they use are from companies able to produce a Declaration of



Conformity to EN1279 Part 5. This declaration has legal status and confirms that the IGU manufacturer has obtained a pass result for test units which have been tested to EN1279 part 2, EN1279 part 3 - if gas filled units are produced, EN1279 part 6, and a fully documented Factory Production Control system to satisfy requirements detailed in EN1279 part 6. With the revised Building Regulations on the horizon installers will be looking for more energy efficient units that can prove compliance – if you can't supply them with this, someone else will.”

If you need help to prove compliance visit [www.censolutions.com](http://www.censolutions.com)

## Glazine (September)

### Part 3 passed

CENSolutions' customer Lakeside Glass, producing 3,000 sealed units a week, has passed EN1279 Part 3 with flying colours with units incorporating argon gas and conventional cut and keyed aluminium spacer bar.



Terry Leach, works manager at Lakeside

Glass, said: “We’ve been working with CENSolutions for about four years for our various accreditations and regular audits so they were the obvious choice of partner to guide us through the process of achieving Part 3. While the rest of the industry was arguing about what the latest revisions to the Building Regulations would be and when they would come into force, we tapped into CENSolutions’ vast knowledge for advice.

“They recommended we get ahead sooner rather than later and get the Part 3 accreditation on units incorporating conventional spacer bar as well as our Super Spacer Warm Edge Technology units, which achieved one of the first passes in the UK three years ago. So that’s what we did. Despite the fact EN1279 Part 3 is difficult to pass with a conventional spacer bar, with the support of CENSolutions, we attained what they understand to be one of the best Part 3 results ever achieved!”

[www.censolutions.com](http://www.censolutions.com)

## **Fenestration News (September)**

### **Lakeside Glass Pass Part 3 with Flying Colours with CENSolutions**



#### Lakeside Glass invests across the board

CENSolutions' customer Lakeside Glass, producing 3000 sealed units a week, has passed EN1279 Part 3 with flying colours with units incorporating argon gas and conventional cut and keyed aluminium spacer bar. Terry Leach, Works Manager at Lakeside Glass explains: "We've been working with CENSolutions for about four years for our various accreditations and regular audits so they were the obvious choice of partner to guide us through the process of achieving Part 3. While the rest of the industry was arguing about what the latest revisions to the Building Regulations would be and when they would come into force, we tapped into CENSolutions' vast knowledge for advice. They recommended we get ahead sooner rather than later and get the Part 3 accreditation on units incorporating conventional spacer bar as well as our Super Spacer Warm Edge Technology units, which achieved one of the first passes in the UK three years ago. So that's what we did. Despite the fact EN1279 Part 3 is difficult to pass with a conventional spacer bar, with the support of CENSolutions, we attained what they understand to be one of the best Part 3 results ever achieved!

"The difference with CENSolutions is that they oversee the whole process of unit manufacture with you. This means they can offer advice on any and every aspect of how our units are made, to ensure any potential problems are identified and corrected before the units go away for testing. Although getting accreditations and having your products audited is a pain for most manufacturers, we have to do them and I can honestly say CENSolutions makes it a much more enjoyable experience. They also give us and therefore our customers, peace of mind because unlike some other Certification Providers



and Consultants they have the integrity to do the right thing. We know if we get a visit from Trading Standards tomorrow, our accreditations will meet the grade.

“We focus on one thing and one thing only at Lakeside Glass, and that’s giving our customers what they want. If they are happy, we can continue to move the company forward. In the last 12-18 months we have doubled our number of employees and this year we have invested heavily into plant and vehicles - a new semi automated line has been installed along with a PIB extruder, two butyl sealing pods, two high speed Argon gas filling machines and a new computerised spacer cutting line. We have also invested in new vehicles including two 7.5 tonne purpose built lorries and an 18 tonne lorry. The decision to invest in all of these areas hasn’t been taken lightly and has been based on our projection for the future growth of the company to take Lakeside Glass up to the next level of production. We want to be manufacturing towards 6000 units per week within the next 12 months and by continuing to provide our customers with our renowned service and quality we believe that this is an ambitious but realistic figure.”



## **Fenestration News (September)**

### **FENSA's recent announcement on a 'fast fix'**

Dear Ian,

While FENSA's recent announcement on a 'fast fix' way for companies to comply with the revised Building Regulations by stating that a soft coat low E – 16mm cavity or greater with gas in the cavity and warm edge spacer IGU will enable companies to comply has caused a stir, CENSolutions believes we can actually take something positive from it. We don't think companies that have spent the time and money to get their windows energy rated should feel too despondent. Ultimately, however much progress was made by the few forward thinking companies that were driving the industry towards Window Energy Ratings, the industry as a whole remained woefully unprepared for the change. Something had to give. So what FENSA has suggested seems a reasonable stop gap solution. But it has to be just that - a short term answer. In addition, I am not convinced that the above mentioned IGU specification will enable all window systems, PVCU & Timber to achieve the desired 1.6w/m<sup>2</sup>K u-value, especially if we consider Tilt and Turns and the large outer frame and sash configurations with aluminium reinforcement, or indeed the different timber species used.

Window Energy Ratings with the rainbow label are still the most recognisable way for consumers to judge the energy efficiency of their window. Most won't even understand – or want to understand – what a U-Value is. And as more of the national retailers continue to push WERs with the label, consumer demand will drive us in this direction, whether we like it or not. The more forward thinking window companies will continue to differentiate themselves from their competitors, and not simply say to the consumer that they 'comply with Building Regulations'. It doesn't really work as a USP does it!

Aside from the marketing benefits of companies sticking with Window Energy Ratings, there are also supply and demand issues that will prevent this being a long term solution for compliance. The solution FENSA is offering is basically referring to one particular glass product type, and we must ask questions about restrictive practice and indeed supply capacity issues.

And finally FENSA's referral to online calculators does not sit well with us. We have seen varying degrees of accuracy from the online calculators we've used, compared with the simulations we can carry out in-house at our test facility in Stafford. One of the ones



we compared for example gave a U-Value result of 1.8w/m2k whereas the actual simulation gave a result of 1.6w/m2k.

As a result of all of the above, it's clear to us that FENSA has offered the industry a 'get out of jail free' card, but this shouldn't be confused with being the answer for the long term. If anything, the solution they've offered could end up costing you a lot more money in the long run. Of course, the priority now is to make sure your products comply, and thankfully FENSA is helping the industry do just that this time. The million dollar question however, is what get out of jail card can they offer in 2013 and 2016 as the UK Government is committed to reducing CO2 emissions and the targets have been set.

For the best long term solution for your company, whether you choose U-Value or Window Energy Rating compliance, CENSolutions can help provide you with the facts, and most cost effective solution for your business.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Rogerson  
CENSolutions

**GGP (September)**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY & WERS**

# Don't let the ticking clock come as a shock

**Wayne Rogerson**, joint managing director, CENSolutions, consultancy and testing facility for the window and insulated glass industries, explains why he thinks it is possible to get companies quickly up to speed with the new Building Regulations.

For almost a year now, the more proactive among us have been helping the industry prepare for the implementation of the revised Building Regulations guidance documents, or Approved Document L and F on 1 October.

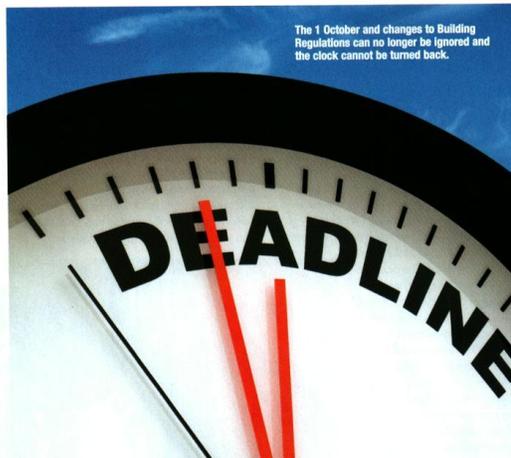
It will soon be illegal to sell any window unless you have a registered window energy rating (WER) of 'C' or higher, or you can prove it meets the more stringent 1.6W/m<sup>2</sup>k 'U' value, or any door unless it meets the 1.8W/m<sup>2</sup>k 'U' value. Despite this, many companies are still not compliant. Time has run out. Companies that have not yet achieved compliance must stop burying their heads in the sand and find the right partner to help them achieve the necessary standards.

No matter how independent they claim to be, some organisations offering support to the currently non compliant may have a vested interest in one product or another within a fabricator's portfolio, whether it be profile, glass, or any other component. As a result, they sometimes neglect to give advice on the bigger picture.

*"Companies that are not compliant must stop burying their heads in the sand."*

Fabricators are sometimes even left with the impression that once they have been through a supplier's scheme to get them ready for Building Regulations, that is all they need to do. But this is rarely the case. Such schemes do not always ensure fabricators have the relevant ratings or simulations on 'U' values to cover every single window product they are selling and yet again, we ask the question: What about doors?

Of course, there are other standards with which we as an industry, need to comply. Standards that never used to apply to



The 1 October and changes to Building Regulations can no longer be ignored and the clock cannot be turned back.

manufacturers, may now, as products are adapted to meet the new requirements. For example, sealed unit manufacturers that have not previously used gas in their units, may now decide they will need this to improve the energy performance of their units. These companies will then need to consider the existing legislation requirements for gas fill, i.e. EN1279 Pt 3. Within the glass and windows market, the relevant standards include EN12150, required when manufacturing toughened glass; EN1279, when making insulating glass units (IGUs); EN14449, required for the manufacture of laminated glass and EN14351, for window and external doorset fabrication.

It is difficult to know who to trust and who can help you with what with so many people claiming to have the best answer for you. My company has helped over a third of the companies that currently operate WERs, achieve the necessary standards and implement the necessary accompanying procedures to be able to demonstrate compliance too. We are a team of consultants with a combined 150 plus years of

experience in the industry and can help companies meet all legislation with all their products. We are also active members of the Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF) and as a result, push for the answers we know our customers need, sooner rather than later. Recently, for example, we learned the specifics about the proof of compliance installers need to show when their work is inspected to ensure they meet the terms of the revised Building Regulations, whether they have chosen the 'U' value, or WER route of compliance.

Another advantage is that we have our own testing facility, so we can test products in-house. We have the facility to carry out tests for moisture penetration, gas concentration, UV fogging and gas leakage, covering all spacer desiccant variants.

We have carried out over 2,000 periodic tests and work with over 700 companies in the industry.

For more information, visit the website: [www.censolutions.com](http://www.censolutions.com)

## Glass Times (September)

# LETTER: Sealant depths

Dear Dominic

With more discussions about Building Regulations and in particular Window Energy Ratings taking place, I would like to raise an important issue that is increasingly occurring – the use of low seal depths in IG units in simulations to achieve certain WER ratings. This is based not only on reliable information received from reputable IG unit manufacturers, who are finding more and more of these simulations being used, but also from our own experience.

The vast majority of these simulations are being used where a borderline 'A' rating has been achieved at 0 points by reducing the seal depth to 3mm on the back of the spacer, enabling the spacer inside the unit to sit deeper into the window frame and hence give sufficient improvement to the thermal conductivity to achieve the 'A' rating. Last year this was deemed unacceptable by the

Simulators Group at the BFRC with a ruling that a default value of 5mm should be used unless there was irrevocable proof that such low seal depth units could be supplied.

Whilst theoretically not impossible to manufacture sealed units with this low depth of seal, in reality, when accepted tolerances of +2.5mm, -2mm are taken into account, this could potentially give, in places, only 1mm of seal on the back of the spacer.

So, if your manufacturer says that they can supply these units, be wary that they can actually achieve this as a minimum depth. Independent agencies should be rejecting these simulations during their assessments and audits for WERs if the unit supplier cannot deliver the specification stated, and the only tolerance they are allowed to accept is +1mm!

Generally speaking, sealants of any type require a minimum joint size of 6mm x 6mm to be able to reasonably accommodate expansion and contraction movements. Insulating glass units are particularly prone to severe movement due to the nature of the application i.e. warm air inside the house with cold air outside can lead to substantial and irregular movement of the glass. So beware of low seal depth units because even if they can be supplied, do you really want to use them in your windows bearing in mind the potential for premature unit failure?

I look forward to the debate that is sure to follow on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Dave Frost  
ER Certification Ltd  
e-mail: david.frost77@ntlworld.com